

# Tameside Countryside Service

## Coppicing

Coppicing is a traditional method of woodland management which takes advantage of the fact that many trees make new growth from the stump or roots if cut down. In a coppiced wood, young tree stems are repeatedly cut down to near ground level. In subsequent growth years, many new shoots will emerge and after a number of years the coppiced tree, or stool, is ready to be harvested, and the cycle begins again. (The noun "coppice" means a growth of small trees or a forest coming from shoots or suckers.)



◀ a recently coppiced Alder stool.



▶ The same Alder stool after one year's re-growth.

Typically a coppiced woodland is harvested in sections or coups on a rotation. Coppicing has the effect of providing a rich variety of habitats, as the woodland always has a range of different-aged coppice growing in it, which is beneficial for biodiversity.



Biodiversity is the variety of all life. It includes plants, animals and the complex ecosystems of which they are part. Not only do they enrich our everyday lives, they produce the necessary ingredients for all life to exist.

Linking woodlands along the valley, the river and canal provide a wonderful wildlife habitat.

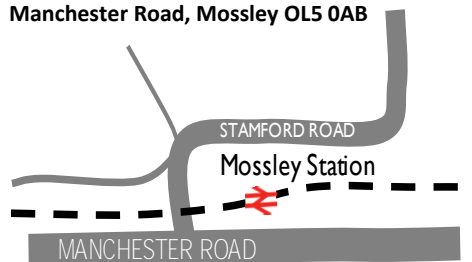
As you wander along the trail look out for Kingfisher and Heron.



The charismatic Water Vole can still be found along some of the borough's canals and brooks.

Have you seen any wildlife? Please send your records to [www.gmwildlife.org.uk](http://www.gmwildlife.org.uk)

Start: Mossley Railway Station,  
Manchester Road, Mossley OL5 0AB



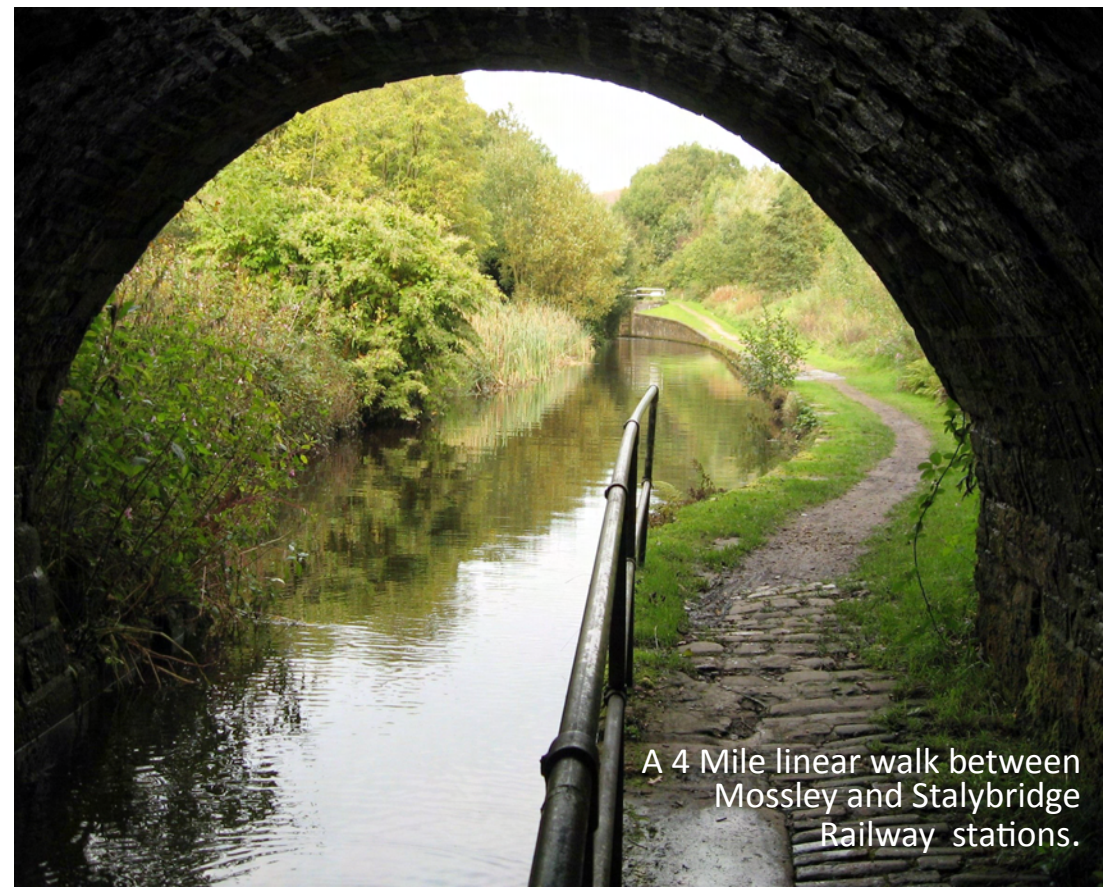
**Tameside Countryside Service**  
[www.tameside.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.tameside.gov.uk/countryside)  
Tel: 0161 330 9613



Discover  
**Tameside's  
Countryside**

## TOWPATHS, TRACKS AND TUNNELS

Mossley, Scout Tunnel and Staley Way



A 4 Mile linear walk between  
Mossley and Stalybridge  
Railway stations.

# TOWPATHS, TRACKS AND TUNNELS

## Mossley, Scout Tunnel and Staley Way

**Start:** Mossley Railway Station, Manchester Road, Mossley OL5 0AB

**Grid ref:** [SD 97363 02016](#)

**1.** Leave Mossley station and, using the controlled lights, cross over Manchester Road and then go down Mill Street. At the bottom cross over and go left along Waggon Road and after crossing the river and canal bridge, at the end of the wall, turn sharp right along the footpath between the wall and railings to the canal.

[SD 97640 01966](#)

**2.** Turn left along the towpath at bridge 91 and just past bridge 92 go sharp left along footpath to Egmont Street. [SD97664 01777](#)

**3.** Go left along Egmont Street, over the canal bridge and after 100m turn left along a track, [SD 97625 01728](#) with the River Tame on your right. At a junction keep straight on along the wide path, with the canal on your left, leading to the canal locks. The

*The name Scout comes from the old Norse 'skæti' meaning overhanging rock. The River Tame at this point goes through a narrow gorge and Scout Rocks loom over the river.*

### Scout Green

Scout Green used to be the council tip. The row of houses next to it were former stables for the three shire horses which pulled the ash carts around the town.

Rail, road, canal and river all squeeze through Mossley and have all been important in the growth and wealth of the town. The river provided the power for the cotton mills before the industrial revolution.

When the Huddersfield Narrow Canal fully opened in 1811 it enabled coal to be brought in to fuel the mills which were now steam-powered. The 615 foot Scout Tunnel had to be cut through sturdy gritstone and shales. It was the arrival of the railway in 1849 which opened up Mossley to the world for the distribution of cotton.



**4.** At the canal go over the footbridge at lock 12 [SD 97555 01260](#) and right along the towpath through Scout Tunnel, 188 metres long. Continue along the towpath (There is a bench at lock 9 where you could stop for a drink) until you reach Grove Road bridge 96. [SJ 95933 98654](#)



**5.** Go under the bridge and after a short distance, after the building, go left up the steps and before reaching a gate go right up the sloping track and along the Staley Way. [SJ 97510 99863](#)

**6.** At the end of Staley Way, just before the bridge, go right down the ramp to the canal and turn left along the towpath under bridge 97. [SJ 96802 98757](#)

Go under the Mottram Road bridge No 99 following the towpath through the town centre. At lock 4 go straight on to the road.

**7.** Cross over and continue right along Caroline Street to Market Street. Turn left under the railway bridge to Stalybridge Railway Station.



*Look out for the Mandarin duck on the canal in the town centre*

