

hearmanchester.com/ **UNDERGROUND**

Whilst London was building the first underground rail system, Manchester was already making good use of its underground canal network. Exploring the city from the banks of the Rochdale Canal, or the dizzying heights of the Beetham Tower you would never know that a secret world exists beneath your feet.

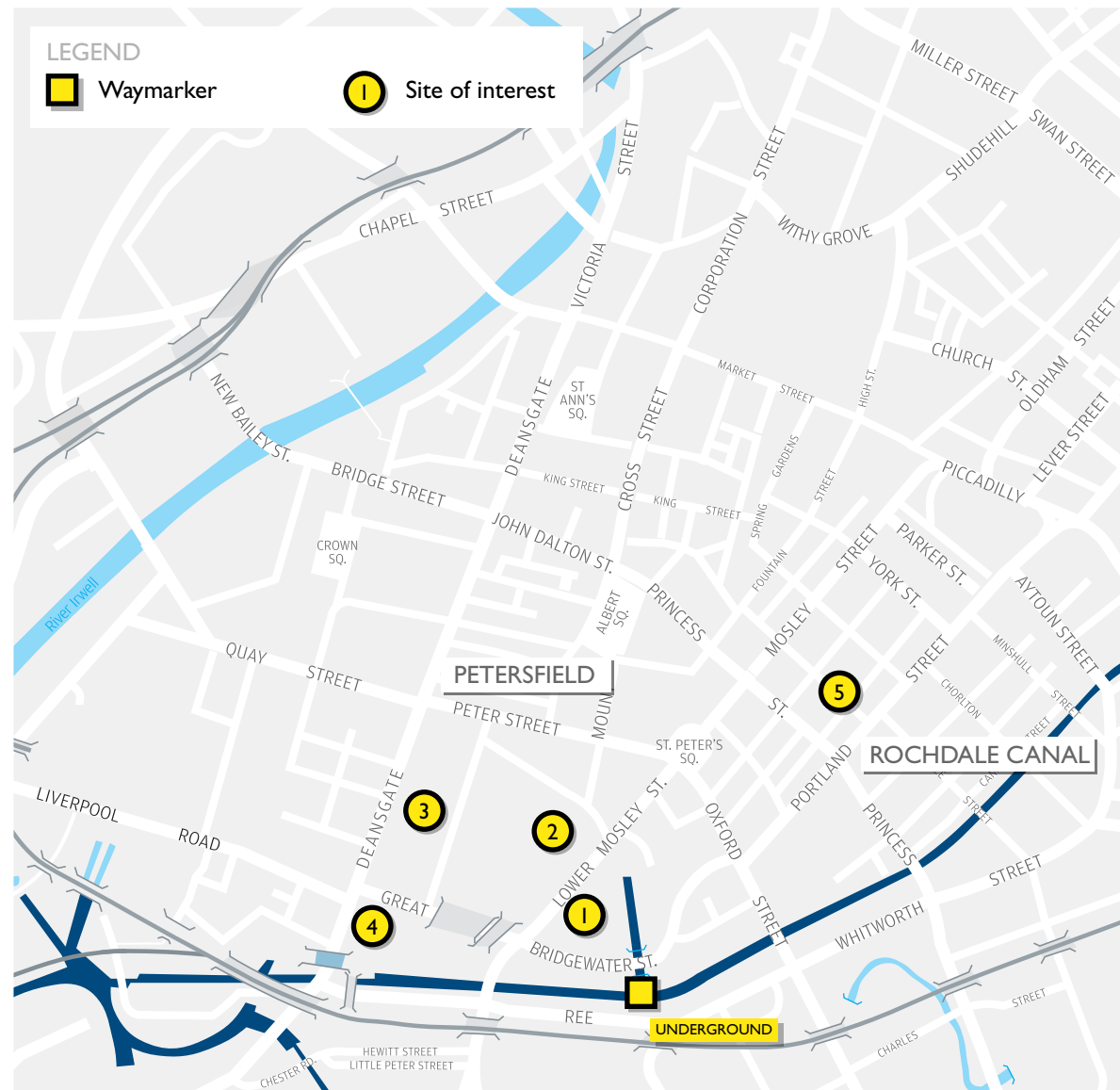
1 Bridgewater Hall

Opened in 1996, the Bridgewater Hall is the home of the Hallé Orchestra – the oldest professional orchestra in Britain. The international concert venue hosts over 250 concerts per year. The focal point of the 2400 seat auditorium is the magnificent 5500 pipe organ that beautifully fills the rear wall with wood and burnished metal.

www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk

2 Manchester Central

Manchester Central was originally built as a railway station that served passengers from 1880 to 1969. In 1986, it reopened as the Greater Manchester Exhibition Centre (G-MEX). Today it is again known by its original name, Manchester Central, and hosts conferences, exhibitions and concerts. Everyone from Tony Blair to U2 have appeared on stage here.



3 Great Northern Warehouse

Beside Manchester Central lies the Great Northern Warehouse. Built in the late 1890s, over 9 acres of streets, back-to-back houses, foundries, inns, hotels and even a burial ground were swept aside for the £25 million brick construction.

100 years ago the warehouse employed 350 men and used 25 cranes to dispatch goods between rail, canal and horse and cart. Lift shafts took entire rail wagons down to the underground canal docks where they could be loaded or unloaded directly on to the narrowboats in the manmade caverns below.

Today the warehouse serves a very different purpose as a leisure and entertainment complex.

4 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 Ian 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 set into the floor that let you look down 23 floors to Great Bridgewater Street below.

5 Chinatown And Manchester Art Gallery

Many of the underground tunnels criss-cross the Chinatown district of Manchester. Several years ago when Manchester Art Gallery was being extended, construction workers very nearly dug directly into one of the many tunnels in the area!