

**Twenty-six MILLS HILL –CASTLETON via canal**

This is a pleasant, fairly rural stretch of the Rochdale Canal with a number of locks, farms and at least three public houses.

Take the train from Eccles Station to Manchester Victoria.

At Victoria board a stopping train to Rochdale via Castleton, and alight at Mills Hill station.

Go down the station steps and turn right under the railway.

Cross the canal bridge then U-turn to your right to go down the steps by the side of the bridge.

On the canal bank turn right and follow the towpath for the remainder of the walk. *Notice the original railway bridge which carried Stephenson's Manchester and Leeds Railway over the canal. The line was opened in 1848 and goes via the Calder Valley.*

At lock 53 go left over the bridge and then right to continue on the towpath.

Next you cross a bridge right and then left adjacent to Whipp and Bourne Switchgear.

At lock 52 again go left over the bridge and then right to continue on the towpath.

At lock 51 U-turn to your left to go towards The Blue Pits Inn, Castleton. At the main road U-turn right to go down the station approach. This brings you onto the Manchester Platform of Castleton station.

**CLASSIFICATION:** AN EASY WALK OF MEDIUM LENGTH (*Please note that the towpath can be rather muddy following a rainy period*)  
COUNTRYSIDE, GOOD VIEWS, PUBS, CANALS.

**RAIL FARE:** category ONE.

**Maps:** OS 1:50 000 sheet 109                      Manchester A-Z