

Welcome to the Ladybird Trail



The Borough of Hyndburn is host to many beautiful open green spaces, some of which may be just a stone's throw away from your doorstep. A variety of walks have been researched and created to ensure that residents and visitors to the area are able to catch sight of these local charms.

This leaflet is designed to be used in conjunction with the Ladybird Trail; a walk which will lead you through Clayton-le-Moors, Church, Oswaldtwistle, Rishton and Great Harwood, taking in some of the area's best historic, green and unique sites.

The complete walk is 8 miles long. However shorter, alternative routes are highlighted on the map. We hope that you enjoy the Ladybird Trail and find this leaflet useful.

Route Finding



It is unlikely the walker will have difficulty in following the route, as strategically located waymarkers sporting ladybirds point the way. It is possible to join or leave the trail at any junction of a road or footpath, and as it is circular it can be walked in either direction. For convenience, nearly all waymarkers point in a clockwise direction.



Access



Some sections of the Trail are suitable for wheelchair and pushchair use and walkers with limited mobility. A 'traffic light' system has been used on the waymarkers to highlight suitability for access.



Walkers should wear suitable footwear as parts of the trail can be muddy and uneven.



Access for all.



Not suitable for wheelchairs.



Not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs.

The PROSPECTS Foundation is Hyndburn's community owned environmental charity. We support 8 PROSPECTS Panels and a wide range of groups around the borough developing projects and conservation volunteering opportunities.

The PROSPECTS Foundation has produced this leaflet in partnership with PROSPECTS Panels on the route of the trail.

If you would like to get involved, contact us:

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Other nature trails and walks in the area include:

Great Harwood Nature Walk
Baxenden Jubilee Walk
Huncoat Trail

NHS East Lancashire Stepping Out walks Guide leaflets can be found in local libraries, Accrington Town Hall or by contacting the PROSPECTS Foundation.

With thanks to:



Grants for environmental action in Lancashire



LOTTERY FUNDED



Designed by Mike and Gill Studio www.mikeandgillstudio.co.uk

Ladybird Trail



An 8 mile walk through Clayton-le-Moors, Church, Oswaldtwistle, Rishton and Great Harwood.



TRAIL MAP



Around Wilson Playing Field

The old flagstone path was provided for the priest at St Mary's to visit Clayton Hall where there was a chapel. Listen out for the donkeys who graze in the adjacent field. Alternatively, you can take a shortcut through Sparth Road Woodland which has fine examples of Oak, Sycamore and Beech.



Railway Cutting

Locally known as the 'white path' the route follows the disused Padiham to Blackburn railway, closed in 1957, now landscaped for recreation. Look out for the colourful mural which was painted as part of a project developed by the PROSPECTS Foundation.



Tottleworth

This ancient hamlet is of Anglo-Saxon origin and has not changed much in plan since medieval times although most of the present buildings are 18th Century. Note the higgledy-piggledy arrangement of the houses is typical of old villages. The farmhouse, previously the Manor House, dates back to the 17th Century.



Leeds to Liverpool Canal

The canal which stretched over 127 miles took 46 years to build and was completed in 1816. It was a great commercial success, remaining profitable long after most other inland waterways had lost their business to railway companies. Regular commercial traffic on the canal ended in 1963 as traditional canalside industries closed. Nowadays, the canal is used for leisure rather than business and is home to a wide range of wildlife including water voles, which are a protected species.



Aspen Colliery Coke Ovens

Known locally as the 'Fairy Caves', the beehive shaped kilns were used to convert coal from the nearby colliery into coke for the steelworks as a smokeless fuel. In 1977, they were scheduled as an ancient monument. The disused wharf basin is now developing an active pond life.



Wharf Warehouse

Built in 1850, this was a fine example of a four storey warehouse with stables to rest horses whilst the barges were being unloaded. The 'turn' around the corner was intended to be a junction where the line would continue along the direction of Blackburn Road to Haslingden to link with the Manchester, Bolton and Bury canal.



Rishton



Mercer Hall

The old mansion in the park was the home of John Mercer, who developed the process known as a 'mercerization' which gave a silky appearance to cotton fabrics. Accrington's contribution to the textile industry has been significant. Terylene, known these days as polyester, was invented at Broadoak Printworks.



Mercer House

Sparth House

New Sparth House is a fine Georgian building of 1780. Old Sparth, a Tudor House, was built in 1556 for the widow of Henry de Rishton.



Petre Arms

Rishton Mills

Holt Mill—The house by the bridge was formerly the Petre Arms until after the war when the license was transferred to the Dunkenhalgh. The River Hyndburn was the old boundary between Rishton and Clayton.



River Hyndburn

It was probably the River Hyndburn which first attracted the textile industry to Clayton-le-Moors. Textile processing required large water supplies and produce large volumes of effluent. So much effluent entered the river that it became an industrial sewer and was locally known as The River Stink.



Church Kirk

Church Kirk

The origins of the church go back to the year 642 when St Oswald King of Northumbria invaded the Kingdom of Mercia. During the march south, whenever the army halted for any length of time, a small church or field kirk would be built. During this time, the hills to the south would be held by Oswald's army and this would form the boundary of the Kingdom—hence the name Oswaldtwistle—Oswald's boundary. It is likely the stone church was built in the 9th Century and was rebuilt during the Norman period. The tower of the present church dates from about 1250 AD making it more than 700 years old.



Wildlife



Insects & Mammals



What? Squirrels, Weasels, Common Toad, Common Frog, Field Voles, Deer, Hedgehogs and Bats.

Where? Dunkenhalgh Park, around Clayton hall.



What? Water Voles, Water Snails, Beetles, Damselfly and Dragonfly.

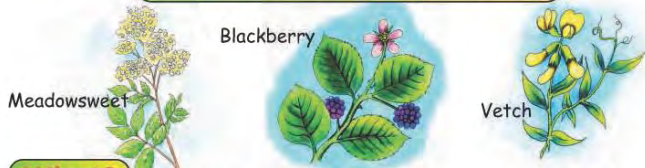
Where? Leeds to Liverpool Canal.



Flora

What? Broad Leaved Pond Weed, Duck Weed, Flag Iris, and Reeds.

Where? Leeds to Liverpool Canal.



What? Meadowsweet, Nightshade, Blackberry, Dog Rose, Knap Weed and Vetches.

Where? Leeds to Liverpool Canal.

Landmarks



Look out for these landmarks and points of interest on the Ladybird Trail:

- Wilson Playing Fields
- Sparth Road Woodlands
- Sparth House
- Sparth Manor



Sparth Manor



Sparth Road Woodland



Clayton Hall



Donkey Back Picnic Site

- The River Hyndburn
- Church Kirk
- Donkey Back Picnic Site
- Aspen Colliery Coke Ovens

- Aspen Cottages and Aspen farm
- Tottleworth
- Railway Cutting
- Hyndburn Bridge



Aspen Colliery Coke Ovens



Hyndburn Bridge

Wildlife



Trees



What? Oak, Beech, Willow and Sycamore Woodland.

Where? Sparth Road Woodland, around Wilson Playing Fields, Tottleworth.



What? Beech, Lime and Birch Woodland.

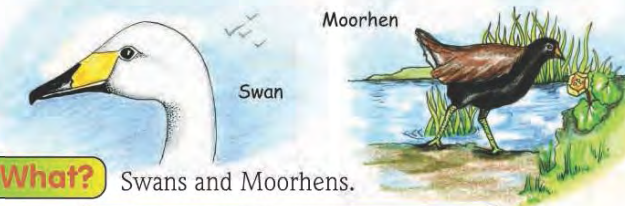
Where? Dunkenhalgh Park.

Birds



What? Mallard, Snipe and Dunlin.

Where? Lodge behind Rishton Paper Mill



What? Swans and Moorhens.

Where? Leeds to Liverpool Canal.