

Smithills Estate

Barrow Bridge Trail

On the edge of the historic village of Barrow Bridge, this area of Smithills Estate is full of history. The woodland is filled with wildflowers in spring and fantastic fungi in autumn and winter. This short walk takes you through tranquil woodland, along Dean Brook and up to Daffodil Meadow, from where there are great views across Bolton.



● Barrow Bridge Trail 0.87 miles/ 1.4km | Easy | Allow ½ hour

1. From the car park, turn left and follow the road. The cottages were part of the 'model village' built for workers at the mills in Barrow Bridge.
2. The 63 Steps – Used by workers heading to mines higher up Smithills Estate.
3. High Shores Clough – Dating from at least 1600, this woodland contains a variety of native tree species.
4. Dean Brook – This brook starts its life on the top of the moor, created by rainfall.
5. Lost Bridge – You can see the remains of a stone bridge which used to connect farmland on each side of the brook.
6. Wooden steps – Follow the steps to head to an area of grassland sandwiched between the broadleaf woodland of the south part of the Estate, and the moorland of the north.
7. Twitchells – At the top of the steps turn right. This area is locally known as Twitchells. Follow the path across the field until you reach the boundary hedgerow.
8. Grassland – At the hedgerow turn left, follow the path across the field (alongside the hedgerow), and turn left again. You should have a view across Bolton – can you see Barrow Bridge chimney?
9. Mature woodland – Continue into the woodland rather than heading back down the wooden steps.
10. Down the steps – At the end of the woodland you will reach the top of the 63 Steps.
11. Follow the road back to Barrow Bridge car park.



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