



HERITAGE trail 3

HEALEY DELL FROM ROOLEY MOOR



KEY:

- Heritage Trail 3 (Healey Dell)
- Walking Distance



Access all Heritage Trail information through this QR Code

www.RMNF.org.uk

Produced by Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum CIO

Produced with the support of Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum sponsors:



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Healey Dell Munitions Factories

As well as being a registered Site of Biological Importance and a Nature Reserve, Healey Dell is a popular walking spot with spectacular scenery, wildlife, flora and fauna. The River Spodden, which once powered corn, wool and cotton mills, has carved its way right through the valley leaving delightful waterfalls.

There's a disused 1800s railway line that takes you across a spectacular 100-foot-high viaduct, and you can visit what was Broadley Fold Station and get a real sense of this area's industrial past. Amongst the lesser known pieces of history is the munitions factories that operated in Healey Dell during the 1940s where parts of the site were converted for use as a World War II explosives filling factory.



The Heritage Trail Description

Recommended Start Point: We recommend you start the walk from Catley Lane Head village on Rooley Moor Road, OL12 6BN. OS Grid Reference SD 872 158. There is ample roadside parking in and around the village, but please park with consideration for the local residents. There is also a regular bus service from Rochdale and Bury to Daniel Fold, from where it is only a short walk uphill to the village.

Distance: 3.2 miles (5.2 kilometres)

Walk Overview: Uncover the past and find out more about the rich history of the area on this moderate circular walk. It is important that you wear appropriate footwear and warm waterproof clothing as some sections of the walk can be muddy and the weather can change very quickly. In poor weather the route can be encased in cloud. We suggest you take some food and a drink with you as well.

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a lead at all times. You may encounter some farm animals and farm traffic on your route.

There are litterbins at the top and bottom of the village – please put any rubbish in there (including from your dogs).

The last page of this booklet gives you some other ideas of places to visit in the area, and we recommend you take a look at the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum website (www.rmnf.org.uk) for more information about the routes and about the tremendously varied history of the area.

THE ROUTE

Catley Lane Head (A) to Smallshaw Farm (B)

Starting at the BBC Plaque by the cattle grid in Catley Lane Head, turn down the hill (with the Cotton Famine Road behind you) and walk down the road towards the village, turn left into Smallshaw Road. The first house is where the corner shop used to be, it still has the village post box and locals say that during WWII the end wall of the house was strafed by a German fighter during a 'dog fight' over the Healey Dell munitions factory. Walking down Smallshaw Road you will see the fishing lodge on your right and after a short walk you will arrive in the yard of Smallshaw Farm, please note the Grade II listed farm house on your left.

Smallshaw Farmhouse (B) to the River Spodden (C)

Take the footpath, which is signed to your right. Passing through the metal gate you travel a short distance keeping an old barn to your left you will arrive at another gate and stone stile. Pass through the stile and take the path to the right towards Smallshaw Wood, keeping the fence to your right as you walk down hill. Keep following the path steeply down hill, this part of the route can be very muddy, watch out for tripping on tree routes. Cross a small brook and follow the path up the other side. Keep

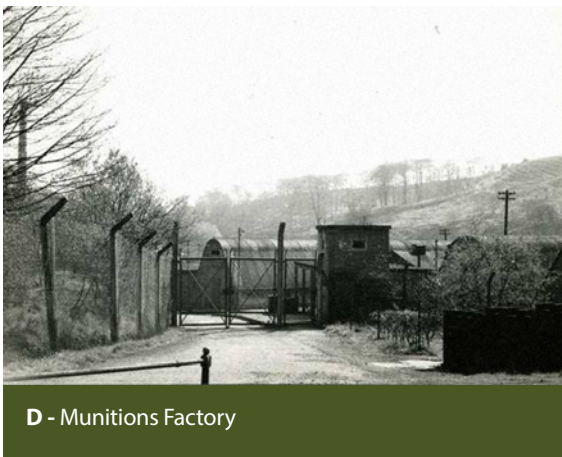
the brook to your left and continue to follow the path down hill and crossing another feeder stream. Come briefly out of the trees with a field on your right hand side; keep following the path to the left (DO NOT take the path that veers to the right). Keep taking the path down hill, it is quite steep and uneven with tree roots, etc. Ahead you will see concrete fence posts. Turn sharp left and go across the metal bridge crossing the River Spodden. After crossing the bridge take the path uphill, keeping the fence to your right. You will pass a row of terraced houses on your left, at the end of the row you will come to a track, where you will turn right.

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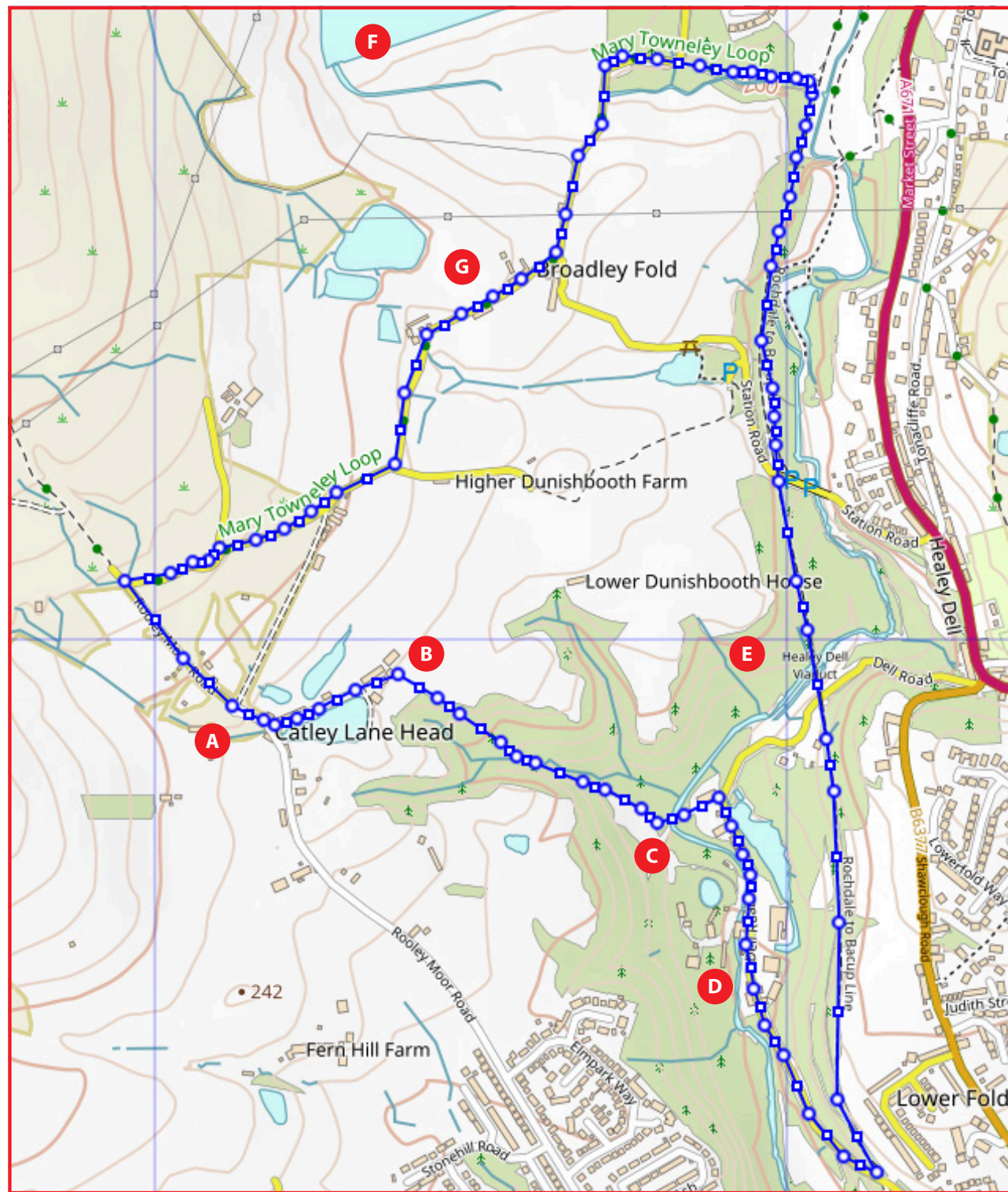
A - Catley Lane Head – ROUTE START



D - Munitions Factory



E - Railway Viaduct in Healey Dell



THE ROUTE continued

River Spodden (C) to Healey Dell Tearooms (D)

Keep walking down the track you will see some houses on your right and ahead you will see some larger buildings where there's an art gallery, beyond which you will also see Healey Dell Tea Rooms & Heritage Centre.

Healey Dell Tearooms (D) to the Old Railway Line (E)

Go past the Tea Rooms and you will pass a nursery on your left. Follow the road up from where the buildings are. There's a wooden fence to your right. Shortly you will come to a gate on your left, continue up the road until you come to another gate on you left. Turn left and go through the gate. In a short while you will come to a fence and stile that will be in front of you. Take the path to the right, just before the fence and stile, and you will alight onto an old railway line.

Old Railway Line (E) to Spring Mill Reservoir (F)

After a short while you will come to a sign giving you details about the twin bridges that are clearly visible. Continue straight ahead and cross the viaduct. Soon you will pass under a bridge and

through a metal gate, where you will come to the site of Broadley Station, the platform is visible to your left. Continue straight ahead, ignoring paths to the right, until you come to a metal gate with a kissing gate to the left. Pass through the kissing gate and take the path to the left. Follow this path gradually up hill until you see a 'T' junction, which has a 'Pennine Bridle Way (PBW)' marker. Turn left at the 'T' junction and you will shortly pass the ruin of a red brick building on your left that used to be part of Spring Mill. On your right you will see a stone structure associated with Spring Mill Reservoir.

Spring Mill Reservoir (F) to Prickshaw (G)

Keep following the path up hill on the stone flagged road. There are stone walls on either side. Going gradually up hill you will pass a barn on your right with corrugated sides and roof. Having passed the electricity pylon and under the cables you will reach a stone built house. Take the cobbled road to your right. Keeping to the cobbled road walk through the village of Prickshaw and out the other side. The track bends to the left and up hill it bends to the right where you will come to a cattle grid.





Prickshaw (G) to Catley Lane Head (A)

Passing through the wooden gate to the left of the cattle grid you will walk between Knacks Cottage and Knacks Farm. DO NOT take the track to the left, which goes past the buildings, you should take the track to the right and as you walk up this track notice the fantastic views to your left over Manchester and beyond. Shortly you will arrive at a junction where you will turn left back down onto Rooley Moor Road and back down to the start of the trail. Look out for Hunger Hill Farm on your right as the road continues down. Notice the mullion windows picked out in lighter colours. These are typical of the 16th and 17th century cottages designed to let in as much light as possible for the weavers to work.

Arriving at the cattle grid and back at the BBC plaque, you are back at the start where the walk also ends.



About Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum CIO

Working together to protect and enhance our environment! We created the Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum because we share a common purpose and objective to protect and enhance our neighbourhood and to make it an area that is vibrant, socially inclusive, and generally the greenest, safest place to live, work and enjoy. Forum members are individuals who either live, work or regularly pursue leisure activities (walking, horse riding, cycling, ornithology, fishing, etc) in the Rooley Moor area.

Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum is a registered charity, Charity number 1165601

Contact us for more information at www.RMNF.org.uk and if you would like to support our aims, please join us or make a donation! Email: info@rmnf.org.uk.

Thanks to our Supporters

The work of the forum would not be possible without the fantastic support of the local community. We are truly fortunate to have a network of people who are interested in understanding and sharing the fascinating and varied heritage of our area.

We would also like to thank the Heritage Lottery Fund who are supporting us with a Sharing Heritage grant to research and develop our website, area signage and heritage trails. The Ramblers Association have helped us to develop and present this trail, and we continue to work alongside Rochdale Council to develop our Neighbourhood Plan and promote this amazing area here on the outskirts of the Borough.

Other Things in the Area

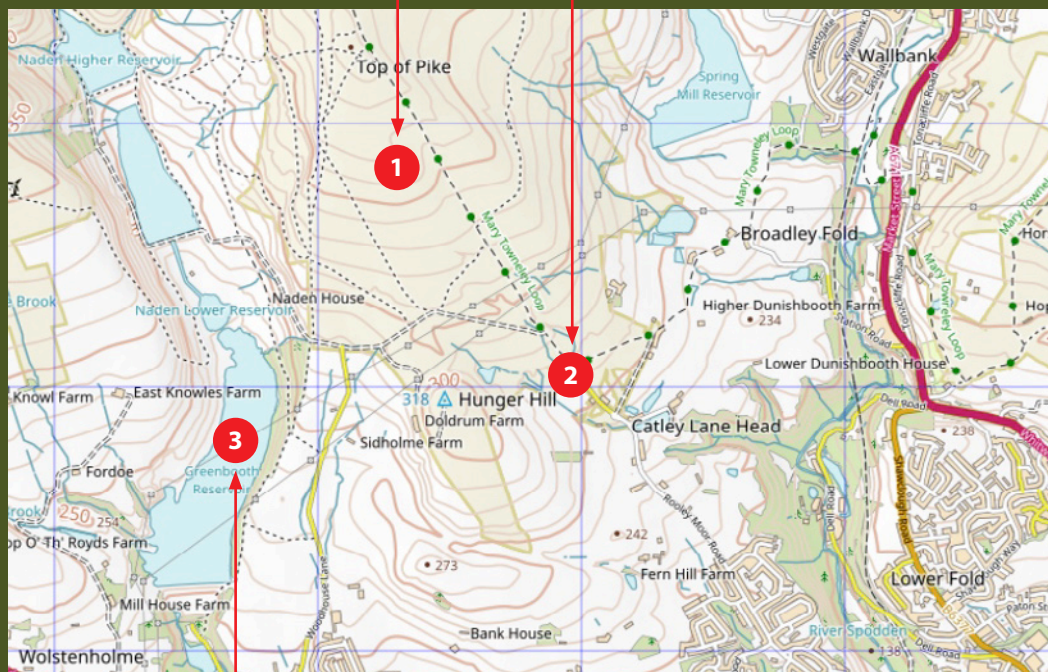
We really do hope you enjoyed your walk around Rooley Moor. The Neighbourhood Forum have been doing lots of other work in the area and we recommend you visit our website to find out more about other local history and alternative routes.

1. The Old Moorcock Inn

For many years the Old Moorcock Inn welcomed people traversing Rooley Moor along the cobbled cotton famine road.

2. The Cotton Famine Road

The Cotton Famine Road was built by impoverished cotton millworkers who supported the abolition of slavery during the American Civil War (1861-1865).



3. Greenbooth & Naden

Greenbooth Village, which once stood here, was flooded in the mid 1960s to make way for the larger reservoir which serves the majority of the Rochdale area. There is parking at the top of Woodhouse Lane giving easy access to the reservoirs.



Please scan the QR code to find more information about the Rooley Moor area.
You can also pick up a GPX of the route from our website.
Pictures provided by Forum members.
Leaflet produced by Rooley Moor Neighbourhood Forum in November 2018.