

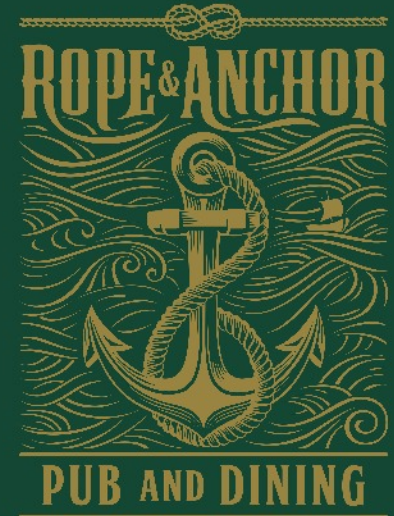
The first mention of a deer park at Dunham Massey is in 1362. The resident herd of Fallow Deer numbers around 150 – the rut takes place in the autumn and fawns are generally born in June and July.



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THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM THE



**Dunham Massey Hall**  
 3 or 3¾ miles: fairly easy  
 A gentle stroll to our local stately home and deer park.

**Bridgewater Canal and Trans Pennine Trail**  
 3 or 3½ miles: easy  
 A straightforward towpath and rail-trail walk with no stiles or significant gradients.

**Hall, Canal and Trail**  
 6 or 6½ miles: moderate  
 A completist's walk: all the best the area has to offer.

# Dunham Massey Hall

3 or 3¾ miles: fairly easy

*Allow 2 hours, plus additional time if visiting the house at Dunham Massey (for which an admission fee is payable unless you are a National Trust member; admission to the grounds on foot is free). Farmland paths may be muddy in winter, and low-lying sections may even be impassable at times of flood. There is one wide, shallow ladder-stile, and some road walking. Can be extended within Dunham Massey Deer Park – see maps on site.*

The route as described avoids repetition by following the Trans Pennine Trail and Barns Lane on the outward journey. For a shorter route with some retracing of steps, take the direct route down Station Road instead and join the described route at step 5.

**1** From the rear of the car park, drop down onto the Trans Pennine Trail (here following the former Lymm Railway) and turn left. **2** After 200m, pass under an overbridge then immediately turn left off the trail on a short path that leads up to Barns Lane. **3** Turn right and follow the road for ¼ mile, ignoring the Bollin Valley Way footpath when it heads off to the right. **4** At a bend, follow the road round to the left until you reach the junction with Woodhouse Lane. **5** Continue ahead past Yew Tree Farm, then turn right into Meadow Lane and walk past a house on the left. **6** Continue down the hedged lane past a further house (right) and through a kissing gate to a bridge over the River Bollin. **7** Pass through another kissing gate and cross the field to a footbridge. **8** After a pond on the left, climb the slope to another kissing gate. **9** Bear half-left then follow an overgrown hedge to yet another kissing gate, then cross the field beyond towards a pylon. **10** After the power lines, go through a metal kissing gate and follow the hedged track to a further kissing gate that leads to a tunnel under the Bridgewater Canal. **11** Follow the track beyond the aqueduct out into Little Bollington village. **12** Turn left to pass the Swan with Two Nicks and continue to the end of the road, where a narrow footbridge crosses the Bollin between Bollington Mill (left) and a weir (right). **13** Join the road (Brick Kiln Lane) beyond, then, when it curves left, take a fenced footpath straight ahead that crosses a low water-meadow. **14** At the far end, climb the ladder-stile into Dunham Park. **15** Continue ahead past the old sawmill on your left. **16** In front of Dunham Massey Hall, turn left. **17** Turn left again just before the house and pass through the archway beneath the cupola of the carriage house. **18** Turn right past an ancient oak tree and go through the gates. **19** Walk along the side of the lake, then turn left at the far end (or exit via the garden and visitor centre). **20** Turn right before the car park then follow a path that curves left along an avenue of trees to a gate close to the car park exit. Turn right along the service road and exit the park to the public road. **21** Turn left and (passing the end of Brick Kiln Lane on your left) continue under Woodhouse Aqueduct below the canal. **22** Follow Woodhouse Lane ahead for 600m back to Dunham Massey village. **23** Bear right at the junction with Barns Lane,

past the Vine Inn, and follow Station Road beyond for a third of a mile back to the Rope and Anchor.

## Bridgewater Canal and Trans Pennine Trail

3 or 3½ miles: easy

*Allow 2 hours. Some road walking at the beginning of the walk. The towpath may be muddy in places, and there are a few (avoidable) steps but no stiles.*

**1** Cross the road from the car park entrance and follow Back Lane, straight ahead. **2** After ¼ mile, turn left onto the canal towpath. **3** After 400m, pass under Dunham School Bridge (you might choose to divert off here to explore Dunham Town village, with its picturesque old school building). **4** Continuing along the towpath, after a little over ½ mile a permissive path heads left along the edge of a wood, offering a shortcut; for a shorter walk, follow this path to the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) and turn left, jumping to step 9. Otherwise, continue along the canal for a further ¼ mile to Seamon's Moss Bridge. **5** Just before the bridge, leave the canal up steps to the left (for a step-free alternative, carry on under the bridge then shortly turn left). **6** Cross Seamon's Road at the lights and turn left along the pavement. **7** At the junction with Atlantic Street, turn left and walk through the car park to join the former Lymm Railway, an off-road section of the TPT. **8** Turn left and follow the Trail for ¼ mile to a wood, where the permitted-path shortcut rejoins from the left. **9** Continuing west across low-lying mossland, initially with woodland to either side, after ½ mile pass under a road bridge. **10** After a further ¼ mile, cross Station Road with care, then turn left through a gate into the bottom of the Rope and Anchor car park.

## Hall, Canal and Trail

6 or 6½ miles: moderate

*Allow 3 hours. May be muddy in places, and there are a few stiles and some road walking.*

Follow steps 1–15 of the **Dunham Massey Hall** walk, above.

**16** Continue until you are level with the front of Dunham Massey Hall. Several metalled drives meet here. Smithy Drive is straight ahead; take the last drive before it on the right (Charcoal Drive). A pond, Smithy Pool, should be visible to your left as you walk away from the Hall. **17** After ½ mile, just after the Deer House on the left, the drive bends left and continues out to Charcoal Lodge. **18** Climb the ladder-stile into the road. **19** Cross carefully, take a few steps to the right, then join a footpath on the left that winds through woodland. **20** Cross a fairway to a golfers' track near the 12th tee. The public right-of-way across the golf course is indistinct beyond this point and crosses several fairways, so it is simpler and safer to turn left along the well-used track and stay on it past a small building to the 7th tee,

then continue to a wooden kissing gate at the exit from the course. **21** Walk along the left-hand side of the first field, then turn right at a three-way footpath sign to a stile into narrow Oldfield Lane. **22** Follow the lane ahead (right) then, when it bends right, take a footpath over a stile on the left. **23** Follow the hedge to a T-junction of paths, where you turn left. Follow the narrow hedged path out to Dunham Town. **24** Turn right past the church and follow the main village street down to the canal.

Once over the bridge, turn right onto the towpath and follow the **Bridgewater Canal and Trans Pennine Trail** walk from step 4.



The **watermill** at Dunham Massey was built as a corn mill in the 17th century and converted into a sawmill in 1860. It is described by Historic England as a “rare and well preserved example of a C17 watermill”. Tours are available between March and October.

The **Bridgewater Canal** was built in stages between 1760 and 1800. The section through Dunham Massey was part of an extension to Run-corn that finally opened in 1776. The canal crosses Woodhouse Lane, and the River Bollin, via aqueducts.



The **Trans Pennine Trail** runs for 194 miles from Southport to Hull. It is part of European walking route E8, which will eventually connect Ireland and Bulgaria. This section follows the Warrington and Altrincham Junction Railway, which closed to passengers in 1962.

**J.W. LEES**  
INNS & HOTELS