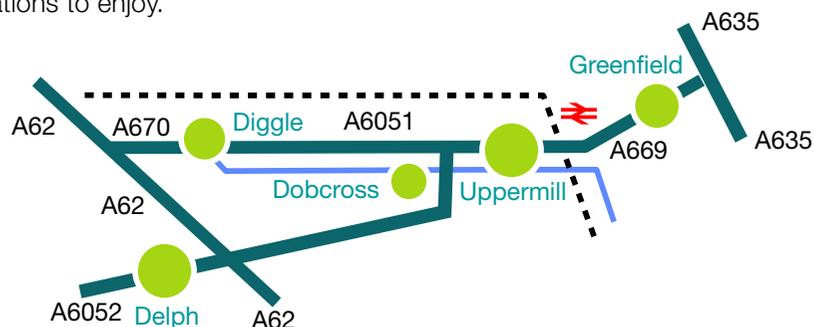


Go exploring with Saddleworth Village Trails

These trails are a great way to explore the historic villages of Saddleworth and learn more about the history of the area. Please enjoy your visit responsibly and respect village life so that we can keep Saddleworth a special place for future generations to enjoy.



Keeping Saddleworth Special

Never drop litter. Take it home with you or use one of the bins provided.

Follow the Countryside Code

Guard against fires, respect plants and animals. Keep your dogs under close control, stick to public paths across farmland and consider other people.

Step on to public transport

Walking, cycling, riding and canal trips are a great way to explore the area. Help to reduce congestion, protect the environment and support the local community.

Stay, eat and buy local

Enjoy all that Saddleworth has to offer by staying overnight in one of our hotels, guest houses or self-catering accommodation.

Sample local produce at the farmers market or pop in to one of our great pubs, cafes or restaurants.

Useful information

Oldham Tourist Information Centre

Gallery Oldham, Greaves Street,
Oldham OL1 1AL

T: 0161 770 3064

E: tourist@oldham.gov.uk

www.visitoldham.com

Saddleworth Museum,

Art Gallery and Visitors Centre
High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS

T: 01457 870336

E: saddleworthtic@oldham.gov.uk

Brownhill Countryside Centre

Wool Road, Dobcross,
Oldham OL3 5PB

T: 01457 872598

E: env.brownhill@oldham.gov.uk

Local bus and rail information

T: 0871 200 2233

www.gmppte.com

Published by Oldham Council

T: 0161 770 3064

E: tourist@oldham.gov.uk

www.visitoldham.com

When you have finished with this leaflet,
please recycle it.

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to press. Published May 2011.



Dobcross Trail

A great way to explore the
historic villages of Saddleworth



The Ramsden Memorial in Dobcross Square



Dobcross Trail

Dobcross village – This used to be the site of numerous cattle fairs. It had its own private bank and can claim fame to being the birthplace of the giant Platt brothers textile machinery business.

- 1 Brownhill Countryside Centre** - Built in 1916 as stables and a transport depot for Saddleworth Urban District Council. Opening on 5 July 1982 as a Visitor Centre providing information, advice and changing exhibitions. There is also a shop, toilets, picnic area and award winning nature garden (accessible for all abilities) with a small woodland, meadow and pond with dipping platform.
- 2 Site of the old Toll Bar** - This site was first used for a Toll Bar, and then was subsequently a sweet shop called Bar House until it was demolished for a road widening scheme in the 1960s.
- 3 Packhorse Bridge** - on the opposite side of the road to the Countryside Centre next to Brownhill Bridge Mill are the remains of an early packhorse bridge.
- 4 Brownhill Bridge Mill** - A very early mill built around 1772. It was originally a teasing mill, a process whereby the raw wool was cleaned and loosened. It was built by the Winterbottom's of Bridge House.
- 5 Bridge House** - This present one was built in the 1790s and was a master clothier's house. The 'takin' in steps' were used by the woollen merchants for taking the wool up to be stored, the top room being used as a warehouse rather than a weaving flat.
- 6 Platt's Workshop** - Located in the outbuildings to Bridge House where Henry Platt started the family's textile machinery business. They moved to Oldham to become for a time the largest engineering works in the world and produced vast amounts of textile machinery both for home and abroad.
- 7 Dobcross Church** - The Church of the Holy Cross, completed in 1793, is Saddleworth's oldest church building. Its clock cost £370 and due to it being unreliable was for a period nicknamed the 'Dobcross Lie'.

10 Ramsden Memorial - This stands in the centre of Dobcross Square and was erected in 1901 to commemorate a well respected local doctor, W.H.F. Ramsden. Dobcross had a moment of fame when in 1978 the square and one of the shops was used for the film 'Yanks' which was about American soldiers in Britain during World War Two.

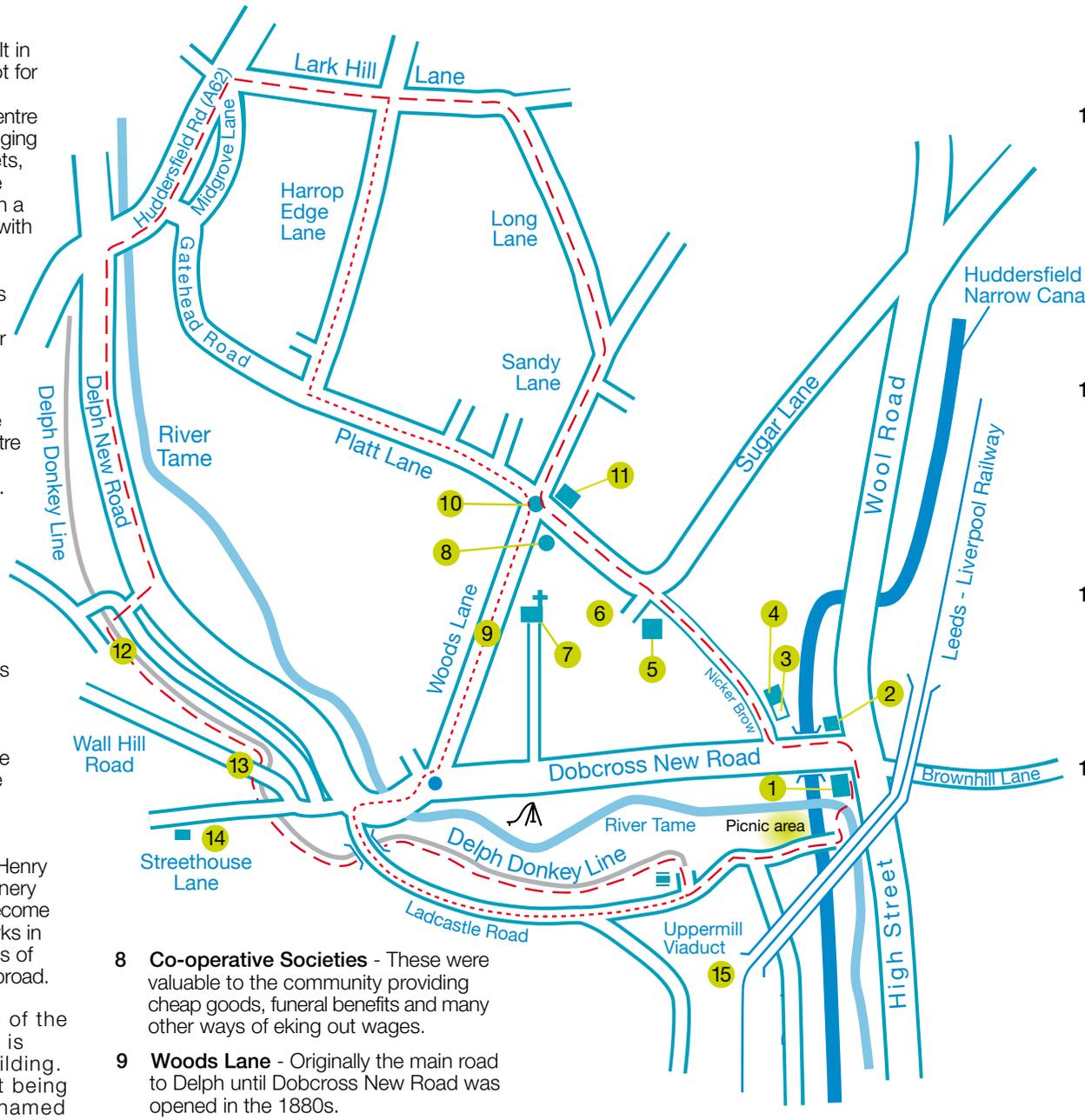
11 Swan Inn - In the mid 18th century it was kept by the Wrigley family. A branch of the family emigrated to America and founded the Wrigley Chewing Gum empire. Over time the pub has had various names including The George, The King's Head, and The Swan with Two Necks.

12 The Delph Donkey - Opened in 1851, this was the Delph branch line that ran from Delph to Greenfield. Some of the early passenger trains were horse drawn, hence its nickname. The line closed to passengers in May 1955, with final closure in November 1963, but not before a moment of glory when the Royal Train stayed overnight in June 1960. Part of the line is now a footpath and bridleway.

13 Wall Hill Road - At the foot of this road runs a small stream whose water was once well known for its purity. The name Wall Hill, formerly spelt 'Wauhill', is derived from the Saxon meaning 'Wellhill'. Close to Wall Hill were several tenterfields, where cloth was stretched on hooks between tenter frames.

14 Wharmton Grammar School - Located up Streethouse Lane, the building still stands and its site marked by a plaque 'Wharmton School founded by Ralph Hawkyard 1729 - converted into cottages by Henry Scholes 1888'.

15 Saddleworth Viaduct - Bridges the valley as part of the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway which was opened in 1849. There are 23 arches, one of which is a skew arch built at an angle as it crosses the canal.



- 8 Co-operative Societies** - These were valuable to the community providing cheap goods, funeral benefits and many other ways of eking out wages.
- 9 Woods Lane** - Originally the main road to Delph until Dobcross New Road was opened in the 1880s.

Key to trails:

- Medium trail - - - - -
- Long trail - - - - -
- Play areas 