



Roddlesworth Nature Trail

(2km. 1½ hours. Easy – some short ascents)

This waymarked nature trail provides a compact and varied walk through fields, mature woodland and the river valley itself and is a favourite place for walks and picnics. An extra 1km walk leads to the ruins of Hollinshead Hall.

Start across the road from the car park at the bus stop adjacent to the Royal Arms Hotel, Tockholes.

1. Corsican pines are to the left and sprawling cushions of rich leaves and tiny yellow flowers (tormentil, a member of the rose family) can be seen on the bank.

2. Here lemon scented lady and broad buckler ferns thrive in the dampness at the edge of the wood. The trail passes over a track which often runs with water and teems with water loving plants such as march marigold and white-flowered

bitter cress. Jays often bury acorns for food in the clearing on the left, which could account for some of the oak saplings growing here.

3. Here lie the ruins of Halliwell Fold. Grey squirrels can sometimes be seen among the conifers on the left. At Halliwell Fold bridge an optional 1km walk to the left takes you along an old coach road to the ruins of Hollinshead



3. Bridge over the River Roddlesworth



3. Hollinshead Hall:
haunted Well House

Hall, built in 1776 to replace an earlier 14th century building. Here a unique well house still stands – reputed in medieval times to cure ills. The site is also said to be haunted by no less than 6 ghostly figures. Read more on the Hall in the 'Country Halls' section of this guide. Cross over the bridge to the kissing gate to continue along the trail.

4. The ground is carpeted with bluebells in spring whilst sycamore and native shrubs create a varied habitat for wildlife. Over the years river erosion has formed a cliff exposing sedimentary flagstone rocks known as the Haslingden flags.

Walking Roddlesworth Nature Trail

Rowan trees overhang the river displaying white flowers in spring and orange berries in autumn.

5. Here, the river current on the outside bend is fast enough to carry away particles of the cliff. The river course is slowly cutting outwards and downstream at this point.

6. Cross the concrete bridge. Nearby bird cherry trees sometimes develop a ghostly

appearance in spring with webs spun by the caterpillars of an ermine moth. Trees growing here include pine, oak and rowan. The path now bears off to the left.

7. Shallow water with flote-grass provides spring breeding grounds for frogs and toads. Mallard, goldeneye ducks, great crested grebes and tufted ducks may be seen on the reservoir in winter. Elder grows in the ravine next to the path;



7. The wide expanse of Roddlesworth Upper Reservoir towards the end of the walk



The Royal Arms: good food, guest beers and a hearty walkers welcome

the elderberries providing autumn food for birds. Continue uphill and take the gravel path to the right. The trail ends back at the bus stop.

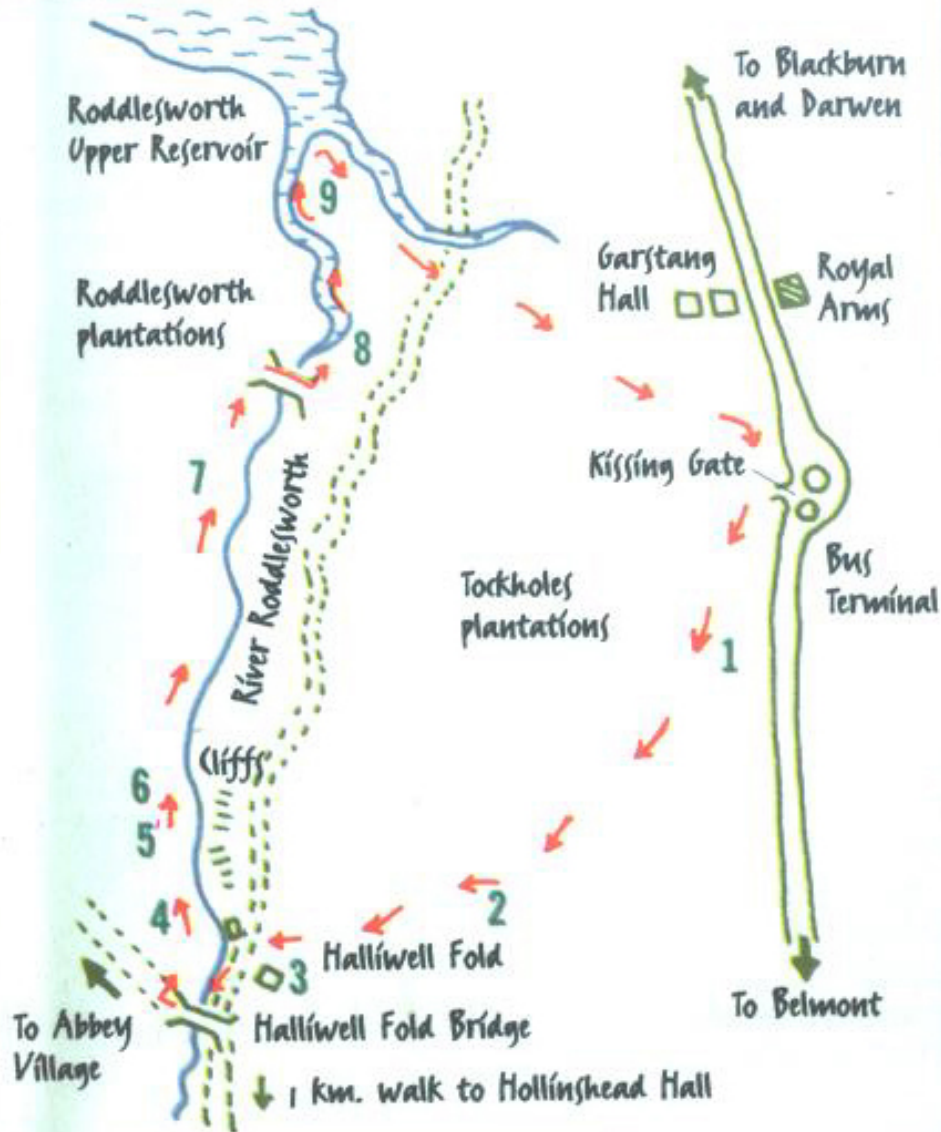
Here, the Royal Arms Hotel provides refreshment and Roddlesworth Information Centre provides a wealth of material on the area.

Adapted and reproduced courtesy of United Utilities plc. Walk guide available from Roddlesworth Information Centre, tel: 01254 704502

Roddlesworth Nature Trail Walking



07



Nature runs riot amid the ruins