

Most **salmon** will migrate up the River Don in the months of October, November and December to breed. If successful young salmon may be seen in the river throughout the year, feeding and growing before they make the journey out to sea. Have you spotted a River Don salmon? Go to www.dcrtr.org.uk and get in touch.

Why not follow the trail all the way to Sheffield Railway Station to see the **Salmon of Steel sculpture**, created by local Scrap Metal Artist **Jason Heppenstall**.

Download the **'Salmon of Steel' podcast** on Podbean and listen to it along the trail.

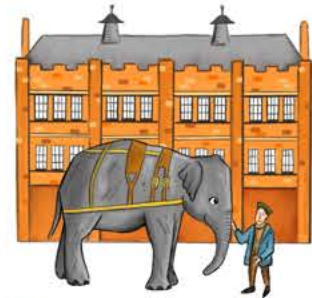
Illustrated by **Sophie Carter**.

Full route Approx 2 hours walk:
 Short route Approx 1 hour 30-minute walk:

The trail is accessible and cyclable, but take care on the unpaved surfaces and narrow paths.



1. We start our journey at **Kelham Island Museum**. This building was once a powerhouse for Sheffield, generating electricity for the city's tram network. But, long before electricity, the river was used to fuel Sheffield. **Weirs** were built across the river to harness the power of the water and turn watermills, first milling corn but later used to power the machinery that helped to produce Sheffield's famous metal work. Look for the weir spanning the river and the 'Goit' that channels the water beside you, creating the Kelham 'island'.



2. We've arrived at **Lady's Bridge** and another weir... but can you hear that rumbling sound? Sheffield steel was vital to the war effort during World War One, but with horses sent to the frontlines, who would pull the heavy loads of machinery and steel? The glazed orange building above you once housed an elephant, called Lizzie, who did just this.



5. **Splutter!** I can hardly breathe in this industrial fog and smoke. Decades of **pollution** and misuse meant that throughout the 1900s the Don was in a sorry state. Bright yellow in colour, it was filled with toxic chemicals, oils and the city's filth. Who will hold these polluters to account!



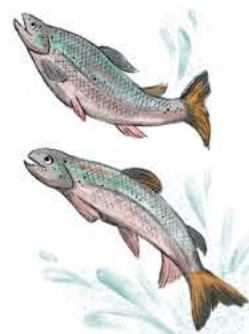
6. But as the clock turns forward new life is breathed into the river. A sewage treatment works is built, polluters are fined for the damage caused, and as time passes industry declines. Can you believe that you are now standing on the site of an old industrial factory? This is **Salmon Pastures**, now one of the wildest and most beautiful spots along the river. Riverflies emerge from the water, snapped up by greedy fish. The fish are caught themselves by hunting heron, kingfisher and even otter. Life has returned to the Don.



3. Look across the river. **Sheffield Castle** once dominated the skyline here, defended from attackers by the river's power. Later, when the castle was in ruins, this spot became a bustling **market place**. The River Don was rich in salmon, trying to migrate upstream to their spawning grounds but blocked by the steep, stone weirs. Cone-shaped traps called 'heck's were placed on weirs to catch them as they tried to leap over. So many were caught, salmon meat sold at the market for as little as two pence per kilogram.



4. Hold your nose... a **Victorian toilet** hangs over the river just there. Booming industry meant booming populations of workers. Pollution from industry flowed into the river, but more damaging was the untreated sewage from the growing workforce. The river became almost devoid of life, but what is that growing there in the murk.... a seedling? The river became tropically hot from the dumping of hot industrial water, providing the perfect conditions for fig seeds in the sewage to germinate, creating Sheffield's own forest of **fig trees**. Take the riverside footpath until you reach the **cobweb bridge**. This is the only route across to the other side so cross the cobweb carefully, avoiding the spider's watchful eyes above you.



7. **SPLASH!** Could it be? A huge fish jumps and dives in the water below the weir. Can you see her? It's the stuff of legend - an **Atlantic Salmon**. One of the first few to return in two hundred years. She's followed her nose all the way from the ocean to our river, searching for the perfect conditions to lay her eggs. But this HUGE weir blocks her path. **SPLASH!** Water tumbles down a **fish pass** built especially for her to cross over. She swims up the watery escalator with ease and continues her migration.

7. SANDERSON'S WEIR

EAST COAST RD.

WASHFORD RD.

SANDERSON'S WEIR, FISH PASS

STEVENSON RD.

B6071

STOKE ST.

BACON LANE

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

WALK MILL WEIR

WALKEN ST.

SALMON PASTURES

LEVEYTON ST.

BURTON WEIR

EFFINGHAM ST.

EFFINGHAM RD.

SUSSEX ST.

BURNARD RD.

RIVER DON

SHEFFIELD & TINSLEY CANAL

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

STANFORTH RD.

WOODBOURN RD.

ATTERCLIFFE CEMETERY

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

STANFORTH RD.

WOODBOURN RD.

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

STANFORTH RD.

WOODBOURN RD.

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

STANFORTH RD.

WOODBOURN RD.

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

STANFORTH RD.

WOODBOURN RD.

ATTERCLIFFE RD.

STANFORTH RD.

WOODBOURN RD.

8. This peaceful **cemetary** is the last resting place for many of the mill and steel workers that lived along the Don during the industrial boom. Would they recognise the River Don today?

Imagine through the smoke and fog, a strong shire horse plodding up the **tow-path**, pulling a barge brimming with goods. The **canal** was built to help transport Sheffield's goods across the UK, to seaside ports and then across the world. Listen out for a train crossing the bridge ahead. The invention of the faster, powerful steam engine quickly replaced the canal boats. We'll follow the canal down to the **Victoria Quays** and the end of our journey.



After decades of hard work building fish passes on the weirs along the River Don,

10. salmon have been spotted in Sheffield's waters. But how do we monitor the return of salmon? Scientists at the University of Sheffield are researching how we can find traces of salmon **DNA** in samples of river water, this would reveal where they are in the rivers across the Don Catchment area. Perhaps you can help too and keep a watchful eye on the river?

© 2020 Don Catchment Rivers Trust. All Rights Reserved.



Sheffield's waterways and the wildlife that depend on them are looked after and monitored by a range of organisations and volunteer groups including: Sheffield City Council*, Don Catchment Rivers Trust*, Yorkshire Water*, Environment Agency*, Canal & Rivers Trust*, Blue Loop Troop, Five Weirs Walk Trust*, Upper Don Trail Trust, River Stewardship Company, Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Sorby Natural History Society, The Wild Trout Trust, The Riverfly Partnership, Sheffield Bird Study Group and many more. Several of these organisations (*) have also worked to improve fish passage on the River Don.

Salmon of Steel

A trail through Sheffield

