

Saddleworth Way

Section 1

**Route: Lees to Greenfield via
Grotton and Lydgate**

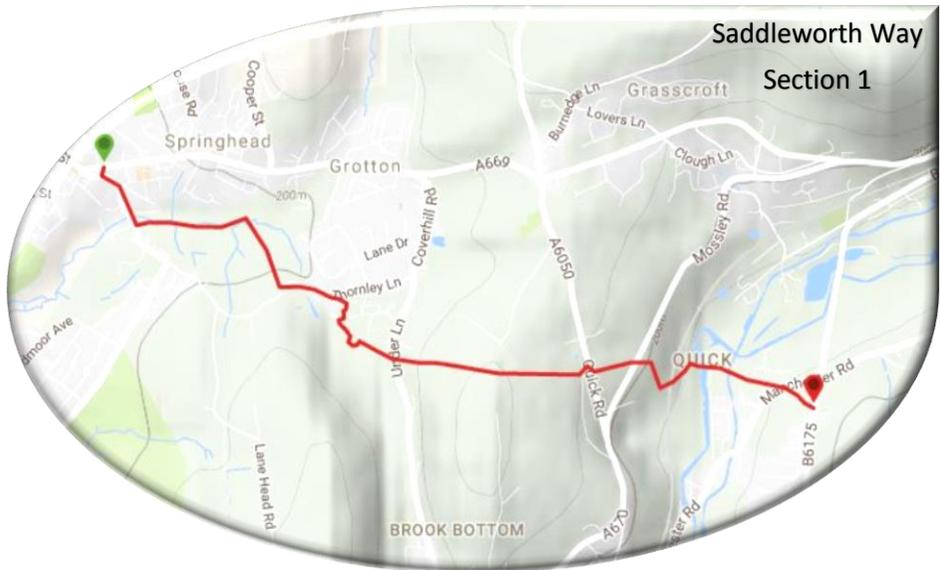
Distance: 2.9 miles

Terrain: Paths and Tracks

Grade: Easy



This first section of The Saddleworth Way runs from the western end of Saddleworth at Lees/Springhead through Grotton, Lydgate and ends at the Royal George, Greenfield.



Start at the boundary sign in Lees on Oldham Road, A669. The new boundary sign here actually represents Saddleworth's old links with Yorkshire. This point has always been known as County End marking the old boundary between Lancashire and Yorkshire.



Take the path away from the road directly opposite the boundary sign on the opposite side of the road. Turn left and proceed down Hartshead St. which as it begins to go uphill changes to Rhodes Hill. You walk over Thornley Brook which provides us with a pleasant route to Grotton.



On your left pass the gated entrance drive to the large house and take the footpath just before the house. This takes you through the house

garden. Beware - this footpath sign can get hidden by tree foliage in summer. Keep the pond to your right and pass through the wooden gate at the far end of the garden.



The path now follows Thornley Brook as it winds it's way to Grotton. Keep ahead on the path ignoring any paths to the right. Cross over the stream on the wooden bridge, keep right and eventually you will come to a stepped waterfall.



Cross over the wooden bridge on your right at the top and take the stile immediately in front. The path now leads across the field to Thornley Lane. Aim for the H shaped pylon and exit via the stile.

note: in 2017 there are plans for 200+ new houses in this area



You should now be here!



Turn left and walk down Thornley Lane through this old and pretty part of Grotton. The lane eventually begins to climb. Look out for an Oldham Way footpath sign on your right. You now need to negotiate your way through the relatively new housing development built next to the old Grotton Brickworks site.

Follow the Oldham Way footpath sign that goes away right from Thornley Lane and walk through to Old Kiln Lane. Turn right and then left to walk to the end of Old Kiln Lane. Take a left at the end and you will enter the field with remains of the kiln bases.

Grotton Brickworks



The Grotton Brickworks began production in 1854 and eventually covered an area of approximately 37 acres. The works produced specialised bricks fired at high temperatures for industrial and engineering uses. The surviving downdraught kilns on the site range from 22 to 27 feet in diameter and could have held 25,000 to 28,000 bricks in any one firing. The brickworks closed in 1984 and most of the structures were demolished a few years later.

Continue ahead with the kiln bases to your right. Climb the steep stone steps to emerge onto Under Lane. Here you see the boundary sign with Tameside.



The path continues directly opposite on the other side of the road. The path now ascends steeply heading for the top of

Quickedge hill.

Until 1853 the township of Saddleworth was officially known as 'Quick' and Saddleworth was a hamlet within the township. The name of Quick now survives in the hamlet of that name (SD975037) and Quick Edge is a spur of high land which drops steeply to the River Tame below.

Quickedge Road is a ridge road of antiquity though now relegated to an unsurfaced track. On the way up to the top of Quickedge look behind for



magnificent views over Oldham, Manchester and the Cheshire plain beyond.



Once at the top and on Quickedge road/track you will gain even more impressive views over Saddleworth, and in particular Greenfield.

The track down the other side of Quickedge begins directly opposite you via the new metal kissing gate.



Head directly across the field towards the metal kissing

gate. Continue down going right to walk behind the houses and exit the



path onto Strawberry Lane. Turn left to walk down to Quick Rd.

Cross over the road and walk down Quick road for 25yds and take the footpath sign on the left just before the Mossley/Tameside border sign.

Continue ahead crossing the field keeping the wall to your right.

You emerge onto Mossley Road, again at the Saddleworth/Tameside border.

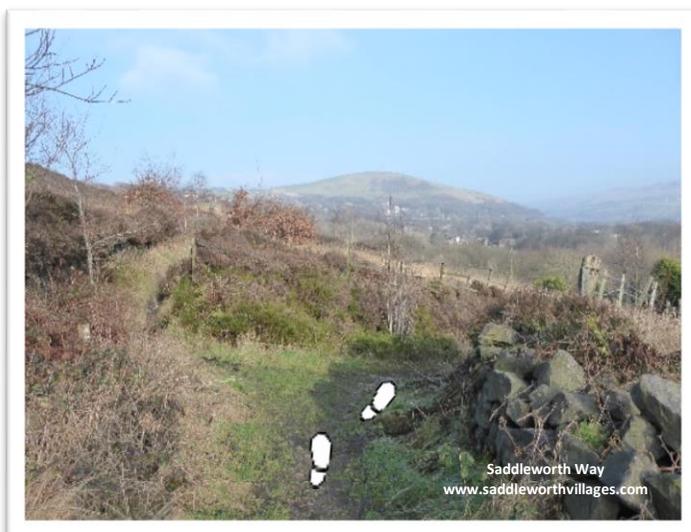
Cross Mossley Road and follow the footpath sign directly opposite through the front garden of the first house after the Apollonia House dental clinic.



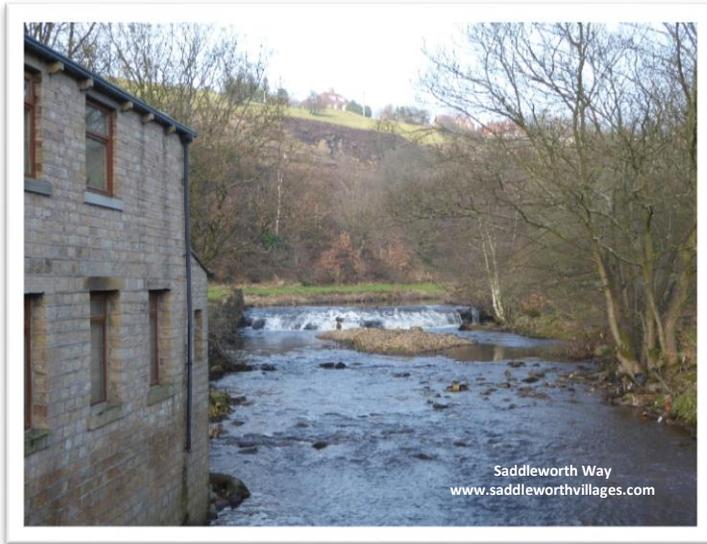
Head across the field to the gate just below the farm buildings. Follow the track down until you meet a main track which is signposted Calf Lane.



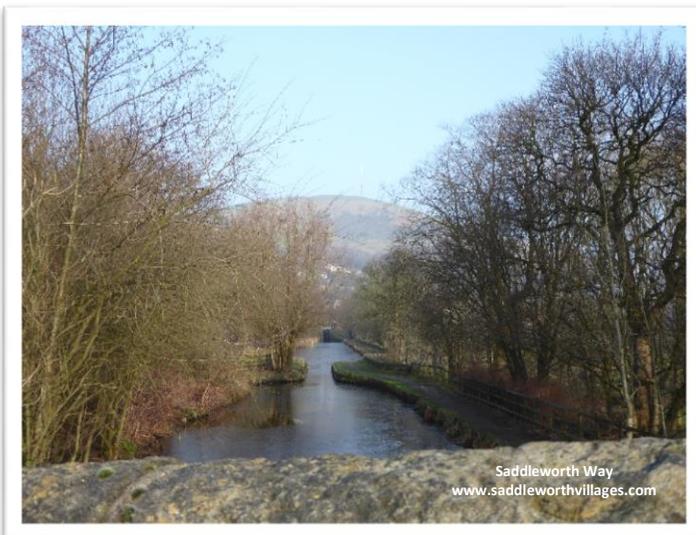
Turn left down the track and cross over the railway track. Great views of Wharmton Hill and Greenfield from here.



Continue on the track until you reach the River Tame. This little hamlet was probably a hive of industrial production many years ago with the river providing power to the small mills.



Continue up Calf Lane crossing the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.



On the left of Calf Lane you will pass the Saddleworth Cricket, Bowling and Tennis Club.



At the top of Calf Lane you again pass the Saddleworth Tameside border this time on the A635 Manchester Road. You will come across this road again at the end of section 2 of the Saddleworth

Way. It is known locally as the Isle of Sky road because it climbs to the very highest points on Saddleworth Moors.

Cross over the road and continue up Shadow Lane and through the wooded area at the top.



Congratulations you are now at the final border crossing and end of Section 1, Saddleworth Way. At this point Saddleworth meets Tameside and the road name changes from Huddersfield Rd to Well-I-Hole Road.



Section 2 starts directly opposite with a mighty climb up Shadworth Lane.