

Feel Good!

Countryside

Walks in Tameside



Distance: 2 miles

An easy walk on
mainly level
surfaced paths

Roaches Trail

This area was once full of mills, taking advantage of the river for power and the damp climate for the spinning of cotton. It is now an area of peace and tranquility, with its woodlands, bridlepaths, canal and river.

Roaches Trail

Start from Roaches Lock, Manchester Road, Mossley, OL5 9BB

From Roaches Lock car park climb the steps on to the Huddersfield Narrow Canal towpath.

Work started on the building of the canal in 1794 and it was completed and fully opened in 1811. The canal links the Ashton and Peak Forest Canals at Portland Basin, Ashton under Lyne with Huddersfield.

Turn right and cross the footbridge beside the lock gates, go over a second footbridge across the spillway and turn right.

With the canal on your right, the path winds round through Roaches Wood, the site of a former tip, transformed by tree planting, access works, picnic sites and a pond in the late 70s and 80s. The path joins the old Stalybridge to Diggle railway line with a view of Noon Sun hill to your left.

Turn right and continue on the flat. Just before the path enters a cutting below Micklehurst Estate, turn right and follow the path down the hill to the lock.

Woodend Mill ahead once produced cotton and now houses a variety of units.

Cross the canal bridge and turn right back onto the towpath.

On your left you can see the River Tame which starts its life on the moorlands above Denshaw in Saddleworth and flows for 21 miles to its confluence with the River Goyt in Stockport. The name of the river is thought to derive from the anglo saxon word meaning 'dark waters' which relates to its peaty colour. Dippers can often be seen on the weir. Look for the milestone with the distance to Huddersfield cut into it.



Roaches Trail

When you reach Roaches Lock, if you want to continue the walk, go out of the car park and cross the road. Turn left and then right onto Heron Lane.

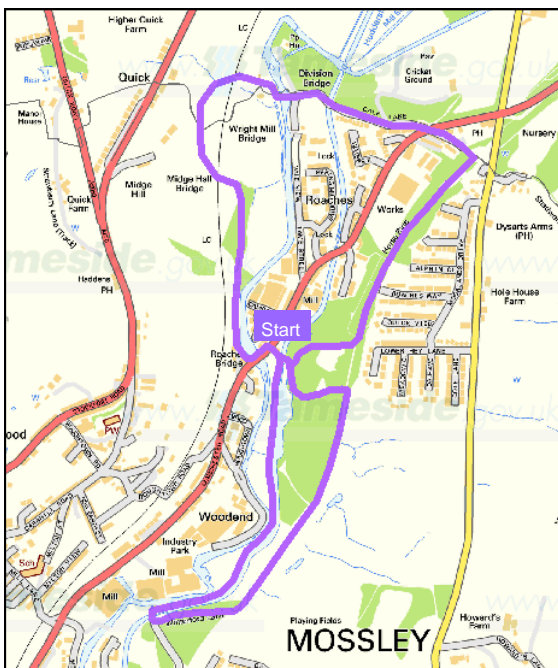
You may well see a heron standing in the river, waiting to catch a fish and kingfishers have been seen on this stretch of the river.

Go under the railway bridge and turn right onto a footpath signposted 'Quick' and with the railway on your right.

The large mound in the field is locally known as Gibnall Hill and is believed to be a barrow or ancient burial ground. The large stone wall along the road above was built in the by prisoners from Strangeways.

Turn right over the railway bridge and down the steep path that winds down the hill to the river.

Wright's Mill originally produced woollen cloth. The water wheel was removed in the 1950s, but the weir used to direct water to the mill is still evident. The bridge over the Tame was built in the early 19th century to replace stepping stones.



Cross the river and go straight up Calf lane, signposted 'Moor Edge Road'. Cross Manchester Road and up Shadows Lane. Go through the stile onto the bridlepath and turn right down the hill.

When you reach the gate, turn right uphill and then the path goes down hill back to Roaches Lock.

 **Tameside**
Metropolitan Borough
Great lives, excellent services

For more information on this walk or any other query contact **Tameside Countryside Service**
0161 330 9613 www.tameside.gov.uk/countryside