



Every stop is a stout...  
or a bitter, or a mild, or a lager on the  
**Rail Ale Trail**

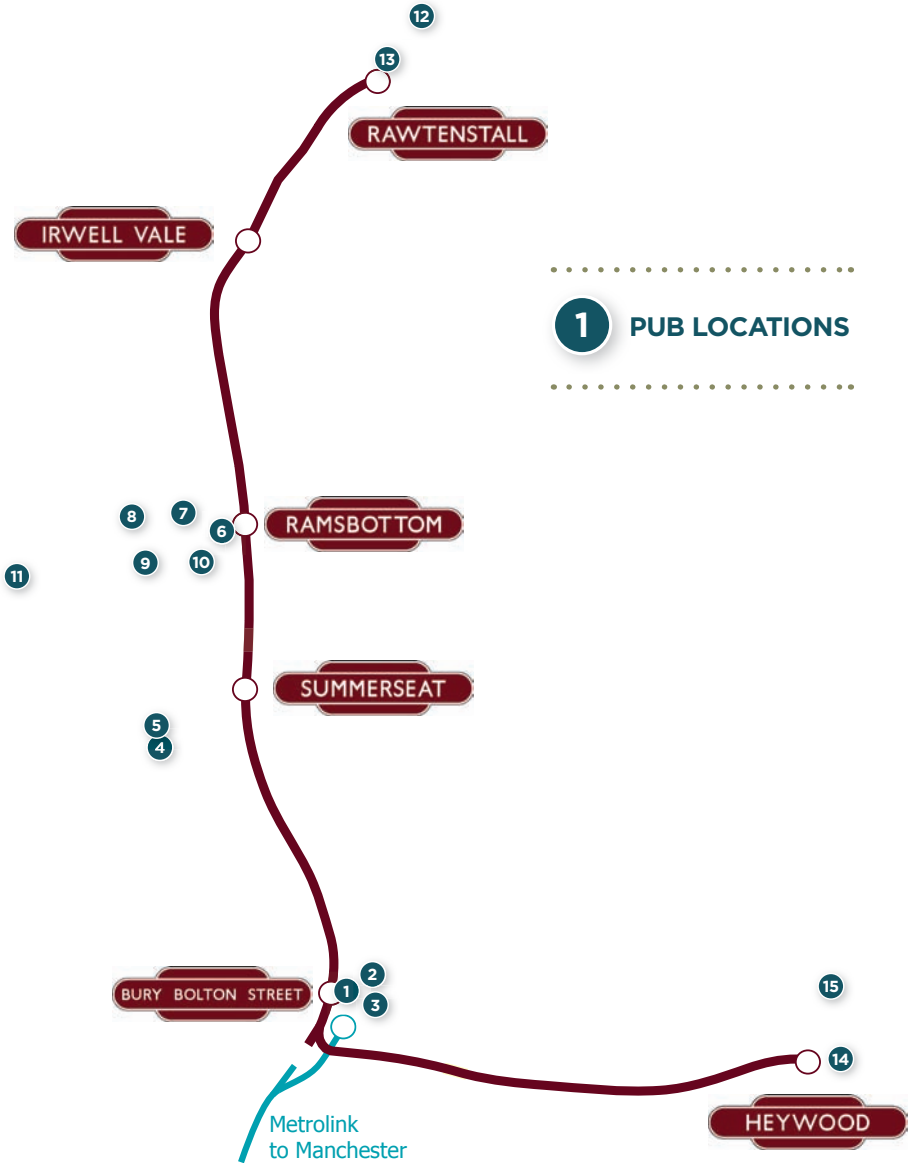


EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

EVERY STOP IS A START...



# RAIL ALE TRAIL ROUTE



## PUB LOVERS AND TEE-TOTALLERS UNITE!

Along the route of the East Lancashire Railway (ELR) you will find a handful of exceptional pubs, a brewery, and even a temperance bar. Whether you're supping ale or knocking back home-made dandelion and burdock, the Irwell Valley offers some fascinating locations, all linked together by the ELR.

This guide joins the dots from station to station, pub to pub, and is designed as a handy accompaniment for those who wish to make their own way on the ELR 'Rail Ale Trail'.

For a more in-depth tour with plenty of fun to be had, why not join one of the organised guided trails with a professionally qualified tour guide. Please see the end of this guide for full details.



**The East Lancashire Railway opened at the peak of 'Railway Mania' in 1846 - some 16 years after the world's first passenger railway had opened for business in nearby Manchester. Although the main purpose of the ELR was to attract goods trade between the mills in the Irwell Valley, it also became a very popular passenger route. The railway carried passengers until 1972 and goods until 1980 only to be re-opened in 1987 by the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society. The ELR now runs a heritage steam and diesel hauled passenger service operating every weekend, Bank Holidays and Wednesday to Friday from April to September.**

## BURY

**The flagship station for the ELR - this is where the original ELR Company established its headquarters.**

Bury's Bolton Street Station is home to The Trackside, a cosy little pub which offers a choice of up to five real ales at any one time. Before you get comfortable though, why not head into the town centre and enjoy a Bury tradition - a drink on the Wyld.

### BURY'S MEDIEVAL MEETING POINT

The area by the Parish Church is known as "The Wylde". This was the original part of the town and may have taken its name from 'the wild Irish' who used to populate the area. This former medieval meeting point used to be surrounded by a handful of pubs and one of these to have stood the test of time is the Two Tubs.



**The Two Tubs Inn  
19 The Wylde, Bury  
BL9 0LA**

**T: 0161 764 4773**

The pub is one of Bury's oldest existing buildings and is thought to date from 1696. It used to be called the Globe and is still registered in that name. In the 1830's, it was decided that the pub needed a new sign and so, to reflect the two hemispheres of the Globe, a barrel was cut in half and then mounted on the side of the building. It has been known as the Two Tubs ever since. In the centre of 'the Wylde' is a statue of Sir Robert Peel who was born in Bury (1788), the son of a wealthy mill owner.



## BURY

**1 Featured Pub  
The Trackside  
Platform 2,  
East Lancashire Railway,  
Bolton Street Station,  
Bury, BL9 0EY**

**T: 0161 764 6461**

Another genuine free house is The Trackside. Situated on Platform 1 at the East Lancashire Railway, the pub offers nine handpumps, various real ciders and perries and a good range of foreign bottled beers.

Note the ceiling of the pub which features a vast number of different pump clips, a testament to the many beers sold over the years.



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Also worth a visit is  
**Automatic Café**  
The Met,  
Market Street, Bury,  
BL9 0BW

T: 0161 763 9399

Real ales on offer include the specially brewed 'Silverfox' from Outstanding Brewing Company plus Copperplate from Inwell Works Brewery. The Met is also the home to Bury's annual Beer Festival.



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**EN ROUTE FROM BURY...**

Most trains on the ELR include a buffet bar, where you can purchase a selection of bottled and canned beers including the popular ELR ale, which is fermented in the bottle.

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**BEWARE OF THE BRANDLESHOLME BULL!**

In the late 1700's the Brandlesholme Bull brought great terror to the people in the countryside of Bury. He dominated a piece of land known as Brandlesholme moor which lies between Bury and Summerseat.

A woman was gored to death whilst crossing the moor and several others were killed by his vicious charge. He broke the limbs of men and boys for pleasure and scores of victims suffered sheer terror and exhaustion caused by his relentless pursuit. He roamed over such a large territory that many did not know from which direction to anticipate his approach. Long after he was dead the Bull occupied the stories of many of Bury's countrymen.

**SUMMERSEAT**

Alight at Summerseat station and enjoy a pleasant fifteen minute stroll to the next two pubs. Head down the steps at the station, turn right under the railway bridge and follow Railway Street. Turn left and walk up the hill along Peel Hall Road, or for a quicker journey, take one of the buses that run hourly from Monday to Saturday.



The reason that the Footballers Inn and Hamers Arms are hidden away in this beautiful village is because of a man named Joshua Hoyle. Hoyle was a 19th Century mill owner who believed in the temperance movement (which began in Preston and promoted tee-totalism), and didn't want his workers corrupted 'by the evils of drink'.

Ironically the canteen of his Summerseat mill was eventually converted into a pub - one which is also well worth a visit as part of this trail - The Waterside. You can see The Waterside and Joshua Hoyle's mill from the ELR, just as the train leaves Summerseat en route to Ramsbottom. Part of the building today is converted into contemporary flats.

**4** **Footballers Inn**  
**28 Higher**  
**Summerseat,**  
**BLO 9UG**

**T: 01204 883363**  
**www.footballersinn.co.uk**

This building was once a group of three houses, known as "Hamer's terrace" and before that it was known as The Weavers. The sign on the Footballers Inn depicts Bury FC holding the FA Cup. Bury twice won the FA Cup at the turn of the 20th Century. The first time, they arrived back into Bury from Southampton on the ELR. They were greeted at Bolton Street Station by huge crowds, having defeated Crystal Palace 4-0. In 1903, they returned to the station victorious again, having scored 6-0 against Derby County - still the biggest ever win in an FA Cup final.



**5** **Hamers Arms**  
**23 Higher**  
**Summerseat,**  
**BLO 9UG**

**T: 01204 885530**

Richard Hamer, a Summerseat mill owner, bought the land from Bury's famous Peel family when they withdrew from Lancashire and turned to Nantwich, Cheshire. In the 1840s Hamer improved the village of Summerseat by providing a school and new housing. He built Summerseat House in 1836 and also enlarged Peel Hall. After his death Richard Hamer's property was divided amongst his daughters. One of his daughters married John Robinson Kay and Kay, along with a group of businessmen, was instrumental in bringing the railway to the area. The lion's head on the pub sign is the Hamer Family coat of arms.

**RAMSBOTTOM**



**6** **Featured Pub**  
**The Railway Hotel**  
**2 Bridge Street,**  
**Ramsbottom,**  
**BLO 9AQ**

**T: 01706 827424**

Located just opposite the ELR station. The key to discovering the Railway Hotel is to skip the main entrance and head to its Bridge Street entrance on the right hand side of the pub. This way, you'll arrive in the 1940's themed restaurant - a splendid nod to one of the most important eras in recent British history.

Staying with this theme, the ELR holds an annual 1940's themed weekend, which offers three-days of battle re-enactments, ENSA entertainers, military vehicle displays, vintage fashion stalls and tea dances.

## RAMSBOTTOM

The name Ramsbottom is thought to originate from the name Ramson, a generic name for wild garlic which grows in the valley. Ramsbottom developed during the 19th century as a mill town and a centre for spinning, weaving and printing.

### 7 The Oaks 39 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BLO 9AD

T: 01706 822786

Previously known as The Royal Oak, The Oaks has been the focus of the popular World Black Pudding Throwing Championships, which takes place every September. The Oaks has regular, seasonal and guest ales plus a diverse range of imported lagers and beers.



### 9 The First Chop Bolton Street, Ramsbottom, BLO 9HU

T: 01706 827722

A recent addition to Ramsbottom's bar scene. The First Chop offers a choice of over 40 bottled beers and ciders from around the world. There are also locally brewed cask ales always available from regional breweries including Millstone, Outstanding, Copper Dragon and Rossendale.



### 10 Irwell Works Brewery Irwell Street, Ramsbottom

T: 01706 825019 - [www.irwellworksbrewery.co.uk](http://www.irwellworksbrewery.co.uk)

Irwell Works Brewery is situated in the former 'Irwell Steam Tin Copper & Iron Works' on Irwell Street. The building dates from 1888 and was originally built for local Coppersmith Richard Mason. Used as an engineering works until a few years ago, it has been sympathetically restored and now houses a 6 BBL brewery. The brewery started beer production in November 2010 and, just two weeks later, won Beer of the Festival at Bury Beer Festival. At the time this leaflet went to print, plans were under way to open a bar.

### 11 The Shoulder of Mutton Holcombe Village, Ramsbottom, BL8 4LZ

T: 01706 822001 - [www.theshoulderofmutton.net](http://www.theshoulderofmutton.net)

The keen walkers amongst you can head uphill to Holcombe village. Located in a historic building, this foodie pub serving guest ales attracts quite a number of walkers as a starting point for Holcombe Hill.

### 8 The Grant Arms Hotel 11 Market Place, Ramsbottom, BLO 9AJ

T: 01706 823354

[www.grantarmshotelramsbottom.co.uk](http://www.grantarmshotelramsbottom.co.uk)



William and Daniel Grant, brothers and industrialists, settled in Ramsbottom after leaving Scotland and the Grant Arms pub is their former home. The wealthy brothers were immortalised when they provided the inspiration for the Cheeryble brothers in Charles Dickens' novel 'Nicholas Nickleby'. There is every chance that Dickens himself came to Ramsbottom and took inspiration from the town for some of his fictional settings. At Christmas time in particular, it's certainly not too far-fetched to imagine Ramsbottom as the original setting for Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'.

The Grant brothers had a different approach to that of Joshua Hoyle in Summerseat. They made sure of the profits of their own pub by paying their workforce in tokens that could only be redeemed in the Grant Arms. Part of their wage had to be redeemed in drink. Funnily enough, they received few complaints about this!





**Featured Pub**  
**Fitzpatrick's Temperance Bar** 12  
 5 Bank Street,  
 Rawtenstall,  
 BB4 6Q7

T: 01706 234620 - [www.mrfitzpatrick.com](http://www.mrfitzpatrick.com)

Don't expect a drink of the alcoholic variety in here. This is the oldest original temperance bar in Britain and was opened in 1890. The Fitzpatrick family ran a chain of similar bars across Lancashire. Malachi Fitzpatrick, the last in the family line, ran this particular bar for over 50 years until he was ninety years old. He claimed that his vitality and health were down to the tonics he brewed in the shop. Today you can still enjoy home-made sarsaparilla and blood tonic cordials, along with Vimto and cream soda.

**Riverside Inn** 13  
 51 Bury Road,  
 Rawtenstall, BB4 6DD

T: 01706 225111

There's been a pub on this site for over 100 years, situated by the side of what was once the hardest working river in Lancashire, The Irwell! Weaving its way through the industrial landscape, often polluted along its route by nearby bleachworks and mills, now clean and a haven of wildlife, The River Irwell forms a dramatic backdrop to this pub. 5 minute walk from Rawtenstall Station.

**RAWTENSTALL**



**HOLD ON TO YOUR PINT POT!**

Rawtenstall has always been a friendly town but one particular character in the Victorian era aimed to cause maximum distress for those who enjoyed the local pubs.

Moses Ballaper was a huge, broad-shouldered Irishman and a notorious bully. He would walk into a pub and change the atmosphere in a flash. Anybody who didn't keep a tight grip on their pint pot would soon have it whipped away by Moses. He drank the contents and if his actions were questioned, he would challenge his victim to a brawl. This was typical weekend entertainment for Moses and the preferred location for his brawling was Tup Bridge.

He was once told by a policeman to go home, so he picked up the policeman and threw him over the wall of the bridge and into the river. From that day the police had it in for him and they often came into further conflict. Another policeman once confronted Moses on a narrow footpath and he refused to move out of the way for him. They both stopped dead in front of each other with Moses snarling and preparing for a fight. The policeman stood his ground and in an unusual twist of fate, Moses was sent reeling to the ground, having physically learned that The Heavyweight Police Boxing Champion who was usually based in Liverpool, had been posted in Rawtenstall for a few days.

The police certainly weren't afraid to punish Moses for his actions and after he created another disturbance in a pub, they roped him to a lorry and dragged him all the way to the police station.

However, once he'd arrived no-one dared to cut the rope so he was knocked out cold and then rolled into the station.

## HEYWOOD

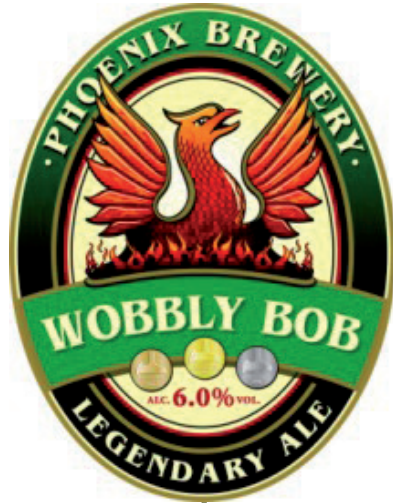
**14** From Heywood Station, you can see the 1898 Phoenix Brewery. According to Ancient Greek legend, the Phoenix is a fabulous bird which ends its life-cycle by intentionally burning in its own nest; from which a newborn Phoenix rises from the ashes to live again.

Heywood's brewery had a similar fate - it closed down in 1960 only to be re-opened again in 1991. Funnily enough, those who enjoy a drink of the popular Phoenix ales which include Arizona, Black Bee, Monkeytown Mild and Wobbly Bob, also claim that their pint glass often empties, only to be reborn again. The Phoenix Brewery is currently undergoing renovation and once this is complete, it is hoped that brewery tours will commence, so watch this space!

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**HEYWOOD STATION WAS OPENED BY THE FAMOUS MUSIC GURU AND TRAIN ENTHUSIAST, PETE WATERMAN IN 2003.**

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## HEYWOOD



**Featured Pub**  
**Wishing Well** **15**  
89 York Street,  
Heywood, OL10 4NS

**T: 07513415534**

Come and enjoy real ale in "Monkey Town" that is the nickname Heywood developed. Legend had it that the men from Heywood had tails and that pubs had holes in their benches to fit their tails through! It's a great legend, more accurate is that the local area "Heap Bridge" when said in a Lancashire accent sounded like "Ape Bridge" and the name stuck! They also serve beer from local Phoenix Brewery, Heywood. A 20 minute walk from Heywood Station.

From Heywood station entrance walk across the paved area onto Manchester Street. Turn right and walk downhill for 5 minutes into the town centre.

At the junction with Church Street cross over onto Miller Street. Turn right onto York Street.



## LONGING FOR MORE?

If you enjoy a good pint of ale and you would like to know more about the villages along the route of the ELR, then why not join an organised 'Rail Ale' tour. Be entertained with beer, historical accounts and hilarious stories by a professional Tour Guide. Pre-booking is essential.

For forthcoming dates and to find out how to book please visit [www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk), phone 0161 764 7790 (lines open daily 10am – 4pm) or follow the East Lancs Rail Ale Tour on Twitter: @Rail\_Ale



## BOOK YOUR OWN TOUR

Private tours are also available for corporate groups, business networking events, clubs, societies, birthday celebrations, office parties etc.

## HOW TO FIND US?

The Rail Ale Trail can be followed from any ELR station. Guided tours start from Bury station unless otherwise stated. Please check [www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk) for further details.

ELR is in the heart of Bury, easily accessible by public transport. For times see [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com) or call 0871 200 2233

Paid parking facilities are available adjacent to Bury Station and free parking is available at all other stations.

### For more information about the local area contact

Bury Tourist Information Centre - T: 0161 253 5111

Rochdale Tourist Information Centre - T: 01706 924928

[www.visitrossendale.co.uk](http://www.visitrossendale.co.uk)



East Lancashire Railway looks forward to having you all aboard but please remember to drink responsibly.



## WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

Take a trip on the East Lancashire Railway straight to the heart of Lancashire where you can discover its rich textile heritage.

Disembark at Rawtenstall where its historic past is evident on every corner. Visit the Weavers' Cottage, an 18th Century loom shop with a Victorian kitchen and working "tippler toilets". Rossendale Museum, once a mill-owner's home, unravels the history of the area. Don't miss out on Helmsore Mills Textile Museum, a Lancashire cotton mill which comes complete with working machinery and a mighty waterwheel.

Modern History showcases the best of Lancashire's museums, mills, railways, walking trails and attractions. There are endless events and exhibitions for everyone...



This leaflet has been produced by East Lancashire Railway in partnership with Bury, Rochdale, and Rossendale Councils.

All information correct at time of print, but please check details before travelling.

Supported by



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EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



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