

# HULME END

COUNTRY CROSS-ROADS AT THE END OF THE LINE

**P**ackhorse trails, turnpike road and railway have come and gone leaving unchanged this ancient farming community at the head of the Manifold's gorge. "Hulme" is of Scandinavian origin, meaning water meadow. The first settlers were probably livestock farmers attracted by a reliable water supply, land easier to farm than the still well wooded uplands and at a fordable crossing of the river.

## Market Forces

Despite these advantages it was nearby Hartington rather than Hulme End which secured an invaluable market charter in 1203 and developed as a local centre. In time, those local people not involved in working the land had the alternative of working in industries - the Ecton mines and small cotton mills at Hartington and Brund for example, or at the cheese factory at Hartington, still busy today and famed for its Stilton Cheese.

## Rail Progress

The coming of the railway raised local hopes; a planned extension north to Longnor and Buxton held the promise of a boost in trade from neighbouring villages. Such plans came to naught, although the railway brought tourist trade to the local hotel - the old turnpike inn, the Waggon and Horses, later renamed "The Light Railway Hotel". But the spark of development failed to ignite and the line from nowhere to nowhere eventually ran out of steam in 1934.



Wheels of a different kind bring prosperity to the 'Manifold Inn', formerly the 'Light Railway Hotel'.

## Local Walks

The countryside around Hulme End is laced with many miles of public footpaths, most of them centuries old, linking farms, pubs, fords and places of work. The map on the right outlines these paths, but it is recommended that to follow them, you use an Ordnance Survey Map - Outdoor Leisure Sheet 24 "The Peak District, White Peak Area".

The Manifold Track itself is tarmaced throughout and open to walkers, pedal cyclists and horse-riders.

It is also suitable for visitors using wheelchairs - gradients are very easy.



## Flooded Meadows

Twice in the past 50 years plans for a reservoir above Hulme End have been defeated. In 1946 only a decision in the House of Lords prevented Leicester Corporation from flooding 1,000 acres of the Valley, whilst in 1970 the Trent River Authority planned a reservoir stretching from Hulme End to Longnor.

## Getting Round...

Travel and trade - before the Railway



An old packhorse road in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

## Packhorse Trails

Medieval packhorse trails were maintained by fees paid by users and with labour provided by the residents of each parish along the trail. Many of today's inter-village roads originated as packhorse routes, the area's many isolated pubs provided staging and business points.



"Trains" of up to 40 animals were controlled by a "Jagger," an overseer named after the Jaeger breed of horse favoured for the work. Each horse could carry about 250lbs (113 kgs) of goods (minerals, cloth, etc.) in panniers easily transferred to fresh horses where necessary.

## Turnpikes

Busy packhorse routes were gradually superseded by Turnpike Roads, built by Turnpike Trusts who levied tolls to maintain and improve the highways. These wide new roads were developed with mail coaches and carriages in mind. Hulme End itself is on a Turnpike opened in 1781, the old tollbar and gate were at the pub end of the river bridge.

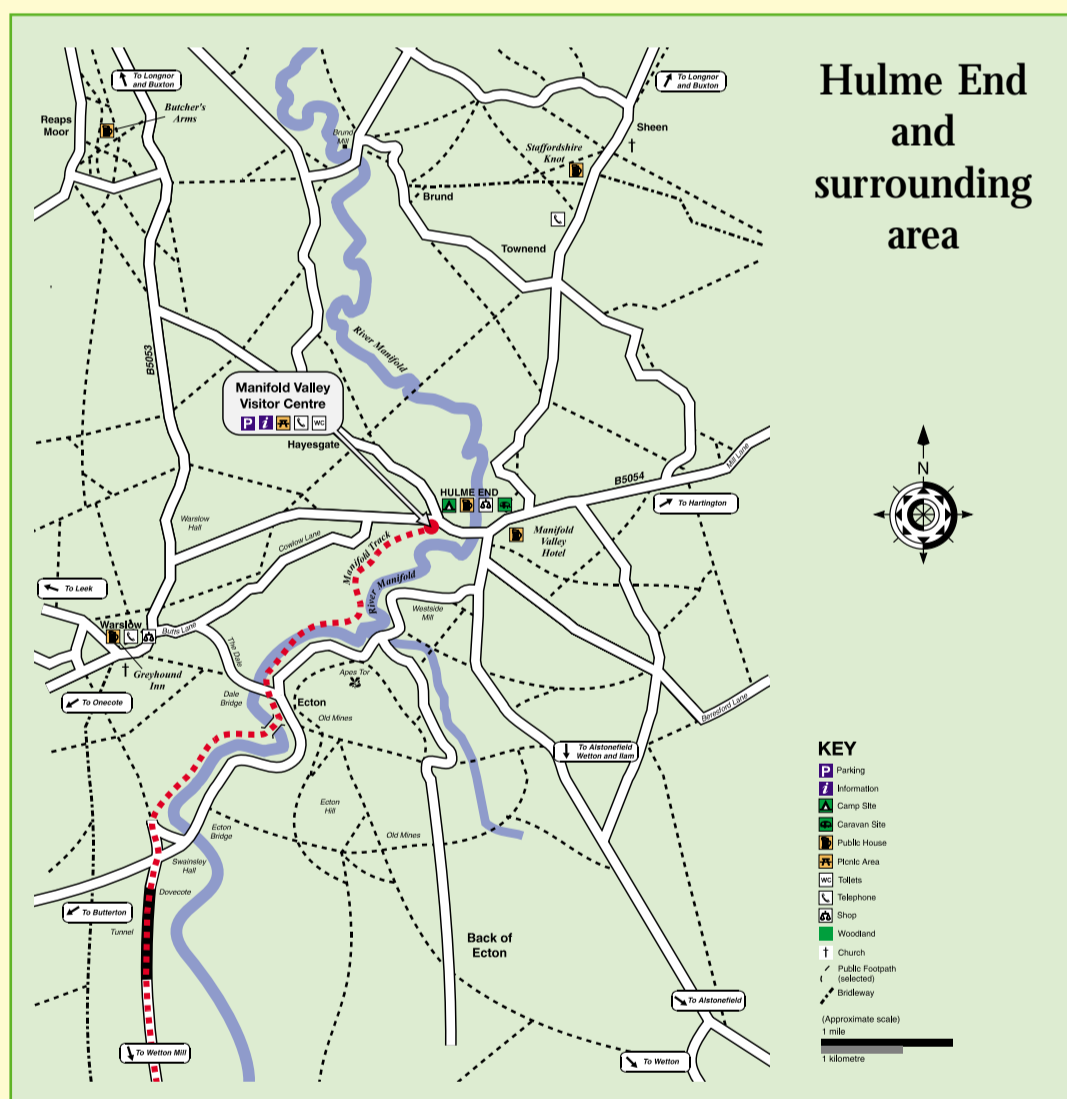


The Manifold Valley Visitor Centre is the old station building, (seen to the left on these pictures). It once housed the ticket office and waiting room.



The sign board "Hulme End for Sheen & Hartington" (seen to the left on the smaller picture) emphasises the promoters' hope for the sphere of influence of the isolated terminus. Note the old coach used as a store, (in front of the station building) and the standard gauge goods wagons on the special sidings.

The Manifold Track footpath now follows the route of the old railway.



## Birds of the River

The Dipper's name reflects the bird's habit of perching on mid-river boulders and repeatedly bobbing up and down. About 8 inches (20 cm) long and easy to identify, it feeds on water insects and grubs, spending much of its life "walking" underwater, aided by its strong legs, water resistant plumage and the pressure of water keeping it firmly on the bottom.

Kingfisher, Heron, Grey and Pied Wagtails are also regularly seen along the Hamps and Manifold.



Dipper



Grey Wagtail

