

MOSSLEY HIGHS AND LOWS

Mossley Cross, Quick Edge and Roaches

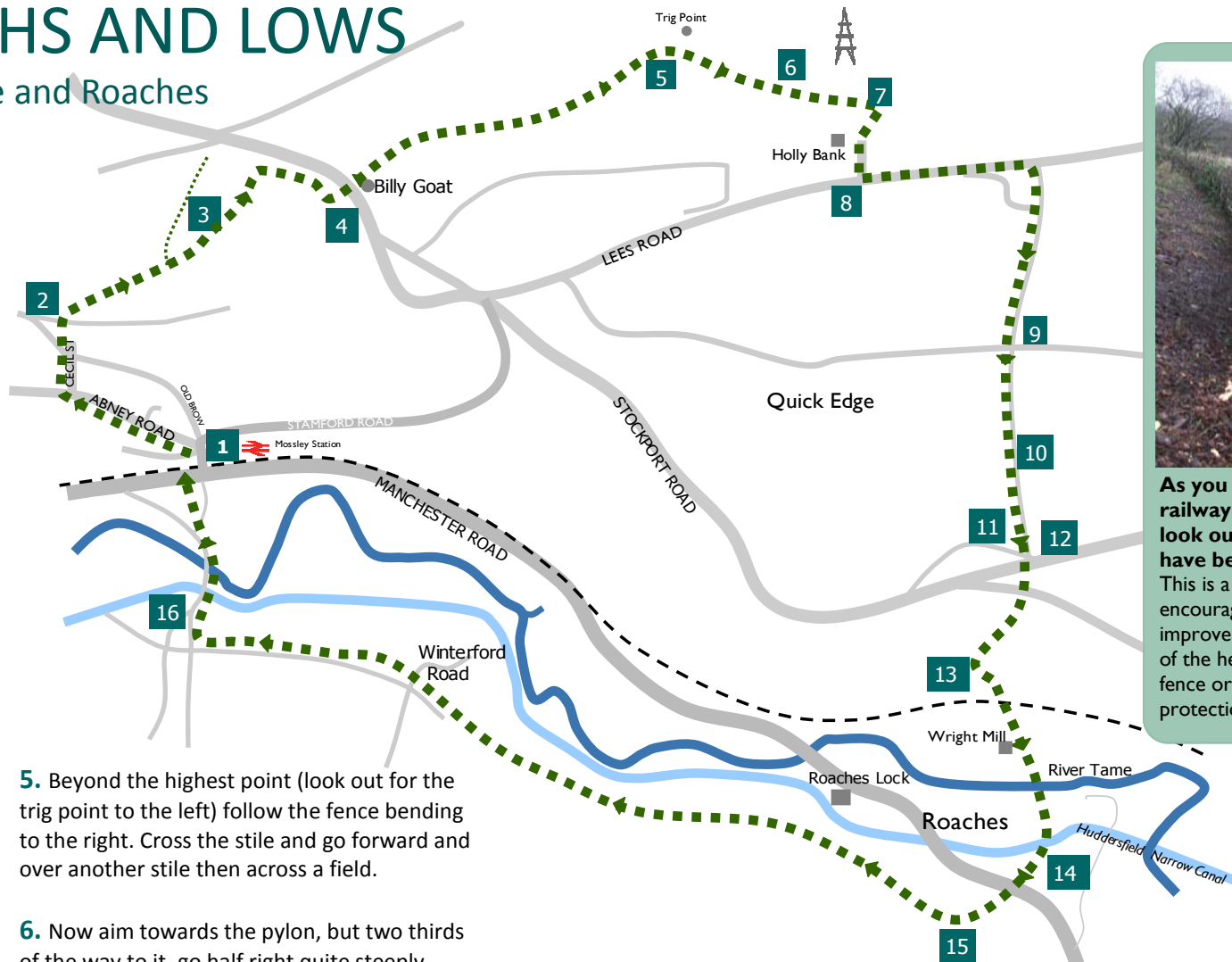
Start: Mossley Railway Station,
Manchester Road, Mossley OL5 0AB
Grid ref: SD 973 020

1. From the station entrance at the junction of the main road (Manchester Road) through Bottom Mossley and Stamford Road, go up Stamford Road for a few metres, bearing left into Abney road. In 200 metres bear right, up Cecil Street, to the top, then left along an uneven dirt track, reaching the tarmac end of a cul de sac.

2. Turn right on a path (animal pens/allotments on the left), and through some scrubby trees for the first few metres, which soon climbs beside a fence. Go through the gap in the fence, climbing gradually across the hillside. At the waymarker take the lower path to the right.

3. Keep always to the main path, to reach a stile in the fence at the top. Turn right to the main A670 Mossley Road to Mossley Cross, and bear right downhill.

4. In 200 metres, immediately before the 'Billy Goat' Public House on the left, go left alongside it to a stile in the bank in 100 metres. Over the stile climb steeply half left up the open hillside to reach another stile on the top. Do not cross this but turn right on a path rising alongside the fence on Brown Edge.



5. Beyond the highest point (look out for the trig point to the left) follow the fence bending to the right. Cross the stile and go forward and over another stile then across a field.

6. Now aim towards the pylon, but two thirds of the way to it, go half right quite steeply downhill on the undefined path. Find and go through a stile in the fence at the bottom.

7. Continue down the rough slope, the path a little vague at first, with a fence and disused quarry over to the left. At some holly trees the path bends right and angles down via a stile to the farm lane at Hollybank House. Turn left to Lees Road.

8. Cross the road and go left along it for 500 metres. There is no pavement, so keep well in. Immediately before the buildings of Lower Quick Edge Farm, and just before houses begin on the left, go up steps through the wall, over a stile and directly up the field. Go past a pylon and steadily up via more stiles to Quick Edge lane. Cross straight over (stiles).

9. Go directly downfield, keeping parallel to the wall seen 100 metres over to the left, to find a stile in an angle of walls and keep downhill now with a wall on the left, to a stile.

10. The path now squeezes between fences and buildings to merge beside a house down steps on to Strawberry Lane at Quick. Turn left on to the A6050(Quick Road) and right for 30 metres.

Hedgelaying



As you walk along the old railway track at Roaches look out for the hedges that have been 'laid'.

This is a traditional craft that encourages new growth and improves the structural strength of the hedge, creating a living fence or boundary and providing protection for wildlife.

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11. Go left down a tarmac path beside a house, over a stile and downfield (wall to the right) to another stile and the A670 (Stockport Road).

12. Cross over and go through the front garden gates of the house opposite and down the left hand side of the house along what appears to be a garden path. Over a stile go down the left edge of a field then rightwards alongside an old wall and through a gate to a wider track where you turn left through a gate.

13. Now follow the old walled lane over the railway, through another gate and bear right, down into the valley rounding a house over the River Tame. Keep straight on across the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

14. Continue up the un-made lane (Calf Lane) to the A635 (Manchester Road) go up Shadows Lane opposite to a stile at the end, forward for 20 metres and right onto Roaches, now a bridletrack, but formerly the Stalybridge-Diggle railway line.

15. Follow the path for a mile and a half until it eventually passes behind the former Micklehurst Station House. At the end of the path turn right at Station House to Station Road and go down to the junction with Micklehurst Road.

16. Turn Right and follow the road across the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the the River Tame. As the road is bending left fork right up the steep road, Mill Street, to reach the main road and the railway station.



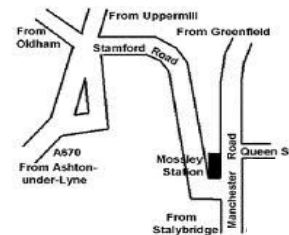
Acid Grassland

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.

Parts of the trail take you up hillsides and through open acid grassland. This fragile and important habitat is a mixture of grasses and wildflowers, like Bedstraw, Heather, Bilberry and Harebell, which thrive on this free draining, acid soil on the edge of the Pennines.

Have you seen any wildlife? Please send your records to www.gmwildlife.org.uk

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Tameside Countryside Service
www.tameside.gov.uk/countryside
Tel: 0161 330 9613



A 5 mile circular trail, the first half quite strenuous, crossing hill farming countryside and returning through the Tame Valley.