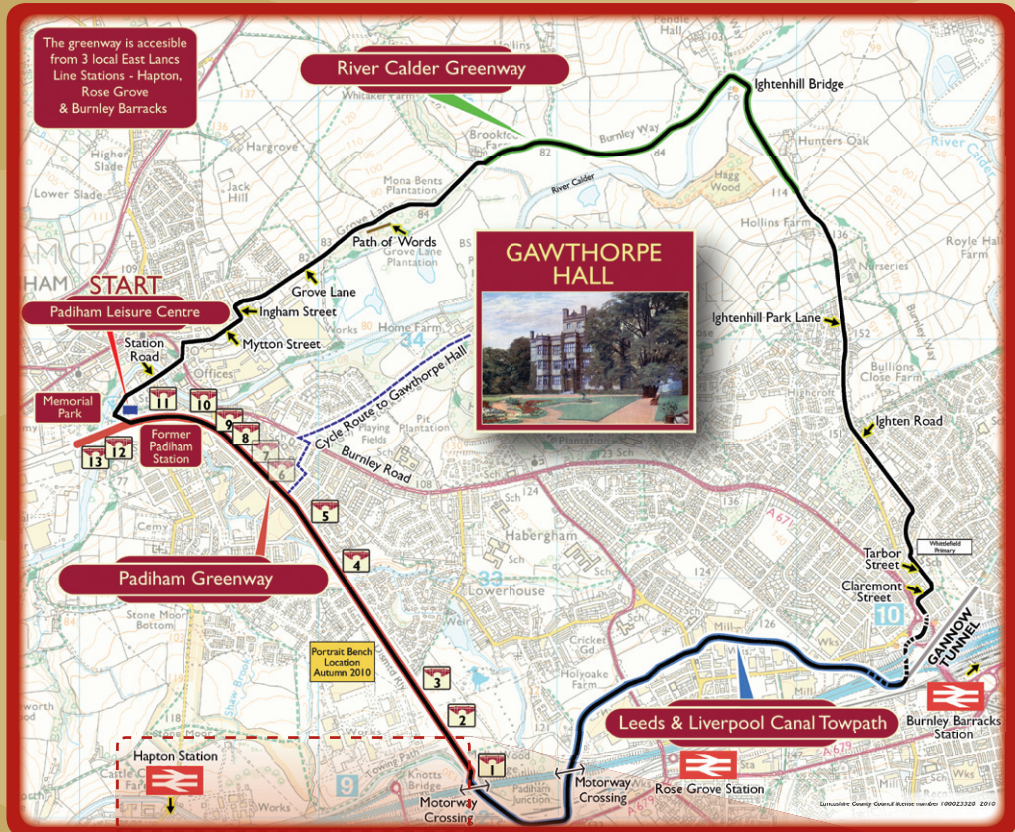


CYCLING INTO RAILWAY HISTORY - PADIHAM LOOP

HAPTON



Padiham Greenway

This circular cycle ride uses part of the former railway line known as the Padiham Loop. The ride also takes in the River Calder Greenway, passes through Ightenhill and uses part of the Leeds - Liverpool Canal. There is also a 'branch line' to Gawthorpe Hall which is today owned by the National Trust and managed by Lancashire County Council. The house was home to the Shuttleworth family for over 300 years and today houses the nationally important Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth textile collection.

Tracks to Padiham: The Padiham Loop line was opened to goods traffic in 1875 and to passengers in 1876. The line went from Rose Grove through Padiham and Great Harwood to Blackburn. The opening gave the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway the opportunity to tap into the heavy cotton trade in Padiham and coal traffic from the numerous pits around the line. The line was closed to passengers in 1957 although excursion trains continued to use it during wakes weeks up to 1963. The line remained open for a while longer to the former Padiham Power Station.

How to get to the Padiham Greenway? Use the map for the best route from the station to access the Greenway.

More information: an attractive leaflet has been produced called 'Cycling into Railway History - Padiham Loop: Padiham - Rose Grove'. Copies can be obtained from local information centres and viewed on line at www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk

Route from the station to the Padiham Greenway

