

Route I: Swallow's Wood and Cow Lane (via Devil's Bridge)

S Starting on Green Lane, take the marked path between the houses on Meadowbank and Meadowbank Farm. Go over the stile and bear right around the back of the farm buildings.

1 Go through the gate on the left, and follow the path through the field. Continue over the stile and on along the path through the trees, over a small stream into an open meadow, until you reach the old beech trees with the entrance to the Swallow's Wood LNR on your right.

2 Enter the Reserve through the gate then join the main path and go left. Follow the path round, past the old building, through the trees and over the bridge. Stay on this path through the wood until you come down to the Victorian sluice gate.

3 Cross the bridge over the sluice gate and head up towards the pine trees. Go through the gate on your left and continue heading NW, keep left, until you can see the path down to the river on your left.

4 Cross over Devil's Bridge, heading back into the Nature Reserve. Stay straight ahead (signposted Hobson Moor) going up through the bracken until you come out into farmland. Stay left along the edge of the field.

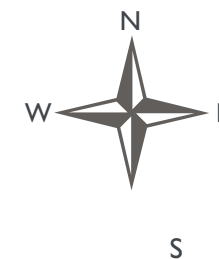
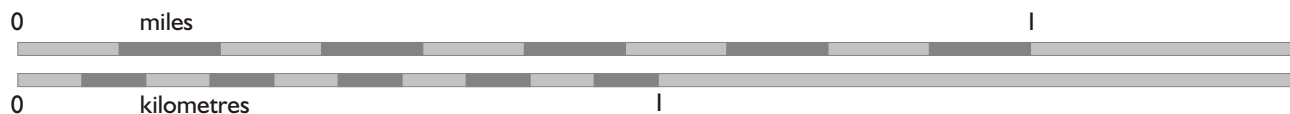
Details

Distance: 4 km / 2.5 miles
 Time: 1.5 to 2 hours
 Ascent: 100 metres
 Access: Not suitable for wheelchair users or pushchairs
 Start/Finish: Cow Lane, off Green Lane, Hollingworth
 Grid Ref: SK006966
 OS Map: Explorer OL1

5 Go over the stile and continue heading up the hill through the bracken in the direction of Hollingworth Hall. Go through the next two stiles and head up towards Hobson Moor Road keeping the wall on your left.

6 Leave the field via the stile on the left to adjoin Hobson Moor Road. Turn left, and follow the road until you reach the junction with Cow Lane.

7 Turn left into Cow Lane and continue down the hill until you return to your starting point, on Green Lane, Hollingworth.



Things to look out for on this walk

- * Butterflies in the meadow before the nature reserve.
- * Early Purple and Common Spotted Orchids around the entrance to the reserve and along the paths.
- * Firecrests and Goldcrests in the Gorse bushes in the reserve.
- * Campion and Ox-eye Daisy along path edges within Swallow's Wood and Bluebells lining the woodland floor in spring.
- * Deer or their tracks near Devil's Bridge.
- * Many different species of fungi in the wood and the fields near to Devil's Bridge.
- * Pheasants and Grouse in the bracken to the North of the reserve.
- * Bats and birds in the wood on Cow Lane. The bypass will wreck the woodland that is home to many nocturnal animals and birds such as little owls, tawny owls and bats.
- * The fallen Beech tree in the bottom of the clough adjacent to Cow Lane.
- * Blackberries lining the hedgerows along Cow Lane.
- * Jays collecting acorns from the old oak trees on Cow Lane and surrounding fields.
- * Wrens nesting along the banks on the edge of Cow Lane.

The Countryside Code

- * Be safe. Plan ahead and follow any signs.
- * Leave gates and property as you find them.
- * Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home.
- * Keep dogs under close control.
- * Consider other people.

Getting There

By Bus:

397 Ashton to Glossop
236, 237, X36 and X37 Glossop to Manchester

By Rail:

Nearest stations are Stalybridge, Broadbottom or Dinting.

Call 0870 608 2608 or visit the Traveline website for help with planning your journey via public transport.

www.traveline.org.uk

What to take/wear

This walk follows waymarked paths and country lanes, but can be very muddy in places. Walking boots are recommended, and remember to pack waterproofs, just in case.

Other walks in this area

Route 2: Mottram Old Hall and Cow Lane

Route 3: Swallow's Wood via Lees Hill

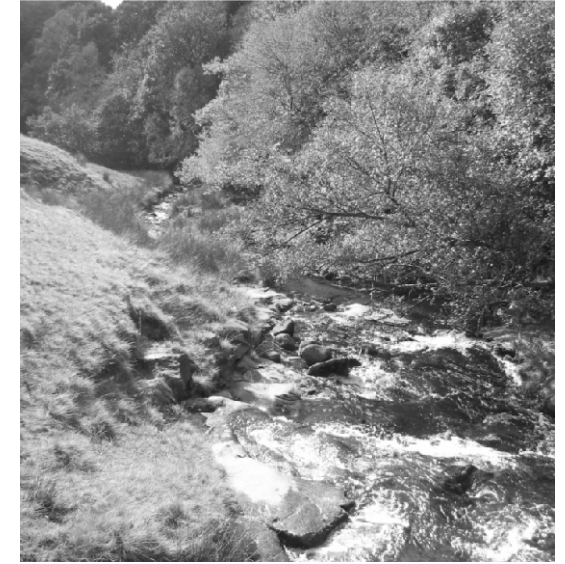
This walking map on behalf of Alternative Proposals for Transport (APT) and the Save Swallow's Wood campaign groups: two local pressure groups opposed to the building of the A57/A628 Mottram-Tintwistle bypass.

For more information about the campaigns, information about alternatives to the bypass, or to get involved, please visit our website or call 0845 226 3392.

www.saveswallowswood.org.uk

Circular Walking Route 1:

Swallow's Wood and Cow Lane (via Devil's Bridge)



A moderate walk taking you through farmland to the Swallow's Wood Local Nature Reserve before crossing Ogden Brook at Devil's Bridge and heading back to the start via the site of the old Hollingworth Hall and Cow Lane.

Excellent views across the Longdendale Valley to the Peak District National Park, including Tintwistle and Arnfield Moors.

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Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours

Start Point: Cow Lane, off Green Lane, Hollingworth

Grid Reference: SK006966



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