

Feel Good!

Countryside

Walks in Tameside



Distance: 3 miles

An easy walk on
mainly level surfaced
paths

Haughton Green Circular

A three mile circular trail through the Tame Valley, where woods and meadows now exist where industry once flourished.

Haughton Green Circular

The walk starts at the junction of Gibraltar Lane and Haughton Green Road, Haughton Green, Denton, M34 7GR. Turn left along Haughton Green Road and past the 'Jolly Hatters' public house.

Haughton Green village was originally a scattering of buildings strung out along the road, with lanes and footpaths leading to the adjoining countryside. In the 16th century, farmers worked rabbit fur and wool to make coarse felt; the beginning of the area's hatting industry. In 1645 there were 24 houses and a population of 120, by 1841 the thriving hat trade and employment in local coal pits led to a rise in population to 3319.

Bear right, past St. Mary's Church into Mancunian Road and through the housing estate.

The timber framed church was built in the 1870s. The land and much of the building costs were donated by John Walton, owner of Haughton Dale Wire Works. The new housing area was built in the 1960's as an overspill estate for the City of Manchester.

Past Manor Green School on the right there is a small three storey block of flats, turn left here down the path onto Lancaster Road. On the left in the hedgerow behind the flats go through a squeeze stile. Take the path rightwards. In 100yards, take the left fork into the woodland and down the steps.

The path descends through Hardy Wood, which, together with the adjoining Hulme's Wood, forms an important habitat for birds. Rich seams of Carboniferous Middle Coal enabled the town to have a thriving coal mining industry. The whole area was reclaimed in the late 1970s, the shafts were filled and capped, old shale heaps re-graded and trees planted.



Haughton Green Circular

At the bottom of the path you meet up with the wide track beside the River Tame. Turn left and follow it towards Meadow Lane and Ivy Cottages.

The River Tame rises in the hills of Saddleworth and flows for 21 miles to join the Goyt at Stockport and becomes the Mersey. 100 yards upstream from where you reached the Tame, lies a large boulder in the river, hurled there from Werneth Low by Robin Hood.

At Meadow Lane, turn right into the small car park at the bottom of the road and leave it by the stile to the left, it is sign-posted Gibraltar Lane. Follow the path through the trees, keeping right at any fork, out to open meadow, by a wide loop in the river and past a weir.



A cotton mill was the first building in this area, built in 1790 by William Sidebotham with the help of fortunes made in the

Cheshire salt business. James Walton purchased and extended the mill in 1853 as a wire works, which became probably, the largest of its kind in Europe. The works closed in 1903. A few foundations still remain, as do water channels linking the River Tames with the original buildings.

Keep to the path nearest the river.

Note the straight tree lined channel or goit heading across the flat valley floor. This was constructed to divert water to the wire works. Since being abandoned, the channel has silted up and now forms a



valuable wetland habitat. Soon you will reach Gibraltar Bridge. The land upstream to the right was the site of Gibraltar Mill built in 1760 for the manufacture of cotton, using the river to power the looms.

Turn left at the bridge up the unmade Gibraltar Lane which leads you back to Haughton Green Road.



For more information on this walk or any other query contact **Tameside Countryside Service**

0161 330 9613 **www.tameside.gov.uk/countryside**