

Back o' th' Hill continued...

farms on the left. **7** Below Back o' th' Hill Farm, turn left, passing to the right of the first building ("The Barn") then between farmhouse and barn to meet the entrance drive. **8** When the drive bends right and downhill, go straight on onto a level path across a field. Cross a stile and follow the bottom edge of the next field to a stile on the right by an isolated house. **9** Turn left and follow the drive out to the road.

10 Turn right (downhill) to a T-junction; cross over and turn left, with the school on your right. **11** Beyond a left-hand bend, turn right into Greave Fold ("Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles") just before the Foresters Arms. **12** Follow this narrow lane between cottages and past a converted chapel; beyond no. 7 (Whitegates Cottage) follow an alleyway to emerge among modern housing. **13** Turn left then immediately right along a grassy gap between two houses. **14** Cross a grassy area to join a wall by an old stone slab stile and continue to a metalled road (Healdwood Road). **15** Turn right (uphill); when the road bends right follow it past a house (Wildervank) and keep on as it degenerates into a track and starts to descend. **16** Keep left at the Heald Wood interpretative sign and follow the path downhill with an old quarry to your right. **17** At the bottom of the hill, just beyond a second interpretation board, turn sharp left along the bottom of the wood, with fields on your right. This path is narrow and may be a little overgrown. **18** At a gate before another old quarry, keep right to pass through a hedge, then turn right and skirt the right-hand edge of the field down to a farm. **19** Beyond a menage turn right to meet High Lane. **20** Turn left to pass under the railway arch. (To avoid Woodley Tunnel, turn right after the railway but before the canal along a metalled alleyway with a "no cycling" sign, and follow Langdale Road; at the end turn left and rejoin the towpath next to Bankfield Road; skip to step 23.) **21** Otherwise, cross the canal and turn left down the steps to the towpath. **22** Turn left again to pass under the bridge, and follow the canal for ¼ mile to and through Woodley Tunnel. **23** Beyond the tunnel, pass under the railway bridge and the subsequent bridge 12 and continue along the canal. **24** Pass bridge 11 and continue past open fields, and then the derelict Unity Mill, on the far bank. **25** At bridge 10, cross the canal and walk up the left-hand side of the field to the railway line; turn right alongside the railway to meet the driveway to Unity Mill. **26** Turn left over the railway and then left up Poleacre Lane. **27** Turn left at the main road to return to the Joshua Bradley.

Werneth Low (5 miles: Moderate)

Allow 3 hours. Some initial road walking, and one stiff climb to Werneth Low. May be muddy in places after rain.

1 Cross the main road and turn right; follow the main road for ¼ mile before turning left into Apethorn Lane. **2** After another ¼ mile, cross the old railway bridge and then turn sharp right onto the

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Werneth Low continued...

Trans-Pennine Trail. **3** Swing left and follow the TPT for just over a mile, passing under five former railway bridges and passing four National Cycle Network markers. **4** After bridge number 126, look out for the fifth marker ("Apethorn 1¼ Godley ¾") at a crossing with a metalled path; 60 yards further along, turn off the Trail on an unsignposted path to the right over a sleeper bridge and climb the bank. The path beyond leads along the edge of a field with a wooded valley down to your right, then swings left to meet a stony track. **5** Turn right and follow the track to the cluster of houses at Godley Green. Keep straight on to pass Godley Riding School and exit to Old Mottram Road. **6** Cross over and turn left along the pavement past a bus stop, then turn right up a cobbled driveway. **7** Ignore the bridleway on your left, keeping instead to the driveway and passing close to the end of the house before turning right through a wooden kissing gate. **8** Bear left (uphill) and climb to Werneth Low with the sandy bridleway a close companion to your left. **9** At a gate near the summit you will probably wish to detour to the cenotaph away to your right, but afterwards return to this path to continue along the edge of the golf course. **10** At a junction of paths turn right, through a kissing gate between the two bridleways, and follow an unsurfaced path through the grass, which leads out to the road by the Quarry Car Park (ignore any side paths). **11** Turn right and pass the telephone box and a house called The Mount. **12** Opposite the entrance to Hyde Cricket and Squash Club cross over and follow a permitted footpath that runs parallel to the road past the Hare and Hounds pub. **13** At the end of this path, turn right down a concrete drive signposted to Lowside Farm and Birches Barn. **14** Walk through the cluster of farm buildings to a crossing track, where you turn right then immediately left through a kissing gate with a Tameside Trail waymark. **15** Walk down the left-hand side of two fields, then bear slightly right to a metal kissing gate. **16** Cross the next field to Bowlacre Farm and follow a narrow path between hedge and wall. **17** Cross the drive and follow the footpath opposite to enter some woodland with a stream valley to the left. **18** Follow the path just inside the woodland edge to a waymark, beyond which the path descends to cross the stream. **19** Climb the opposite bank to emerge on the main road next to the Joshua Bradley.

THE JOSHUA BRADLEY

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OPENING TIMES: Daily: 12pm – 11pm, Fri & Sat: 12pm – 12am

FOOD SERVED: Daily: 12pm – 9pm

THREE WALKS FROM

THE JOSHUA BRADLEY



HAUGHTON DALE

(3 miles: Easy)

Canal tow-path and riverside walking in a wildlife-rich rural oasis, including a local nature reserve.

BACK O' TH' HILL

(3½ miles: Moderate)

Wide views, interesting corners, and a quiet stretch of canal tow-path with a spooky tunnel.

WERNETH LOW

(5 miles: Moderate)

Follow the Trans-Pennine Trail to a popular local landmark with extensive views.

HYDES 1863

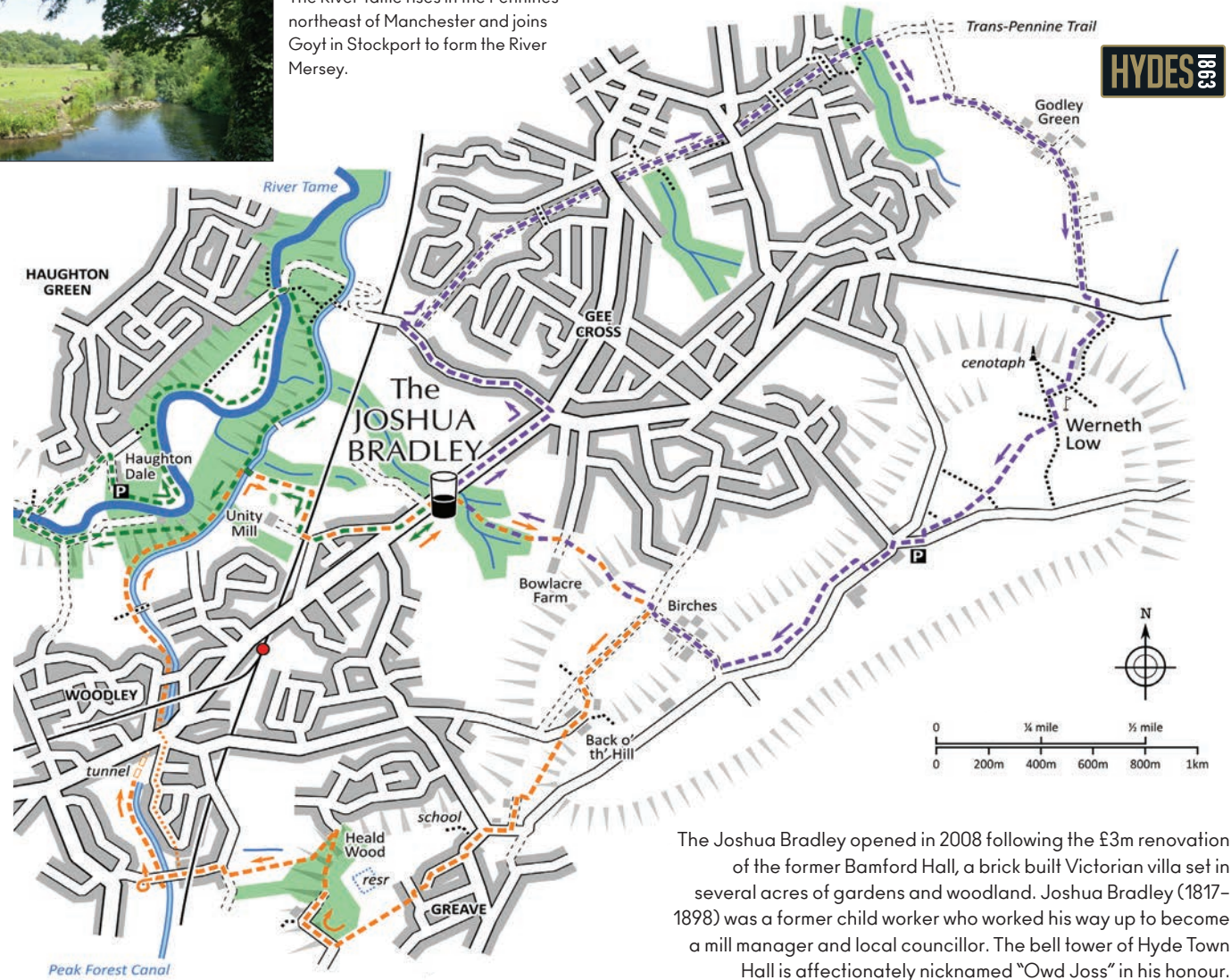
Houghton Dale (3 miles: Easy)

Allow 2 hours. Occasional muddy/boggy sections after rain.

- 1 From the front entrance, cross the main road at the traffic island and turn left.
- 2 Pass the entrance to Longacre Farm, then turn right into Poleacre Lane.
- 3 At the bottom of the road bear right at the no-entry sign, over a railway bridge towards Unity Mill.
- 4 Turn immediately right over a stile.
- 5 Keep to the fence alongside the railway, then at the far end of the field turn left and walk down the edge of the wood to a canal bridge.
- 6 Cross the canal and turn left along the towpath.
- 7 Follow the towpath for 400 yards until you are opposite a house on the far side; take an inconspicuous footpath on the right that leads down steps through the woodland.
- 8 On emerging by a kennels, swing left along a fenced path and then follow the driveway beyond, with the River Tame on your right.
- 9 At a junction of paths, turn right past a wooden barrier.
- 10 At the next junction, turn right again and cross the bridge over the river.
- 11 Turn right and follow a broad track along the edge of the wood, with paddocks on your right.
- 12 On emerging at Ivy Cottages, turn right.
- 13 Walk through a small car park and turn left into Houghton Dale Local Nature Reserve.
- 14 Follow the broad gravelled path alongside the river, passing a weir.
- 15 At a fork, turn right and then right again, always keeping as close to the river as possible.
- 16 Beyond a fence, the path runs alongside a meadow to a bench, then swings left to a gate where another path rejoins from the left. Keep on until you reach a bridge below a second weir, where you turn right to cross the river.
- 17 Take the right-hand path and follow it up through the wood to the canal.
- 18 Turn right along the towpath.
- 19 Pass under bridge number 9, then at bridge 10 cross the canal again.
- 20 Walk up the field as before, and turn right on meeting the railway to reach the drive to Unity Mill again.
- 21 Retrace your steps up Poleacre Lane, turning left at the main road to return to the Joshua Bradley.



The River Tame rises in the Pennines northeast of Manchester and joins Goyt in Stockport to form the River Mersey.



The Joshua Bradley opened in 2008 following the £3m renovation of the former Bamford Hall, a brick built Victorian villa set in several acres of gardens and woodland. Joshua Bradley (1817-1898) was a former child worker who worked his way up to become a mill manager and local councillor. The bell tower of Hyde Town Hall is affectionately nicknamed "Owd Joss" in his honour.

Back o' th' Hill (3¾ miles: Moderate)

Allow 2½ hours. One gradual climb, and mud may be encountered after rain (particularly at the start). The route described follows the towpath through a 176-yard canal tunnel; although you are always in sight of daylight and there is a handrail between you and the canal, the tunnel is unlit – see text for a bypass route if this does not appeal.

- 1 From the entrance on the main road, turn right and immediately right again over a stile into a wooded valley.
- 2 Descend to the stream, cross and climb up the other side. Bear right and walk up the side of the valley, keeping just inside the woodland edge.
- 3 On emerging from the trees walk up to Bowlacre Farm and take a narrow path straight on between wall and hedge.
- 4 Cross the next field to a kissing gate behind a lone alder tree.
- 5 Bear right and walk up the right-hand side of the next two fields to a track.
- 6 Turn right (signposted Woodley) and follow the track along the contour, ignoring the uphill track through the



The disused railway between Apethorn and Godley is followed by the Trans-Pennine Trail and part of the National Cycle Network route 62.



The Peak Forest canal opened in 1796 and runs for 15 miles from Ashton-under-Lyne to Whaley Bridge in Derbyshire.



The 176-yard Woodley Tunnel is followed by the canal tow-path.



Hyde War memorial was erected in 1921 to commemorate the sacrifice of 710 local men in World War 1. It forms the centrepiece of Werneth Low Country Park and offers wide views over Manchester and beyond.

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