Rail and Ride Route No. 3
The Ashley Amble

The route follows quiet country lanes and cyclepaths
25 miles long (40km)

Starting at Ashley Station the route passes through Dunham Massey and Tatton Park, following attractive country lanes and cyclepaths round to Knutsford. It finishes at Knutsford Station.

Obtain a Day Return ticket to Ashley to start the ride. The ride finishes at Knutsford Station where you can use the return half of your ticket — There is level access at both Ashley and Knutsford stations.

Route Difficulty: Easy
About the Route
The Ashley Amble
This route, making use of the Northern Rail service along the Mid Cheshire Line from Chester to Manchester is entirely on the country lanes in the Knutsford area apart from short sections of cyclepath in a circular route between Ashley and Knutsford.

Passing many attractive pubs offering food and refreshments, the route is mostly flat but has one or two minor hills.

The route passes through the attractive Dunham Massey Estate (National Trust) and makes use of a short section of the Trans-Pennine trail before returning through Tatton Park to Knutsford.

NOTE: in Winter the entrance to Knutsford from Tatton Park is closed on Mondays.

The ride finishes at Knutsford station. Knutsford has many cafes, restaurants and pubs for refreshment.

Note : Bikes on Trains
Most Northern Rail trains can take up to two bikes on a first come first served basis. However this is subject to space being available, particularly during peak time. Conductors have responsibility for the safety of their train and have the right to refuse entry if the train is busy.

We advise cyclists to travel off peak and be aware that you are not guaranteed to be able to take your bike on the train. Please do not travel as a large group and expect to be able to get all your bikes on the train.

Using trains to travel to the start and from the finish points of your bike rides is a great way to explore lovely countryside further afield without resorting to the car.

All local train companies will carry bikes free of charge, but some operators will only carry bikes free at off-peak times. Please check their web-sites for details.

This leaflet, produced by the Chester Cycling Campaign, is part of a growing series of suggested rides incorporating a train journey to get to the start point.

About the Chester Cycling Campaign
Chester Cycling Campaign is campaigning for a safe and cycle friendly city. We support and encourage Chester residents to make increased use of cycling facilities.

The Campaign supports moves locally and nationally to bring cycling up to the levels seen in many European nations and to integrate cycling and walking and public transport.

In this way we hope to contribute toward the improvement of health and the urban environment through greater use of bicycles.

For more information and to download all of the cycle rides that have been devised by Chester Cycle Campaign
www.chestercyclecity.org
At your local station obtain a Day Return to Ashley. If you are catching the train from the Altrincham side of Ashley obtain a Day Return to Knutsford. START ride at Ashley Station

1. Turn right out of station. After a stream turn right then take first left following Cheshire Cycleway sign. Keep following the Cheshire Cycleway signs through Rostherne and its attractive almshouses. Cross the busy A556 at the traffic lights and the Swan Inn and bear slightly right into Chapel Lane.

2. Take 1st right into Back Lane signposted Ageden and Little Bollington. At the T junction turn right into Booth Bank Lane and first left into Reddy Lane which goes under M56 motorway. Cross over the busy A56 (left then immediately right) into Little Bollington where there is an attractive pub “Swan with two Nicks” and next door the “White Cottage Tea Room”.

3. Carry on down the hill past the pub where you can wheel your bike over the River Bollin on a footbridge which takes you into the Dunham Massey Estate which is a National Trust property.

4. Go straight on to get to the Dunham Massey House and its tea rooms and toilets or turn left onto a lane that skirts the edge of the property joining the B5160. Turn right then around half a mile later turn left into Woodhouse Lane to Dunham Town. There is a pub which serves meals “The Axe & Cleaver” and the Lavender Barn Tea Rooms nearby.

5. Just beyond the pub fork left into Back Lane. At the T-Junction turn right into Station Lane which takes you to the Trans Pennine Trail a shared use cyclepath where you turn left onto the cyclepath.

6. Follow the Trans Pennine Trail for approximately 1 1/4 miles towards Lymm where it crosses Mill Lane (the B5159). Turn left and follow this road which goes under the Bridgewater Canal towards Broom Edge.

7. Cross over the busy A56 and follow the road over the M56 motorway. Just after the motorway turn left into Peacock Lane joining the signed Cheshire Cycleway.

8. Continue to reach the A556 at Bucklow Hill (which you passed on the outward leg) and cross over bearing left to Rosthorne. At Rosthorne turn right and instead of retracing your original route carry straight on to the straight Ashley Road which runs along the northern edge of the Tatton Park Estate. The entrance to the park is opposite. Enter the park.

9. Once in Tatton Park follow the signs to “Knutsford Exit”. NOTE: This Exit is closed on Mondays in the winter months.

10. Outside the park entrance turn right into Garden Road which joins up to the Manchester Road (A50) where you turn left into Knutsford Town Centre. Follow the road past a roundabout until you reach a left turn controlled by traffic lights which takes you down to the station entrance

FINISH at Knutsford Station where your ticket will be valid for your return journey to your local station.
Thank You to Our Sponsors

We would like to say a big thank you to Cheshire East Council and the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership for funding these Rail and Ride leaflets.

The vision for cycling in Cheshire East is:

“more people cycling in safety and with confidence for everyday journeys around the borough.”

For more information about cycling in Cheshire East Borough and local cycle groups in the area, follow the link below...

http://tinyurl.com/CheshireEastCycling

For more information about the Chester Cycling Campaign please visit www.chestercyclecity.org