

Tameside's Countryside

Mottram Hill Trail

A moderate four mile circular walk linking hilltop and valley.

Start from Lymefield Visitor Centre, off Lower Market Street, Broadbottom, Hyde, SK14 6AG



From the centre, go down the hill towards Lymefield Terrace and right through the stile. You are now on the Broad Mills Heritage Site. Broad Mills, originally Broadbottom Mills, opened in the early 1800s produced cotton. You can still see the remains of the water wheel pit, and gasholder.

Follow the path to the left, walking beside the River Etherow through the woodland. At the footbridge follow the path to the right up the hill turning left at the terrace of houses to climb high above the gorge, a dramatic feature carved by the river

after the last ice age. Turn right at the far end of Summerbottom following a narrow path uphill, bearing left after a short way. The row of cottages at Summerbottom were built in the 1780s.

The original eight, although separate weaver's cottages, had a common top storey to which access was via a ramp at the back. This storey was designed to house the looms for weaving woollen cloth.



At the top turn right onto Moss Lane to the War Memorial.

Cross the road at the crossing and take the cobbled footpath up the steps to Harryfields. Go straight on at the track and follow the marked footpath to the right and between the houses. Bear left crossing the road, the path continues between the beech hedges. Over the stile take the path along the left side

of the field between two low walls. An iron kissing gate takes you onto the lane out of this field. Turn right up the hill past Hillend Cottages.

Take the stone steps to the left after the cottages and follow the left side of the field until you reach the end of the buildings and a stile on your left. Don't go over this stile, but turn right across the field to another stile. From here there are excellent views across to Werneth Low, Harrop Edge and Hobson Moor. Keep the field boundary on your right until after the next stile when it will be on your left.

Turn left onto Littlemoor Road. After a short way the route follows a footpath off the road to the right between two ponds but if you have time, a short detour to Mottram Church is recommended.

Dominating the village of Mottram and the countryside around, "The Cathedral of East Cheshire" as it was once described was erected in the 15th century and restored in the 1850s.



Returning to the route, follow the footpath keeping the field boundary on your right until Glossopdale opens up before you. Panoramic views of the Longdendale Valley, the Peak District, Cown Edge and the Etherow valley open up ahead.

Over the stile turn left and follow the footpath across the field and down the steps into the clough.

Walk ahead across the open field to the stile and waymarker opposite. The field was once a local golf course, the pavilion is now a house on the left.

Cross Pingot Lane, an ancient highway, through the stile opposite and follow the hedge down and to the left. This footpath brings you onto Hague Road, built in 1830 and at the same height as the railway viaduct. Wealthy local mill owners built their houses in this road with its fine views of the Etherow Valley and Glossopdale

Turn right along the track, passing an old quarry on the right. On reaching the tarmac road turn left down Gorsey Brow to the railwaybridge and left down the main road back to Lymefield.

For more information on this walk or any other query contact the ranger service on 0161 330 9613.