

KERSAL TO CLIFTON

WALK 3 5 M/8KM about 2.5 hours

This walk follows the River Irwell upstream as it meanders through woodland and open spaces to Clifton Country Park. Be aware sections of this path are rather narrow so care is required.

Unfortunately sections of this route are badly overgrown with giant hogweed. This is a dangerous plant and causes nasty burns if you touch it. Keep well clear of it.

From St. Aidan's Church on Littleton Road, cross the main road, turn right, continue to the end of the shops and turn left. Follow this path alongside the playing fields till you come to the river. Turn left and cross the river via a large iron footbridge, Jubilee Bridge. Now turn right. Follow the path all the way alongside the river. Continue past the cemetery until you reach Agecroft Road. On the other side of the road you will see the continuation of the path. Cross the road carefully, it is a very busy road, and follow the path, down the steps to the river bank again.

The riverside path is in a shady woodland area. The path follows the river more or less, sometimes a bit closer, sometimes a bit further away. After about 700m you will come to green metal footbridge. Do not cross but continue straight ahead on the path, keeping the river on your right. Eventually you pass a small brick building on your right. The section of path ahead was very wet and muddy at one time, but has been improved by Manchester & Salford Ramblers.

The derelict canal on your left is the former Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal. Soon you pass under Clifton Viaduct with its 13 arches which used to carry the East Lancashire Railway over the river. Continue along the path, keeping the canal on your left, to a stone aqueduct across the river. This was where the derelict Fletcher's Canal, which brought coal from the Wet Earth Colliery, now the site of Clifton Country Park, joined the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal, which crossed the river on the aqueduct.

Keep straight ahead following the river and towards the motorway. Continue along the path under the motorway and follow the river bank path. After a short distance you come to a path off to the left (do not take this path) and ahead you can see a large gate with a kissing gate next to it.

Go through this gate and continue along the path which follows the river.

Go over two small wooden bridges and continue along this path until it ends, where you turn left and go through a gap in the fence. (*There used to be a footbridge here.*) Turn right onto a broad path with a pond opposite.

Turn next left by the pond and walk up the path till you come to a cross road of paths. Turn right and continue along the path for 400m. Then turn 1st left on a path up the hill towards the railway bridge, which is Dixons Fold Bridge. **(Alternatively carry on straight ahead a short distance to the Visitor Centre where there is a cafe and toilets)** Cross this bridge and continue uphill on the broad path. At the top turn left into Solway Close, heading towards Manley Avenue where you turn right on to Manchester Road.

Here you can finish the walk and get the 8 or 22 bus to Bolton, Manchester or Eccles.

To continue on the Salford Trail see Walk 4 - Clifton to Roe Green.

Comments, feedback and reports of problems are welcome!
Please send to salfordtrail@ukwalkers.com