Villages

of the Manifold



Manifold Valley Information Point



Alstonefield

Pretty little village lying between the Dove and Manifold Valleys, a good place to start a walk.

The traditional village green is the heart of the village, surrounded by beautiful old stone houses and cottages.

Visit the ancient church, parts of which date back to Norman times.

Butterton

Picturesque village situated high above the Hoo Brook. Views of the village are dominated by St Bartholomew's, the local church, which lies within an almost circular churchyard.

Grindon

Beautiful village situated above the junction of the Manifold and Hamps rivers.

Home to All Saints Church also known as 'The Cathedral of the Moorlands.'

Hulme End

Picturesque village situated at the northerly starting point of the Manifold Track.

The restored station building, the terminus of the Leek and Manifold Light Railway until its closure in 1934, is now the Manifold Valley Information Point

Ilam

Charming village with 'Swiss chalet' style houses.

Ilam Country Park, owned by the National Trust, extends for 84 acres along the banks of the River Manifold. Within the park, Ilam Hall is used as a Youth Hostel, information centre, tearoom and shop.

The Manifold Show, a traditional country show, is held annually, on the second Saturday of August, in the open fields, just North of Ilam.

Warslow

Delightful, small estate village, remodelled and rebuilt in Georgian times by the Harpur Crewe family, best known for their home at Calke Abbey.

Ideal starting point for walks to the moors of Revidge and Swallow Moss or into the Manifold Valley.

Waterhouses

Busy village at the southern end of the Hamps Valley. There is a cycle hire centre with access to The Manifold Track.

The former Brown End Quarry is now a Geological Nature Reserve providing a fascinating glimpse into the complex geology and fossils of this part of the Peak District.

Wetton

Lovely little village above the Manifold Valley, an ideal base for the short walk to legendary Thor's Cave.

Several longer walks lead to the fascinating mining remains at Bincliff and to Beeston Tor.

In the other direction, walk down to the Manifold Track by way of Wetton Mill Tearoom.



Information on the Manifold Valley and surrounding Staffordshire Peak District is available in the Manifold Valley Information Point, housed in the former ticket office at Hulme End (SK17 0EX).

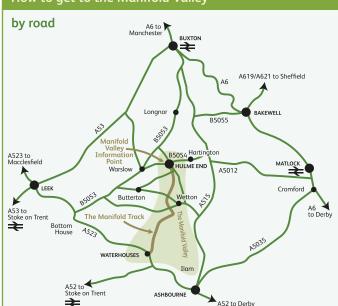
Opening times:

February to December, 10am – 4pm.

January the Information Point is closed.

For further information on cycle hire go to: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/cycle/bike-hire-centres/manifold

How to get to the Manifold Valley







email: tourism@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk Tel: 01538 395530

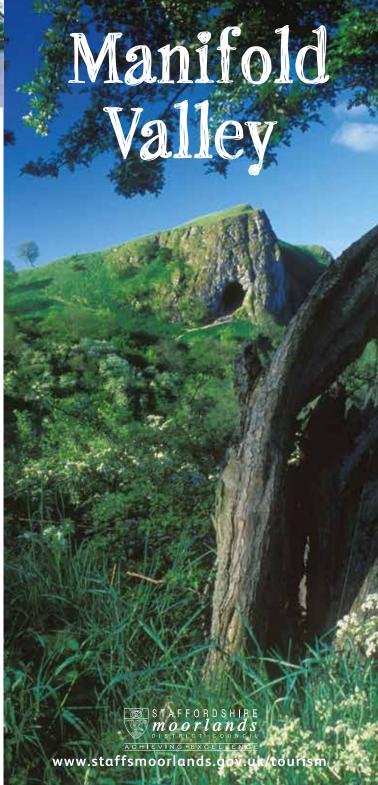
Tourist Information Centre, Nicholson Institute, Stockwell St, Leek, ST13 6DW

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G/2500/Aug 2023
www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/tourism



Manifold Track



Cycling & Horse Riding



Caves & Rivers



The Manifold Track, a favourite for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, follows the old route of the disused Leek and Manifold Light Railway, through the Manifold and Hamps Valleys, from Waterhouses to Hulme End.

TOTAL DISTANCE 81/2 MILES

For all but 2 miles, the track is car-free and shared by walkers, cyclists and pony trekkers.

The track is surfaced and fairly level throughout its length, making it ideal for wheelchair users, those with buggies or prams and people with limited mobility.

Car parking areas are at both ends of the track and at intermediate locations (see map).

Take care in Swainsley tunnel (shared with cars) and at the main road crossings at Waterhouses and Hulme End.

Routes vary from the easy, level ride along the Manifold Track to more challenging routes around the valleys, moors and villages.

The byways, old railway tracks and

quiet lanes make the Manifold

Valley ideal for safe cycling.

Cycles can be hired from Hulme End

Telephone: 01298 687399 Email: manifold.cyclehire@peakdistrict.gov.uk www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ Twitter: @peakcyclehire FB:/peakdistrictnationalpark

Open from Easter to end of October half term, weekends, Bank holidays and school holidays ONLY.





Watch out for the rivers of the Manifold and the Hamps as they disappear beneath the porous limestone of the Manifold Valley only to reappear again in Ilam Country

Several caves can be found in the Manifold Valley. Best known is Thor's Cave which is approximately 76 metres (250 feet) up from the cycle/walking track. A steep walk but the magnificent view makes it worth while.

The imposing Thor's Cave is a former home to both stone age dwellers and wild animals and dates back for at least 50,000 years.

The bones of mammoths and giant bears have been discovered amongst the other caves within the valley.

On the high ground are the burial and other religious sites of prehistoric peoples.

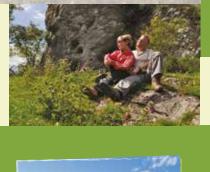
From more recent times, you can see the remains of lead mines which are located south of Wetton, around Bincliff. whilst Ecton was the site of the world's richest copper mines dating back over 300 years.

Walking

Paths and bridleways link the Manifold Track to the surrounding limestone plateau. From here, you can explore the rugged landscape and the picturesque villages with their ancient churches and welcoming old inns.

Other paths climb through the woods to the hills which tower high above the gorges and past the fascinating mining remains at Bincliff and Ecton. Full information on these and

several other walks can be obtained from Leek Tourist Information Centre.



Myths & Legends

Look out for the phantom white horse which gallops along the Manifold Valley bearing a headless rider on moonlit nights – described by one local in the 1930s as 'a man on a horse without a yedon, an awful gory sight!'

Fiddling Hob Hurst is supposed to have lived at Thor's Cave, above the River Dove in the Manifold Valley and is a common folklore character likened to a wood fairy or elf. When annoyed, Hob would turn milk sour, smash crockery and generally upset the harmony between humans and nature. To keep Hob in good spirits, people would leave a bowl of milk for him on the hearth or leave offerings in sacred places at key dates in the farming calendar, to the pagan god of the fields and fertility.

Thor's cave is thought to have been named after the Viking God of Thunder, possibly because of the noises made by strong winds reverberating through the mouth of the cave and smaller fissures formed in the rock.

Leek & Manifold Light Railway



1904-1934

This narrow gauge railway followed the river gorges for nearly 9 miles between Hulme End and Waterhouses.

Opened in 1904, it served the tiny farming communities, brought in tourists and carried milk and cheese from the isolated dairy at

Famously known as 'A line starting nowhere and ending up at the same place', the railway finally ran out of steam and closed in 1934.

The old railway track was lifted and the route surfaced and turned into the Manifold Track making it ideal for the walkers and cyclists of today.

Explore the

Manifold Valley





A Camping barn

A Camp site

P Car park

† Church

Caravan site

€ Cycle hire

Youth hostel

I Information

National Trust

Nature reserve

T Picnic area

Public house

Telephone

■ Shop

WC Toilets

Manifold Track

Footpath (approx. route only)

Dry river bed (seasonal)

• Woodland

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Approximate scale I mile

Key ___ Cafe