

## Start/Finish

The walk starts and finishes at St.Helens Junction Railway Station, Station Road WA9 3LA.

Map grid ref: SJ535 932

Route Distance – 12.8km (approx 9 miles)

Estimated time – 5 hours

Going – Moderate

## Further Information

To find out more about walks in your local area, please contact St.Helens Ranger Service on 01744 677772, or [sankeyvalleyrangers@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:sankeyvalleyrangers@sthelens.gov.uk)

[www.sthelens.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/rangers)



**ST HELENS**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Contact Centre,

Wesley House, Corporation Street  
St.Helens WA10 1HF

**Tel:** 01744 676789

**Minicom:** 01744 671671

[www.sthelens.gov.uk/contactus](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/contactus)

Please contact us to request translation of Council information into Braille, audio tape or a foreign language.

[thedesignstudio@sthelens.gov.uk](mailto:thedesignstudio@sthelens.gov.uk)

1600140M

**8** (4.7km) This location offers good panoramic views across the flat plains of Merseyside, Cheshire and Greater Manchester. During conditions of very good visibility, the Pennines, Peak District, Clyvidian Range and mountains of Snowdonia may also be seen.



*The Dream sculpture takes the form of a 20 metre high girl's head with her eyes closed, seemingly in a dream-like state. The base plinth bears the inscription "Dream Sutton Manor" inspired by the small, circular "tally" each miner carried as a means of identification.*

From the Dream sculpture head south approximately 100 metres before turning left, proceeding down slope in an easterly direction.

Eventually you will continue beneath the motorway using the public footpath underpass to emerge at Union Bridge.

**9** (5.6km) Turning left over Union Bridge, immediately cross over Union Bank Lane taking the first right onto a field edge footpath. Continue south parallel with the former St.Helens & Runcorn Gap railway line, which is

now a multi-use route for pedestrians, cyclists and horseriders linking Mill Green in Halton with St.Helens.

After approximately 300 metres the footpath descends over a culvert and re-emerges as a field edge path alongside a wooden paddock fence.

**10** (6km) At the far end of the paddock fence, turn left just after a hedgerow and head south east along a field edge public footpath passing Tibb's Cross Cottage to arrive at Tibb's Cross Lane.

**11** (6.2km) At Tibb's Cross Lane turn left, then immediately cross over to proceed south east along a field edge public footpath alongside Tibb's Cross Farm. Eventually the footpath follows a tarmac driveway within the grounds of Nursery Farm to emerge at Warrington Road.

**12** (7km) At Warrington Road turn left to proceed east along the footway. Take care when crossing over the busy road junctions of School Lane and Clock Face Road at Bold Heath.

**13** (7.7km) Turn left at the entrance to the Mersey Valley Golf Course, and head north up the tarmac access road. After the golf club entrance continue following the stone access track northwards

passing Old Hall Farm and Old Bold Hall Farm. The footpath becomes a soiled path following the edge of Old Hall woodland before continuing as a field edge path. Follow the path along the motorway boundary fence to the footbridge.



*Ladies Walk is a historic track linking Old Bold Hall and Bold Hall. Now severed by the M62, north of the motorway footbridge on your right there is a pool surrounded by trees. This is known as 'Ladies Pool' and it is rumoured that this pool was lined in marble and was the swimming and bathing place for the ladies of Bold Hall.*

**14** (9.6km) Using the footbridge over the motorway, follow the footpath north to Hall Lane passing the edge of Ladies Walk plantation, Griffin Wood and Dog Kennel plantation. Continue heading north along Hall Lane for approximately 120 metres stopping just before Kennels Cottage at the first gate on your left.



*Maypole Wood is named after the adjoining Maypole Farm. Here the Forestry Commission planted thousands of trees in 2003 to form part of the ever expanding Mersey Forest.*

*Just to the right of Hall Lane is Home Farm, situated on the former site of Bold Hall. This was the home of the ancient family of Bolde who settled here before the Norman Conquest and ran the Bold estate for hundreds of years. When Peter Bold MP died in 1761 he left three daughters but no son, so the estate passed out of the family and was eventually split up. The Hall and the remaining 1500 acres were sold in 1893, passing into the ownership of a variety of people including a syndicate of colliery proprietors, Polish royalty, a cockfighting fanatic and by an eccentric Wigan cotton spinner who equated books with manure!*

**15** (10.3km) Turn left into Maypole Wood. Follow a soiled track approximately 225 metres north to a stone track, which you turn right onto. Follow this stone track east approximately 200 metres to the next junction where you turn left. Continue heading north approximately 300 metres to arrive at Gorse Lane, Point 4. Having walked 11km, cross over Gorse Lane and retrace your steps back through Points 3 & 2 to finish at St Helens Junction Railway Station (Point 1) where the total distance covered will be approximately 12.8km (8 miles).



Tibb's Cross Farm



Ladies Pool

# Welcome to Bold Loop Trail & Map



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**RANGER SERVICE**

## Starting point: St. Helens Junction Railway Station

This leaflet is one of a series describing local walks recommended and used by the St. Helens Ranger Service. Others in the series include Billinge Loop, Garswood Loop, Bradlegh Loop and Rainford Loop.

Regrettably, this walk is not suitable for wheelchairs, however the Rangers can recommend suitable alternatives (see contact details on the back of this leaflet).

Enjoy your walk!

### START

- Starting at St Helens Junction Railway Station, turn right and proceed to the end of Station Road. Turn right again onto Helena Road and walk under the railway bridge heading south to the junction with Bold Road (B5204). Use the crossing point to continue east along the north side of Bold Road. Upon reaching a large detached red-brick building cross over Bold Road and continue east to where a public footpath appears on your right.

**i** The large red brick detached building was formerly Sutton Oak pub, and was once called the Boundary Vaults having been positioned along the old St. Helens county borough boundary.

St. Helens Junction Railway Station opened in 1833, three years after the first passenger railway line between Liverpool and Manchester opened. The station was named 'Junction' because of its location with the former St. Helens and Runcorn Gap Railway branch to St. Helens Central.

- (620 metres) Turn right through a gate and head south along a field edge footpath, parallel with a deep drainage ditch on your left.

Having passed a footbridge on your left, an area of rough ground appears on your right contrasting with flat agricultural land.

**i** As you pass along the cultivated field edges, Lapwing may be seen and heard near their breeding sites in early summer. The area of rough ground was a former Battery Cob, built around 1870 and used by the army as a rifle range during the Boer War and World War 1.

Before being levelled, the Battery Cob appeared as a 10 metre high small hillock. Disaster first struck on August 30th 1943 when a USAAF B-24 Liberator bomber crashed into the Battery Cob killing all nine personnel on-board, having departed Burtonwood minutes earlier intending

to return to Wendling airfield in Norfolk. The cause of the crash is unknown but eye-witnesses reported the bomber had only just missed a chimney at the former 'Magnum' War Office chemical factory a short distance away on Abbotsfield Road moments before impact.

Then on 28th January 1945, a Lockheed Shooting Star aircraft crashed within a few hundred yards of the Battery Cob.

- (1.5km) At the junction with a well defined public bridleway track known as Abbotsfield Road, turn left and head south east to Gorsey Lane.

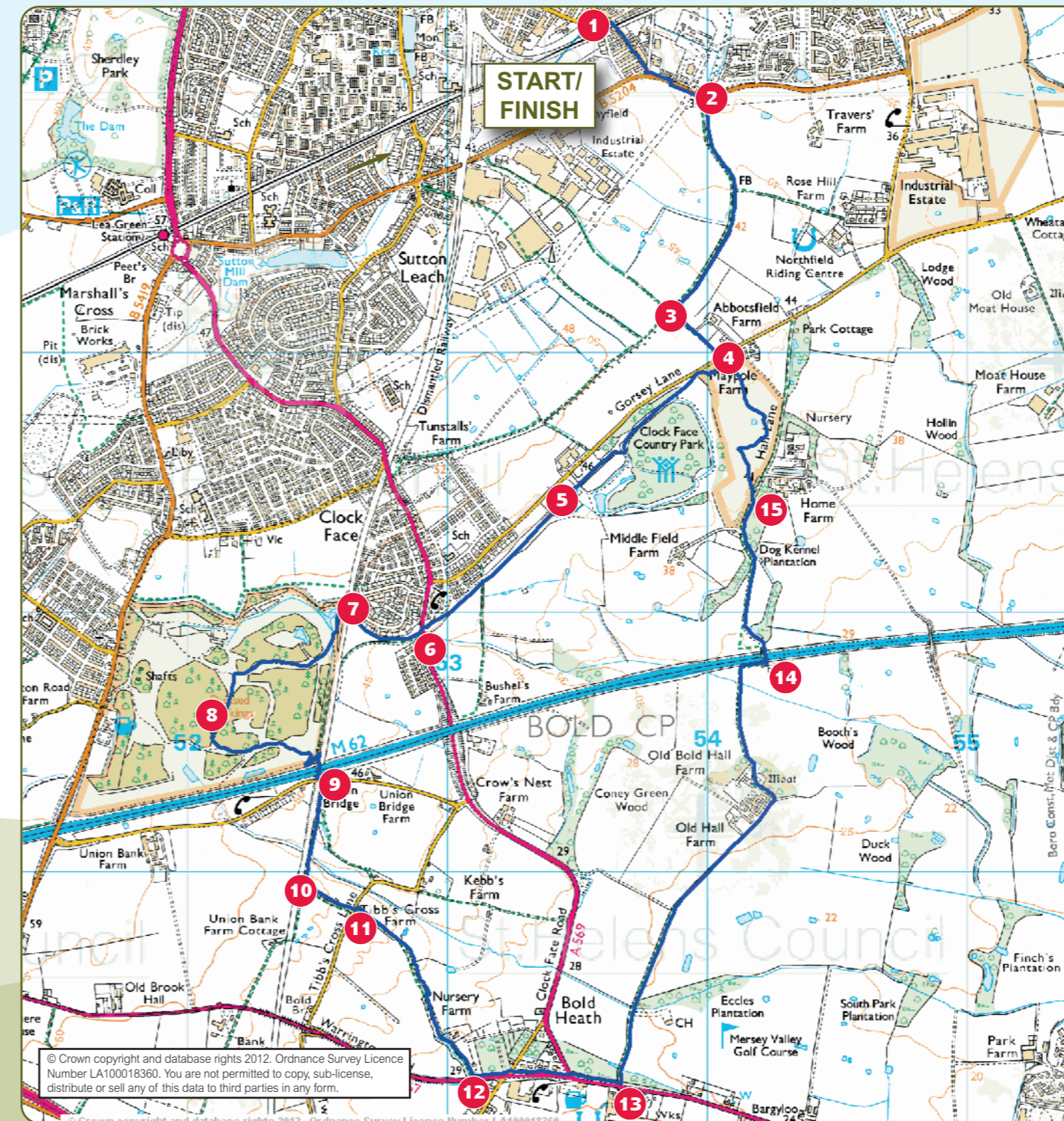
- (1.8km) Cross over Gorsey Lane onto Maypole Wood, and follow a stone track off to the right so as to head in a westerly direction towards Clockface Colliery Country Park parallel with Gorsey Lane. Eventually the stone track leads upslope onto the former colliery, levelling off before reaching the car park.

- (2.7km) Continue through the car park, heading south west following signs towards the 'Dream' along a wide tarmac surfaced path known locally as 'Miners Way'.

**i** Miners Way follows a reclaimed mineral railway that served the former Clockface colliery, which operated from 1890 to 1965. Clockface Colliery Country Park now occupies the site.

Before closing the mine produced over 160,000 tons of coal a year and employed over 700 men. In October 1965 the National Coal Board deemed the pit uneconomic and announced closure the following year.

The site was reclaimed by St. Helens Council, and in the late 1990s became community woodland and public open space. The site contains woodland, meadows, path networks and a fishing pond leased to the Clock Face Angling Club.



- (3.5km) Cross over Clockface Road at the pedestrian crossing to follow a tarmac path west along Miners Way to the former St. Helens & Runcorn Gap railway line.

**i** The St. Helens and Runcorn Gap Railway opened in 1833, originally for freight purposes, between St. Helens and the developing town of Widnes.

The railway at this location was finally removed following the closure of Sutton Manor colliery in 1991.

- (3.8km) Cross over the old railway line and proceed onto the former Sutton Manor colliery site, which is managed by the Forestry Commission. Just before a small pond, turn left and head upslope. At the next junction of paths, turn left again and continue up to the Dream sculpture. Between April and June, the distinctive male Orange-tip butterfly may be seen in the vicinity.



Male Orange-tip butterfly



Lapwing