

Feel Good!

Countryside Walks in Tameside



Distance: 2 miles

An easy walk on
mainly level surfaced
paths

Lovers' Alley Trail

This two mile trail explores a section of the Tame Valley and the Peak Forest Canal.

It takes in an area where the canal strongly influenced the past, and an area of open space and farmland along the River Tame. This walk leads you past old warehouses and mills, through woodland and farmland, all within easy reach of Hyde town centre.

Lovers' Alley Trail

The walk starts across from the Cheshire Ring Hotel, on Manchester Road, Hyde, SK14 2PD next to Aldi at the canal bridge. Turn left off Manchester Road onto the towpath, then immediately right over the canal and under Manchester Road.

Old Hyde Lane Turnover Bridge marks the northern boundary of Hyde Hall Gardens. On your right stands Hyde Warehouse, with its three storeys, arched windows and an 1828 date stone. The projecting wood beams supported a swivel wharf crane and the loading doors allowed narrowboats to be discharged and horse drawn carts to be loaded at the same time. The long low building along the wharf edge with large doors at either end is the wharf loading shed. It was built to meet the increased traffic of the early 19th century with covered areas for loading and unloading horse wagons behind it.

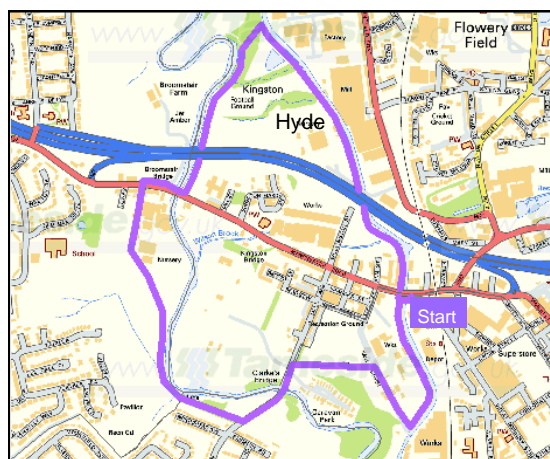
Continue along the towpath which was reconstructed in the 1970's when the M67 was built. Go under the motorway. 30 yards before Dunkirk Lane Bridge, you will come to a wooden stile on your left and signposted to Broomstair. Turn left through this stile and down Lovers' Alley toward the River Tame.

This cobbled path was used by pack-horses laden with huge baskets of coal, from the coal pits in Dunkirk Wood, slowly walking up to the canal where narrow boats waited to be loaded.

At the bottom, turn left and follow the path beside the river and under the motorway bridge to the main road. Cross Manchester Road and turn right over the river bridge.

Take the first turning on the left into Watson Street and follow it to the stile and gate at the end. Go across the field to the footbridge and take the left fork, signposted Mill Lane. At the bench take the left fork, down the steps and continue with the river on your left to Mill Lane. Cross the road and turn left over the river bridge.

The first wooden bridge across the river here replaced a ford and stepping stones which had claimed at least one life. During a flood, a woman was being given a lift across on a horse who slipped and she fell off into the fast



swirling waters of the Tame and over the weir. The body was not recovered for three weeks.

Turn right towards the football pitch. Keep to the right along the hedge and up a grassy path, bearing right until you reach Raglan Street. Turn right towards the canal.

The factory ahead was Joseph Adamson's boiler making works, founded in 1874. During Joseph's life he introduced steel plates into boiler making and the flanging of boiler ends by hydraulic machinery. Later his son Dr. Daniel Adamson was responsible for the

construction of the first three motor electric overhead travelling cranes in the country.

Take the path with the canal on your right, back to Manchester Road.



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

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