Welcome to Rhyddings Park

Rhyddings Park was originally the grounds of a private house belonging to a local mill owning family.

The first house at Rhyddings was demolished in 1853 and re-built in the style of an early Victorian country house for Mr Robert Watson, who owned nearby Rhyddings Mill, and was also connected with Stonebridge Mill in Oswaldtwistle.

Rhyddings Hall, as the house was known, ceased to be a private residence in 1909 when it was acquired by Oswaldtwistle

Rhyddings Routes is a project funded by Big Lottery Awards For All and managed by the Civic Arts Centre on behalf of Friends of Rhyddings Park.

The idea behind the project is to get people walking around Oswaldtwistle a little more and exploring some of the great outdoor areas that we are lucky enough to have. There are four walks in the series that vary in difficulty and access. Some walks are suitable for wheelchairs and buggies, others involve crossing fields and stiles. Urban District Council along with its grounds, to provide a recreational facility for the people of Oswaldtwistle.

Today the layout of the park owes much to Mr Watson's house, which was situated behind the ornamental balustrade, until it was demolished in the 1930's.

Friends of Rhyddings Park is a community group that works with the Council and with other bodies to raise funding and to organise events in the park. If you are interested in getting involved with the park please visit www.rhyddingspark.org.uk for details.

Each route is circular so you can join at any point and return to the same place to finish.

There are also activity sheets for young people which can be used in conjunction with the walks. Pick them up from various locations around around Oswaldtwistle or download from www.civicartscentre.co.uk along with all four of the maps.

Thanks to Lucy Hamlin for devising the walks.



Rhyddings Park to Foxhill Bank and Union Road

Walk 3: Intermediate (involves some steps)



- Distance: 1.6 miles
- Time: 30 40 minutes
- Suitable for Wheelchairs: No
- Suitable for Pushchairs: Yes
- Start and End: All walks are circular, start wherever you want.





Friends of Rhyddings Park







- Start the walk at the Entrance to Rhyddings Park on Fielding Lane.
- 2. Enter the park and turn left, following the path around the park until you come to the exit at Park Lane.
- **3.** Exit the park and walk down Rhyddings Street.
- **4.** At the bottom of Rhyddings Street, you come to the War Memorial. Taking care, cross the busy main road and turn left.
- **5.** Continue until the next junction, turning right at Tesco Express.
- 6. Continue down this road and continue over a bridge. You will pass Loyola Scout Hut on your left hand side.
- **7.** Bearing to the left, follow this road until you come to a small car park, you have arrived at Foxhill Bank Nature Reserve.
- 8. Enter the Reserve through the gate.
- **9.** Follow the path within the reserve, passing a bridge and the main pond area.
- **10.** You will come to a Foxhill Nature Reserve Sign and what appears to have once been a gate.
- **11.** Continue forward past this and take the next right turning, which brings you out of the reserve and onto Badge Brow.
- **12.** At the end of Badge Brow, you meet Union Road. Oswaldtwistle Mills is across the road here.
- **13.** Turn right to walk up Union Road, crossing at St Paul's School.
- Continue walking up Union Road and turn left at The Civic Arts Centre onto Lord Street.
- **15.** Walk to the top of Lord Street, crossing Catlow Hall Street and straight on past St. Paul's Church.
- 16. Turn right onto Hornby Street, walking at the back of the church which will bring you to Rhyddings Street.
- **17.** Turn left towards the park and enter the park through this entrance (Park Lane).
- **18.** Follow the path around (not up the steps), taking you past the children play areas.
- 19. Continue on the path past the play areas and back down to the Fielding Lane entrance and the end of the walk.