

Trail Trips - Old Moor to Old Royston

RSPB Old Moor to Old Royston (return) – 20 miles (32Km)

Suitable for walkers, cyclists and equestrians in parts - this section is also suitable for families who can shorten the route by turning back at either the start of the Dove Valley Trail (Aldham Junction 2.5 miles) or at Stairfoot (McDonalds 3.8 miles).

TPT Map 2 Central: Derbyshire - Yorkshire



RSPB Old Moor Visitor Centre



Turn right once through the gate



Be careful when crossing the road

Starting out in the heart of Dearne Valley, at the nature reserve of RSPB Old Moor, leave the car park to the rear, cross over the bridge, through the gate (please be aware that RSPB Old Moor car park opening times vary depending on the time of year and the gates do get locked at night) and turn right. Follow the trail under the bridge, where you will notice some murals. As you come out the other side, go over the wooden bridge and continue straight on until you come to the road. Take care crossing, as the road can become busy.

Once over the road, the trail is easy to follow. Shortly after crossing the road you will come across the start of the Timberland Trail if you wish you can head south on the Trans Pennine Trail towards Elsecar and Sheffield). Continue north along the Trail, passed Wombwell where you will come to the start of the Dove Valley Trail (follow this and it will take you to Worsbrough, Silkstone and to the historical market town of Penistone and if you keep going you will eventually end up in Southport on the west coast!!).

Continue north along the trail and you will arrive at Stairfoot (McDonalds) at this point the trail splits, take the right turn down either the ramp or the steps. Be careful at the bottom as you have to cross a main road. Once across follow the trail for approximately ½ mile, where you'll come to another junction (if you continue straight on, this would take you to Ring Farm in Cudworth (2 miles). Turn left and follow the trail passed Monk Bretton Priory and through Lundwood until you come to Burton Road at Monk Bretton.



Turn left for the Timberland Trail



Entrance to Gypsy March



Bear left for the start of Dove Valley Trail

TPT route maps can be obtained from the Trans Pennine Trail office if required:



Turn left to continue/straight on for Cudworth



Turn right at the rear of the glass works



Turn left down under the by pass

Turn left along Burton Road for about a ¼ mile, if you're a cyclist or equestrian turn right onto Carr Street and for walkers turn right just after the glass works which takes you down a small footpath. Once at the end turn right onto Fish Dam Lane. Follow the trail and you will come to a bypass, turn right down the slope and go under the bypass and head back on to the trail.



Follow the trail into the woods

Follow the trail, keeping the field to your left and turn right into the trees, at this point the trail is about 2m wide. Continue until you come to Shaw Lane in Carlton, turn left, then right after ¼ mile. Again the trail narrows here. Follow the trail keeping the Old Barnsley Canal to your left. Once at Cronhill Lane, equestrians need to take an alternative route. Cyclists and walkers have to pass over two more minor B roads in Royston and then it's the homeward stretch and finally on to Old Royston.



Turn right and follow the Old Barnsley Canal

Places along the trail:

Old Moor is a wonderful place to go and watch wildlife. The reserve is full of birds and other wildlife throughout the year. Gypsy Marsh is only a short distance from Old Moor and has lovely wildflowers including orchids, and birds like yellowhammers, reed buntings, and dingy skipper butterflies. Further along the trail is Monk Bretton Priory. It was founded in 1154 as the Priory of St. Mary Magdalene of Lund by Adam Fitzswane, sited on the Lund, from Old Norse. In the course of time the priory took the name of the nearby village of Bretton to be commonly known as Monk Bretton Priory.



Old Royston

Getting there:

There is a train service to Wombwell where you can join the trail or ride/walk down to Old Moor. If travelling by car the local infrastructure is excellent with easy access from both the M1 motorway (J36), then follow the Dearne Valley Parkway (A6195) or from the A1 at Marr (J37), thereafter take the A635 and the A6195.



Murals under one of the bridges



Stone compass in Royston



Former Barnsley Canal