

Moorgate Quarry

The three walking trails

As well as rewarding you with stunning views over Uppermill and beyond, this site offers 3 short walking trails that you can follow and enjoy. The walking trails vary in difficulty and length and are signposted for you to follow.



Summit trail A walk to the top of the quarry along the access track with the rewards of a bench, information board and breath-taking views of the surrounding countryside. Distance - 1350 metres



Woodland trail A circular walk along the woodland edge of the quarry leading to the top of the site, descending down the stone steps to the bench and view point, and then down the access track to the quarry entrance. Distance - 1540 metres



Pond trail A short, circular trail around the lower ponds located in the heart of the quarry. Distance - 1020 metres

Please be aware, whilst these walks might be fun and enjoyable, there are sheer rock faces, steep slopes and loose stones underfoot.



Gatekeeper butterfly



Broad bodied chaser



Heron



Hoverfly



Cream Spot Ladybird



- ▲▲▲ The summit trail
- The woodland trail
- The pond trail

Wildlife Photographs by Ken Gartside



Moorgate Quarry location

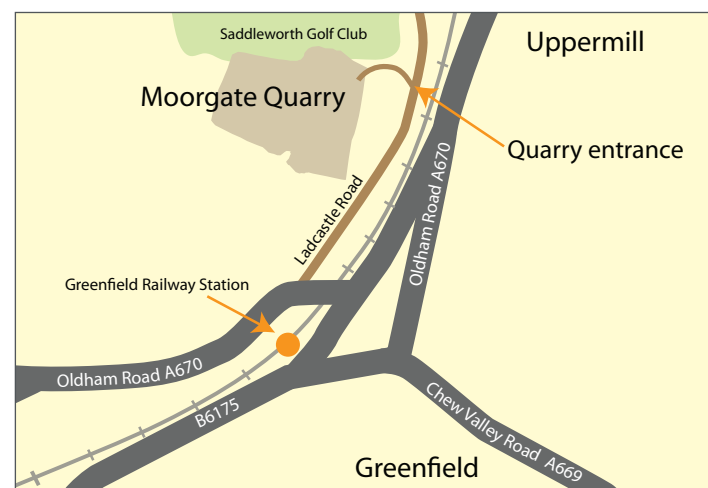
Moorgate Quarry entrance can be found on Ladcastle Road, off Oldham Road (A670), Uppermill. OS Grid Ref **SD 9934 0544**

By train - Greenfield Station off Oldham Road (A670), near Ladcastle Road, Greenfield.

Train enquiries: T: 08457 484950 • www.nationalrail.co.uk

By bus - Regular bus service to Uppermill and Greenfield from Oldham town centre that drops you off on Oldham Road (A670) / Greenfield Station stop close to Ladcastle Road.

Bus enquiries: T: 0161 244 1000 • www.tfgm.com



Oldham Council Environmental Services

T: 0161 770 4056
www.oldham.gov.uk



Moorgate Quarry today

Full of geology, unique nature and spectacular views, Moorgate Quarry is waiting to be discovered. The site is located in the hillside of Wharmton Hill above Uppermill, Saddleworth. It is now home to a diverse matrix of wildlife habitats - ponds, areas of heathland, acid grassland and woodland.

History and heritage



Moorgate Quarry 1988 (Peter Fox)

Moorgate Quarry's working life began in 1920's when quarrying the Gritstone, used for road building and other purposes. Moorgate Quarry closed during the 1990's. Oldham Council took ownership of the quarry in 1999 and undertook a restoration project to help create the important wildlife site that it has become today.

Wildlife at the quarry

When quarries come to the end of their working life they provide space for important wildlife habitats to develop as nature takes over. As part of the restoration project ponds and ditches were created and areas of heathland, acid grassland and woodland began to flourish.



Take a wander through the quarry and experience this special nature site that is now designated as a *Site of Biological Importance (SBI). There is an important population of dragonflies and damselflies that exist in and around the ponds with 15 different species having been recorded at the site in recent years.



Lichen - Common Powderhorn

*Site of Biological Importance (SBI) is the name given to the most important non-statutory sites for nature conservation and provides a means of protecting sites that are of local interest and importance.

In spring the quarry comes alive to the sound of bird song and the buzz of insects. Many birds find suitable nesting sites in the trees that grow along the edge of the quarry. Butterflies, bees and hoverflies can be seen flitting from flower to flower foraging for nectar and pollen, to provide them with the vital energy to enable them to survive and thrive in the quarry. By mid-summer the heather flowers cast a wonderful purple hue across the quarry.



Creeping Thistle

Throughout the year a number of mammals can be found living in or visiting the quarry; from the very small, such as field voles and wood mice, to the occasional fox and roe deer.



Small Skipper Butterfly

Dragonfly or damselfly?

Damselflies are tiny, dainty fliers, often multi-coloured and the size of a matchstick. They perch with their wings usually folded back along their body.



Damselfly (Common Blue)



Dragonfly (Black Darter)

Dragonflies are larger and some are vibrant in colour and have striking body patterns when seen close up. They will perch with their wings held open at right angles to their body.

To learn more about dragonflies why not visit the British Dragonfly Society website at www.british-dragonflies.org.uk

If you're lucky enough to catch sight of and photograph these beautiful animals or insects then upload it to any of our social media sites with the hashtag **#LoveOldham**:

facebook facebook.com/loveoldham

twitter twitter.com/OldhamCouncil

Places to visit

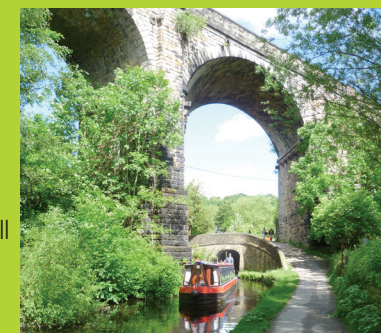


Dove Stone Reservoir

Uppermill has lots to offer so why not take the opportunity to wander along the High Street and see for yourself? There are lots of local shops, tempting cafes and tea shops to pop in for refreshments after your visit to Moorgate Quarry.

Upland Discovery Centre

A permanent exhibition celebrating the South Pennine landscape and wildlife, open daily from 9am - 7pm. The centre is on the first floor - above The Limekiln Café. Brownhill Countryside Centre, Wool Rd, Dobcross, OL3 5PB. T: 0161 770 5888



Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery - The Art Gallery hosts exhibitions throughout the year and the museum tells the fascinating story of the people who have created Saddleworth's landscape and character. For further information visit www.visitoldham.com. There is also a visitor information facility within that offers local advice on local events. Uppermill High St, Saddleworth, Uppermill, Oldham OL3 6HS. T: 01457 874093

For further information of what's on, things to do and places to visit www.visitoldham.com



There are lots of places to discover in the area either on foot or cycle. Ordnance Survey Explorer Map OL1 is a great way to discover many of numerous footpaths, bridleways and lanes to be found in the area.

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/leisure

For maps to help you plan your cycling route please visit: www.cycling.tfgm.com

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