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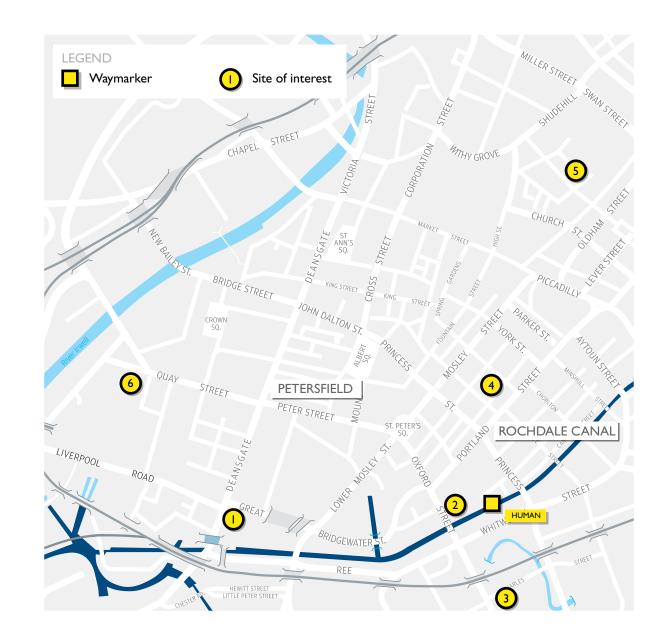
In recent years people have started flocking back to the city centre as a place to live as well as to work. Anywhere along the Rochdale Canal you can jump off into the heart of the culture that our city is famous for.

I Beetham Tower

At over 168.9m tall, the Beetham Tower is the highest residential building in the UK, and at the time of writing, the tallest building in Manchester. Designed by Mancunian architect lan Simpson, the building is mixed-use with a 5 star, 285 room hotel on the bottom 22 floors, and apartments on the top 23. In the middle, a restaurant and bar overlooks the entire region, with two glass windows in the floor that let you look down 23 floors to Great Bridgewater Street below.

2 St. James's Building

Now the home of many successful companies, the majestic St. James's Building lays claim to the showing of the first cinema film in Manchester. By 1907, the area around Oxford Street had more cinemas per capita than London.



3 BBC Manchester

By 2010, the BBC will move to MediaCityUK, but at time of writing, New Broadcasting House on Oxford Road is the current regional headquarters, and home to some of the country's best-loved television and radio programmes, including A Question of Sport, Dragons' Den and Radio 4's Woman's Hour.

4 Chinatown

One of Europe's largest Chinatowns, this vibrant district is host to a myriad of wonderful restaurants and culture, not just Chinese but from across the Far East, including Thailand, Vietnam, Japan and Malaysia At the heart of the area is the magnificent imperial Chinese arch, emblazoned with dragons and phoenixes symbolising luck and prosperity.

5 Chinese Art Centre

Chinese Arts Centre is Manchester's international agency for the development and promotion of contemporary Chinese artists. The RIBA award-winning building on Thomas Street includes a gallery, live/work residency studio, tea house, shop and resource area. The main gallery hosts a challenging and innovative exhibition programme showcasing the very best of contemporary art by artists of Chinese descent.

6 Granada Studios

Granada Studios were the first purpose-built television studios in the country. Among the internationally famous shows made here are the multi-award-winning documentary series, World in Action and the nation's longest running soap opera, Coronation Street, first broadcast in 1960, and still going strong nearly 50 years later...