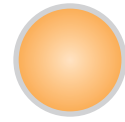


Trail Guide:



Water, wildlife and a vanished way of life

A short 2 mile (4 km) walk starting from the eastern fringe of Old Glossop and around Shire Hill. The walk will take about 1 – 2 hours with gentle gradients going up although the last hundred yards or so are steep down.

The 'Fancy That' Factor

Walk where the Romans walked 2000 years ago

See the remains of the old Shire Hill quarry railway sidings

Climb to Shire Hill and see all Glossop and the Snake's Pass laid out before you

Look for the very rare purple hairstreak butterfly

Drive or walk to Shepley Street, where Mossy Lea House once owned by Robert Shepley a mill owner stands, now three houses. Drive further along and park by the bus turning circle at the end of the road (N.B Please do not park where you will obstruct turning buses). **Old Glossop** was the original Norman town. To the south, modern Glossop grew up from the wealth generated by its 46 cotton mills and the industrial investments of the **Howard family** from Yorkshire, Dukes of Norfolk, who used to own land and property and brought the railway here.

As you start walking eastwards on the path, look to your left where you will see large expanses of levelled

ground. Within living memory these were covered with former cotton mills. These have now all gone and nature is reclaiming the land. All that's left are the small streams that once powered the mill races.

Within the first 15 minutes of the walk the noise of Glossop is all gone, the moors loom large and the only sounds you will hear are the noise of flowing water and the call of birds.

The track you are following is the line of an ancient byway – first a **Roman** road and then a drover's way over the moors to Sheffield. Until 1821 this was the main summer route over the northern peaks but it was often made impassable by winter snow. Then the

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Snake Pass (A57) was built and a stage coach route established between Sheffield and Glossop. The track fell into disuse and now only walkers tread its old cobbles. To your right is the mass of Shire Hill at 900 ft (300m) and its quarry.

Soon you are passing **Mossy Lea Farm** and as you cross the bridge at the 'waters meet' of the delightfully named **Yellow Slacks** and **Shelf Brooks**, you leave the ancient road, turning right and keeping **Shire Hill** on your right. This bridge was built in the 19th century to access the small reservoir that you see on your right.

Now follow the farm tracks back to the main Snake Pass road and you will pass the attractive Mossy Lea Lodge.

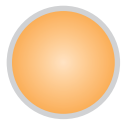
As you walk back **towards Glossop** down the main road look for the track in the forest **to your right**. Follow this and look for the remains of the old railway sidings and loading bays that were once used by the Shire Hill quarry. Here is another piece of industrial history gradually disappearing but never forgotten.

As you turn right, head north over the flank of the hill and look at the track you are walking on. It's an old sunken roadway. From here you can climb up onto Shire Hill if you want and in summer months look for the **purple hairstreak butterflies** which are as rare as they are beautiful. Shire Hill Wood is 73 acres of woodland dating from the 1600s and a panel atop the hill tells you all about the history of this ancient woodland and its wildlife.

From the top of the hill it is a steep but short walk down to the road back to where you started.

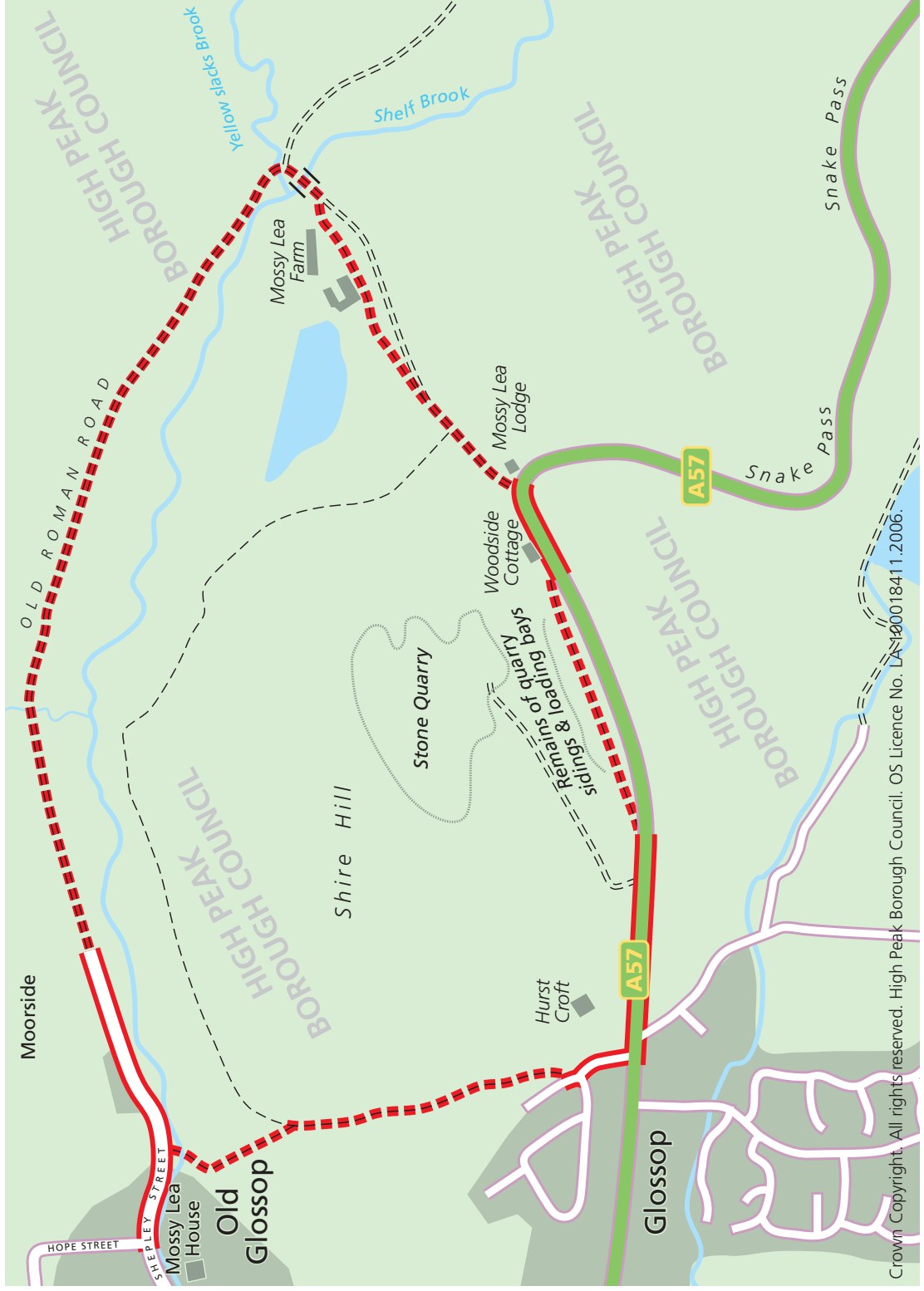
Glossop Trail No. 44

Water and Wildlife



Key

Track / Trail



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