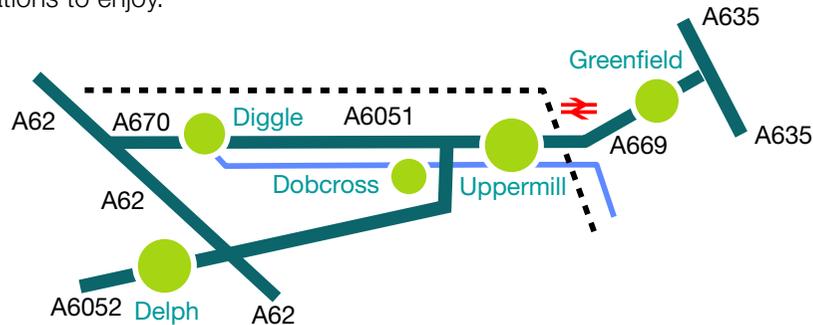


Go exploring with Saddleworth Village Trails

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

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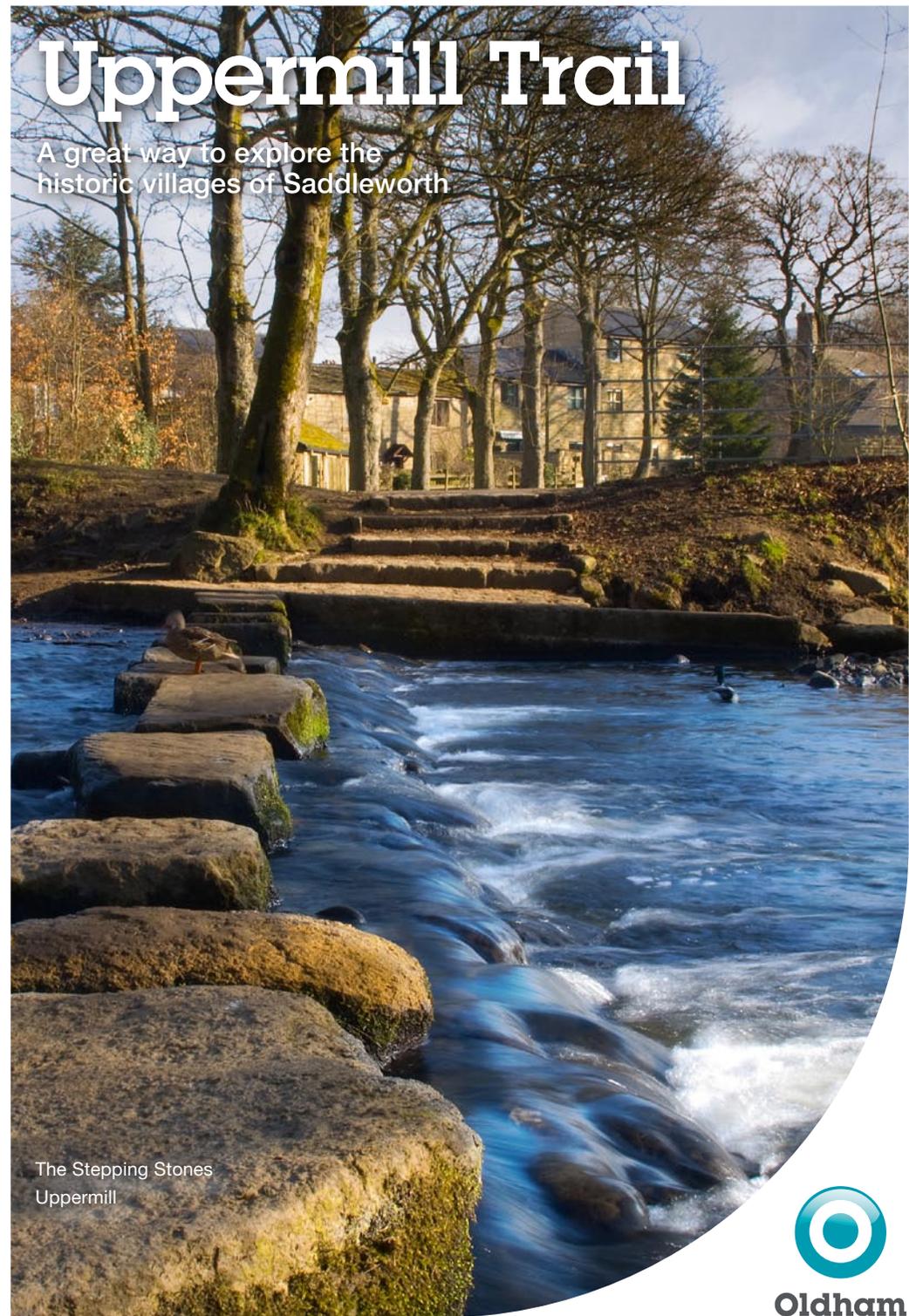
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Oldham

Uppermill Trail

A great way to explore the
historic villages of Saddleworth



The Stepping Stones
Uppermill



Oldham

Uppermill Trail

Uppermill – the largest village and administrative centre of Saddleworth, the site of the manorial corn mill here originally gave the village its name. Woollen and then cotton mills followed with the arrival of the canal and turnpike roads in the 19th century.

- Saddleworth Linear** – is formed along the route of the former railway named the 'Loop Line' which ran from Stalybridge to Diggle and was mainly used for goods trains. Opening in 1885 the line closed on 3 October 1966 and is now part of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail.
- Ammon Wrigley Statue** – commemorates the life of this local poet, writer, artist and historian who recorded all aspects of life in the area. He always worked in local mills and though he achieved fame in his lifetime shunned it, always preferring a quiet moorland life and the odd pint.
- Huddersfield Narrow Canal** – Started in 1794 it took 17 years to build due to difficulty in constructing the 3¼ mile long Standedge Tunnel. The canal was abandoned in 1944. The restoration of the canal started in the 1970s and it eventually re-opened for navigation in 2001. There had been a proposal in Uppermill in the 1960s to culvert the canal and turn it into a bypass.
- Saddleworth Museum and Art Gallery** – houses both visiting and permanent exhibitions, including fascinating displays of the history, landscape and inhabitants of Saddleworth. The Art Gallery showcases the best local and regional contemporary art.
- St Chad's House and gardens** – which now serves as Uppermill Library and the park, were originally owned by the Shaw family occupying the site from the early 18th century. The farm was rebuilt in 1798 and in the 1840s the front rebuilt by George Shaw who was a local architect who incorporated various follies. The site was renamed St Chad's a name it still retains.

6. **Ladcastle Quarries** – dominate the west side of the village and now appear as a natural feature, tons of stone were excavated for local buildings and roads from the turn of the 19th century until closing in the 1930s. Ladcastle Road, which runs alongside the quarry, offers amazing views of Uppermill and the surrounding countryside.

7. **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.

8. **Saddleworth Viaduct** – bridges the valley as part of the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway which opened in 1849. There are 23 arches, one of which is a 'skew' arch built at an angle as it crosses the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.

9. **Butterhouse** – An example of a weaver's cottage. As broadcloth weaving expanded in the late 18th century, the house had an additional storey added to accommodate more looms.

10. **Ryefields House** – built in 1825 by John Bradbury, this was a woollen merchant's house. It formerly had a work room on the top floor, the front was rebuilt in the 1890s, and Ryefields Drive added in early 1900.

11. **St. Chad's Old School** – located on Church Road was built in 1862 but had a short life. Its position was found to be unsuitable and a new school built on Lee Street. The old building survives as private residences.

12. **Saddleworth Church** – reached by climbing Church Road, has stood on this site since 1215 but has undergone various rebuilding works, the last in major one in 1833. Note the stone posts of the village stocks in the Church yard.

13. **Willowbank** – now flats converted in 1988 from Dam Head Mill built in the 1850s on the site of an earlier mill of 1780. The mill dam is supplied with water from springs as far away as Diggle.

14. **Saddleworth Civic Hall** – serves as the offices of the Saddleworth Parish Council and a venue for local events. It was originally opened as the Uppermill Mechanics Institute in 1861 serving to help the educational and social needs of local people.

