

BURY SELF-LED WALKS



Step outdoors, explore your local green spaces, breathe in the best of Bury and feel the freedom of the fresh air.

12 short self-led walks around Bury complete with illustrated route maps and descriptions.

Plus a special additional extra Town Centre Cultural Heritage walk to celebrate Bury's award as the Inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture.

WELCOME TO BURY SELF-LED WALKS

About this booklet...

Bury Walk with Me is a series of local walks led by trained volunteer walk leaders in association with Bury Live Well Service and The Ramblers Walking for Health Scheme.

With funding support from the Groundworks Project; Ambition for Ageing, the Greater Sport Project: Active Ageing and with help from our own Bury Walk with Me trained Volunteer Walk Leaders, this self-led walks booklet maps out some of our most favoured and popular scheme led walks, (as well as some new ones) within each of the six townships of Bury.

With each walk having its own colour map and a detailed route description, this self-led walks booklet supports independent walking and invites the wider communities of Bury to step outside and enjoy exploring their local green spaces. We encourage you to invite friends, family or neighbours to join with you time and time again and in doing so, to make walking outdoors part of a healthier active lifestyle that everyone within the communities and neighbourhoods of Bury can enjoy.

Plus as an additional extra to this booklet, intended as a lasting legacy to celebrate Bury's award as the inaugural Greater Manchester Town of Culture, at the rear of the booklet you will find a special Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk. To accompany and complement this special self-led walk, you will also find here lots of interesting facts and information about each of the cultural points of interest and heritage discovered along the route. We hope you enjoy!

About the walks...

Within the booklet you will find two walk options for each of the six townships, those being:

- Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor
- Bury West
- Bury East
- Whitefield and Unsworth
- Prestwich
- Radcliffe

Each walk is circular, no more than 3½ miles in distance and should take between 60-90 minutes for most people to complete. The start points for each walk are accessible by public transport with either a bus or tram stop close by. Most will also have café/toilet facilities located either at the start/end of the walk or part way along the route.

To make finding your way a little easier, each route map is numbered and will coincide with the accompanying numbered route description on the opposite page. Please use this as a reference to guide you along the route especially at junction points.

Included on the map are symbols of potential risks we would usually communicate to walkers on any of our led health walks. As risks vary from person to person, we have aimed to cover all potential risks for all potential walkers with the acknowledgement that some risks will be more relevant to some walkers than others. The risks we have plotted have been placed there to help keep everyone safe along the walk. They are by no means exclusive as risks may change, particularly during season changes, so please observe caution, but do remember walking is one of the lowest risk physical activities. Our key to these Risk Symbols can be found on the next page.

Health and walk safety...

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accessibility and suitability of these routes for this booklet, we cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to personal property or injury however caused. Therefore, please note that anyone using these mapped walking routes does so at their own risk. These mapped routes were correct and accessible on foot at the time of printing and each route has undergone a complete risk assessment before submission to this booklet.

What to wear and take with me...

The great thing about walking is that it is accessible to almost everyone, it is free to do and aside from a pair of comfortable, sturdy shoes or boots with reasonable grip and a waterproof coat or umbrella to accommodate our unpredictable British weather, you don't really need any equipment to get started. Wearing layers is also a good idea, so you can quickly add or remove layers if the weather changes during your walk.

If it's hot, we suggest you bring along some sun cream and maybe wear a sun hat or cap. Be sure to take water with you, so you can sip it along the way to avoid becoming dehydrated, especially in hot weather. If it's cold then fleeces are good to wear as a layer and perhaps bring some gloves and a warm hat. A snack or two is also a good idea to have handy, especially if your walk does not have a rest/café stop along the route and a mobile phone if you have one.

For more advice about keeping safe outdoors visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/safety

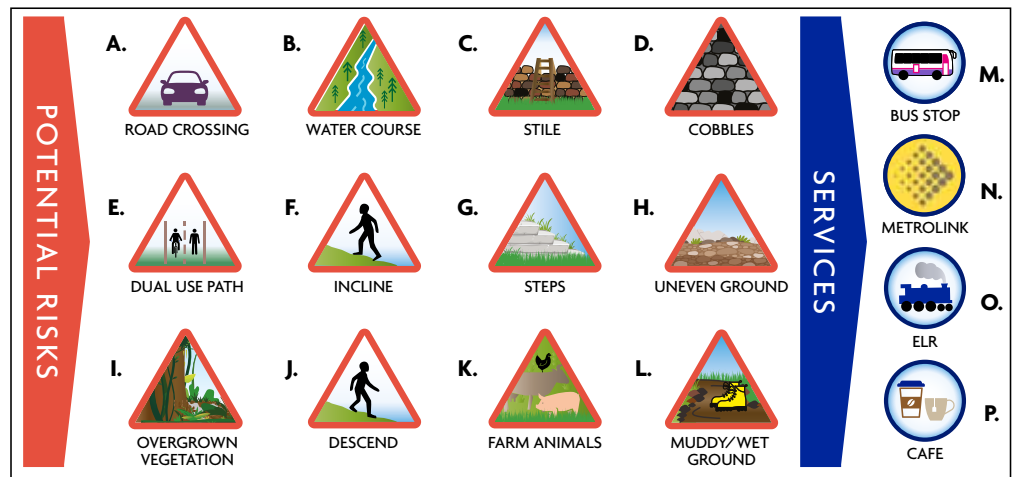


Graded Walks

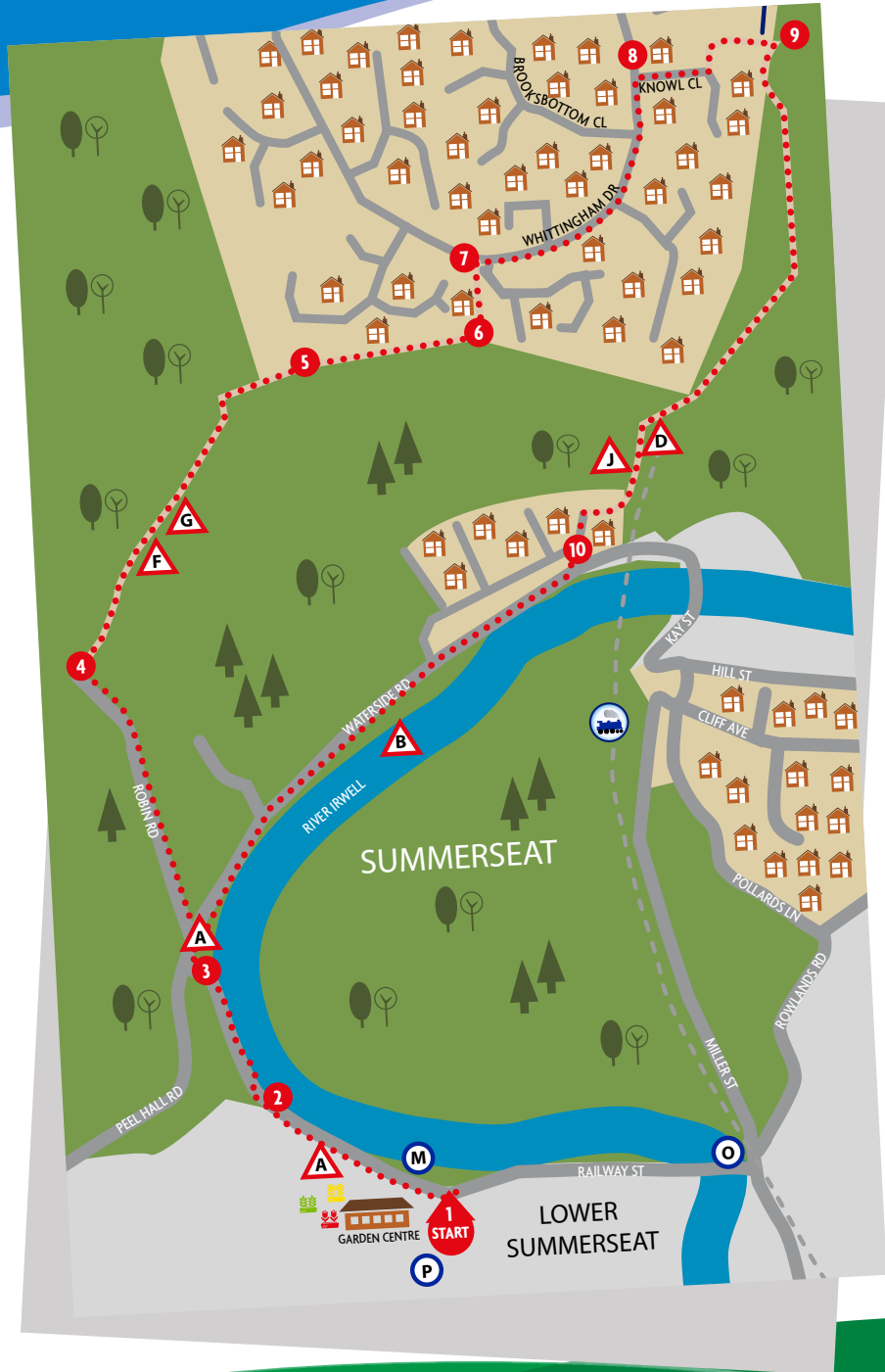
Easy: Suitable for beginners and buggies. Mainly on level terrain on mainly tarmac and paved surfaces.

Fairly Easy: Suitable for most walkers, some woodland trails, and off road footpaths, mainly level terrain with some inclines and occasional steps.

Moderate: Suitable for walkers who are happy to walk along countryside footpaths and Public Rights of Way with some steeper inclines and steps with possible stile crossings.



TOTTINGTON, RAMSBOTTOM AND NORTH MANOR - SUMMERSEAT



WALK NAME: Lammy Bank Walk

START POINT: Summerseat Garden Centre Car Park, Railway Street, Summerseat, Bury BL9 5QD

BUS SERVICE: B1 (No Sunday or Bank Holiday Service)

DISTANCE: 3.3 km / 2 miles • **DURATION:** 60 minutes • **STEPS:** Approx 4,300

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1** From Summerseat Garden Centre turn left onto Railway Street.
- 2** When safe to do so cross Railway Street and proceed to junction with Waterside Road.
- 3** Cross Waterside Road, (keeping Al Bosco Restaurant on your right) and enter Robin Road.
- 4** Cross the bridge and bear right, then take the narrow footpath on the left, through a kissing gate and continue up steps through woods.
- 5** Beyond a second gate, keep straight on along the path with houses on your left.
- 6** After approximately 200m, take the footpath on the left leading to Whittingham Drive.
- 7** At Whittingham Drive turn right and follow pavement taking the 3rd right turn onto Knowl Close.
- 8** Where the Close bends sharply, cross over to follow the narrow footpath leading out of the residential area.
- 9** On joining the main footpath turn right and follow the path south to meet a cobbled path that descends steeply to Waterside Road seeing the East Lancashire Railway below on the left.
- 10** At the end of the path, turn right onto Waterside Road and follow the river back along to Railway Street, crossing at a safe place to return to the Garden Centre on the right.



TOTTINGTON, RAMSBOTTOM AND NORTH MANOR - GREENMOUNT



WALK NAME: Kirklees Valley Nature Reserve and Golf Course Circular

START POINT: Entrance to Nature Reserve (Opposite the Hub Tea Rooms) Brandlesholme Road, Greenmount Bury BL8 4DR

BUS SERVICE: 480 (No Sunday or Bank Holiday Service)

DISTANCE: 2.5 km / 1.5 miles • **DURATION:** 60 minutes • **STEPS:** Approx 3,300



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- From the entrance to the Kirklees Trail on Brandlesholme Road (opposite The Hub Tea Rooms) follow the path until you come to a cross road at Shepherd Street (first gate across).
- Turn right at Shepherd Street and follow the lane to Holcombe Road.
- Cross Holcombe Road with care and turn left then continue South West crossing Brookside Crescent, until you reach the junction with Holly Mount Lane.
- At a small car park at the bottom of Holly Mount Lane, turn right and follow the designated footpath that runs along the side of the road.
- At the top of the path, use the marked crossing to cross the road and follow the chevron marked footpath on the left until you meet the junction with Whipney Lane on your right.
- Carefully cross onto Whipney Lane and follow the lane towards the Golf Club.
- At the end of the path turn right through to the far end of the golf club car park and continue straight on down the path.
- Bear left along the path crossing the golf course to the right of the green, proceed with care onto Hove Close.
- Follow this round to the right to join Hunt Fold Drive and once facing the church take the path to the right of the church which brings you back onto Holcombe Road.
- Using the zebra crossing, cross Holcombe Road and continue onto Brandlesholme Road, bringing you back to the start of the walk.





WALK NAME: Irwell River Trail to Burrs Country Park Figure of Eight Walk

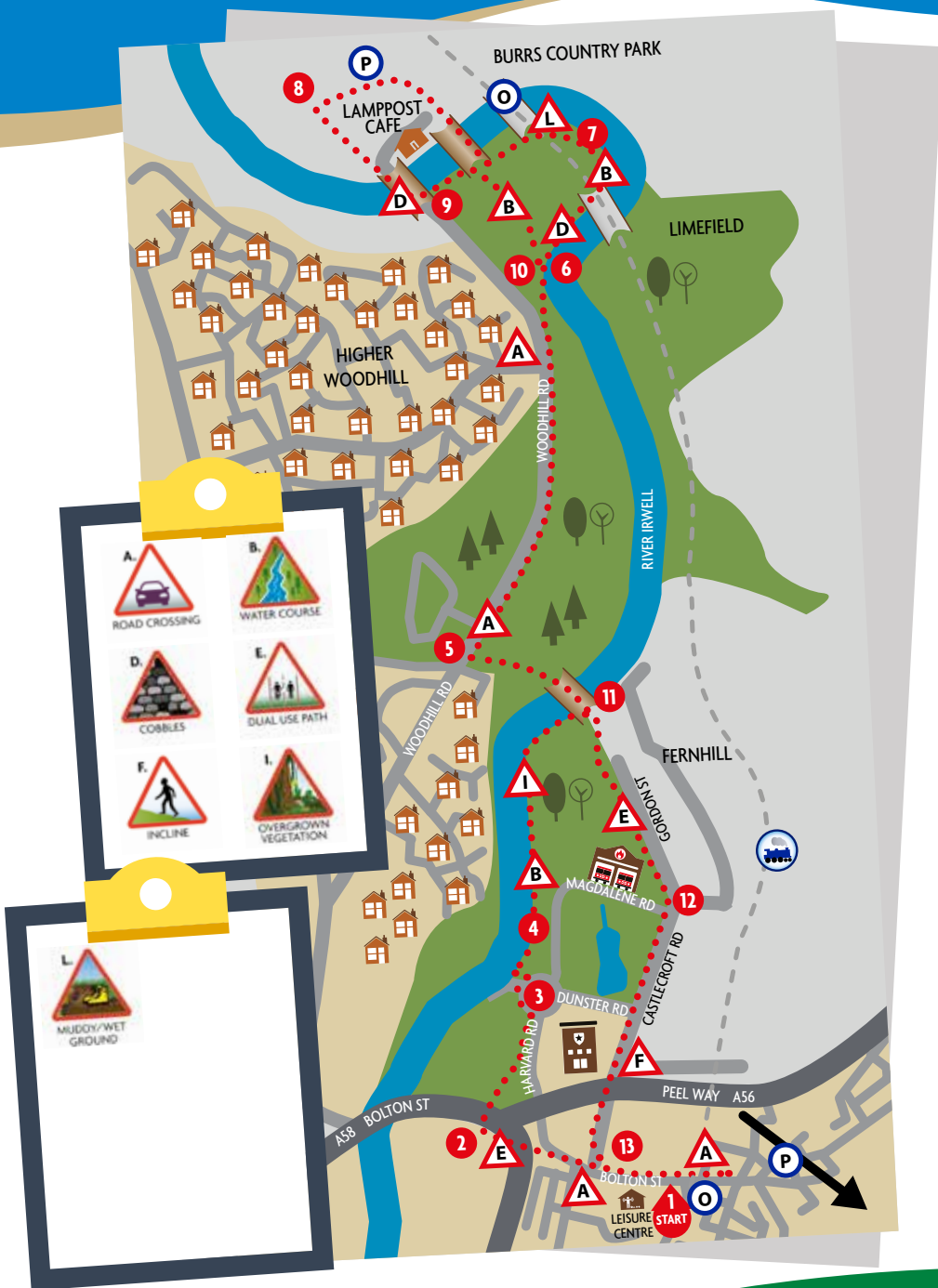
START POINT: Castle Leisure Centre, Bolton Street, Bury BL9 0EZ

BUS SERVICE: 469; 471; 472; 510

DISTANCE: 5.4 km / 3.3 miles • DURATION: 60-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 7,000

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From Castle Leisure Centre entrance turn left along Bolton Street, cross at Irwell Street and follow the dual pathway down through the underpass.
- 2 At the fork, take the path on the right through the second underpass below Peel Way leading towards the Police Station.
- 3 At the end of the dual pathway, by the roundabout, with the Police Station to your right, cross the zebra crossing and turn left down towards the River Irwell.
- 4 Follow the river trail through to the footbridge, (where the river trail meets the Route 6 Cycleway) cross the bridge and continue along to Wood Hill Road crossing over to the other side of the road.
- 5 Turn right and follow Wood Hill Road to the entrance of Burrs Country Park where a cobbled car park is situated in front of you.
- 6 Cross the road taking the cobbled path on the right down to a footpath which passes under the East Lancashire Railway Bridge before re-joining the River Irwell trail.
- 7 Follow this footpath along the riverside until passing back under the ELR Bridge, then take the footbridge that crosses over the river on your right leading to the Lamppost Café and The Brown Cow.
- 8 From the front of the Lamppost Café (facing The Brown Cow) turn left and follow the path to the end of the building. Turn left past the main car park area on your right and continue over the river Irwell road-bridge turning left through a gate onto another footpath.
- 9 Follow this footpath taking the second right turn, past the duck pond/lodge through to the cobbled car park opposite the original entrance (Point 6 on the map).
- 10 Return following the same route until reaching the far side of the footbridge which crosses the River Irwell after leaving Wood Hill Road
- 11 Continue straight ahead passing through the tree lined pathway (Part of the Route 6 Cycleway) towards the Community Fire Station.
- 12 At the Community Fire Station, bear left through the stone boulders and continue up Castle Croft Road passing the Police Station now on your right.
- 13 At the top of the hill, turn left onto Bolton Street using the pedestrian crossing opposite the ELR station to cross back to Castle Leisure Centre.





WALK NAME: Elton Reservoir and Canal Circular

START POINT: Outside the Wellington (PH), Bolton Road, Bury BL8 2PP

BUS SERVICE: 471

DISTANCE: 4.9 km / 3 miles • DURATION: 60-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 6,400

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From The Wellington Public House use the pedestrian crossing to cross Bolton Road, then cross White Street passing the Tesco Express and Esso Petrol Station on your right.
- 2 Turn right onto Deardens Street and continue along the pavement to the end of the street (about 80m) taking the footpath on the left of the street.
- 3 Follow the footpath down a flight of steps, through the tunnel.
- 4 At the fork in the path, take the right hand path through a second tunnel.
- 5 Carry on along the descending path which turns sharply to the left and leads alongside the factory to Wellington Street.
- 6 After about 12m, cross the road, passing between bollards to enter the path that becomes the canal towpath. Head south along the towpath until you arrive at the first canal bridge.
- 7 Leave the towpath here crossing over the footbridge around to the right.
- 8 At the path junction, turn left and continue along, as the path rises gently to the height of Elton Reservoir.
- 9 On reaching the reservoir and farmhouse, continue left heading south following the track away from the reservoir (ignoring the path that loops back around the reservoir to the right).
- 10 At a sharp left, by the stables, leave the track, crossing the stile that leads straight ahead along the edge of a large field.
- 11 About 5m beyond the field, take the narrow path on your right, that leads across another field.
- 12 After some 200m, turn right onto a wide tarmac path. Cross the stile on your left, then after just a few metres pass through a kissing gate onto a narrow path with a thick hedge running along its left side.
- 13 Follow this path through a group of trees, down a dip and up again, then follow the path straight across a field until you come to a wide tarmac path.
- 14 Turn left onto the path and continue until you emerge onto Buckingham Drive and follow it to the right.
- 15 As the road bends to the left, take the narrow alley on the right between the houses. As you emerge into the estate, turn immediately right down the narrow alley and then down the steps on to the Daisyfield Greenway.
- 16 After 500m, just short of the bridge, turn left onto a short path that will take you onto Buller Street. Turn right here, then first left onto Powell Street.
- 17 At the end of Powell Street, turn right along Bolton Road, cross Kitchener Street and back across Bolton Road using the pedestrian crossing to the start point.





WALK NAME: Chesham Wood and Parkland Walk

START POINT: Hoyles Park, Car Park Huntley Mount Road, Bury BL9 6HY

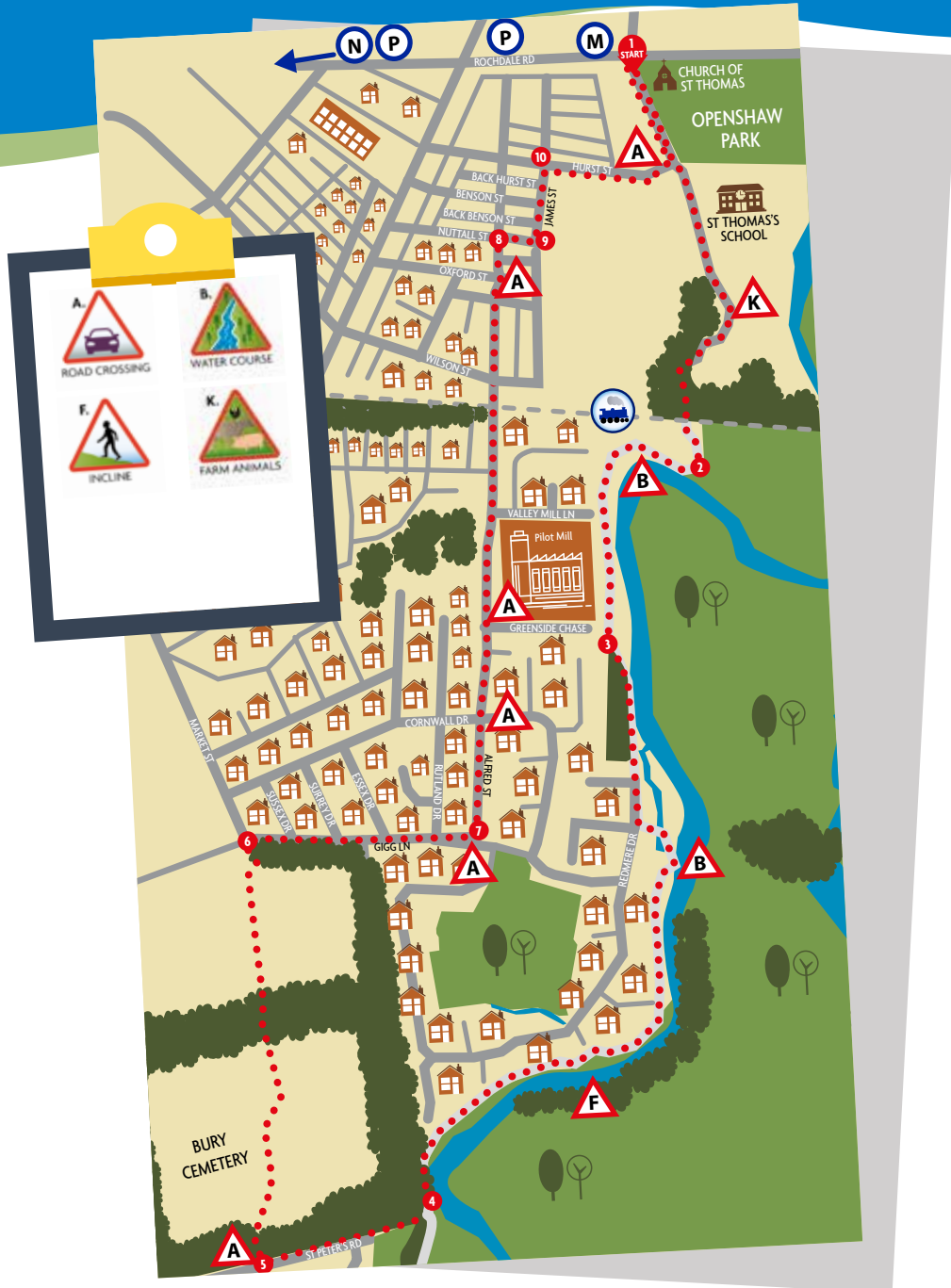
BUS SERVICE: 467; 468

DISTANCE: 4.6 km / 2.8 miles • DURATION: 60-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 6,000

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 Exit the car park going between the bowling greens and children's play area, turn left and follow the footpath bearing right behind the pavilion up to the second carpark.
- 2 Cross the road, go right, then turn left onto Kingfisher Drive. Take first left onto Swallow Drive. Continue to the end going through the swing gate on the right.
- 3 Follow the footpath on the right until you reach the road. Turn left and before you go under the motorway bridge, take footpath on your left accessed by a wooden stile. Continue up a gentle incline turning left at top now descending a narrow pathway for about 100m.
- 4 After passing the metal railings on the left, take the swing gate on your right into the woods and follow the path, keeping to your right all the time. Near the end of this path, where the path splits right to a stile, go left between two low walls, this will bring you to a metal gate and a small road, cross here.
- 5 Re-enter the woods passing the turning circle for where the old Chesham House would have stood on the right. Continue along the path as it descends down towards the left to re-join the main track into Clarence Park.
- 6 Here you can go around the Lido or just walk straight forward out of this part of the park and turn left by the children's play area. At the entrance to the Bowling Green is the Green Café ideal for a stop.
- 7 Coming out of the café turn left and go behind the café crossing the grass to join the footpath which runs left to right. Turn right towards the end of the footpath where the path meets Delamere Street.
- 8 From here (if dry underfoot) go back onto the grass following the outer edge of the park. Follow this all the way round until you get to an exit by Clarence Gardens apartments. When wet underfoot you could go out of the park following Delamere Street, then Chesham Road until you get to the apartments.
- 9 At the rear of the apartments is a footpath, follow this until you see the gate you went through into Chesham Woods, which is on your left. On your right is a path way with two metal posts as an entrance, follow this path. You will then come to the swing gate you went through from Swallow Drive, go to your right here and follow the path through the houses.
- 10 Go across the island back onto the footpath and then cross the main road, keep going to your right and turn left following the park railings, re-entering Hoyles Park following the footpath back to the car park.





WALK NAME: Openshaw Park, Gigg and Springs Walk

START POINT: By the Church of St Thomas at the corner of Pimhole Road and Rochdale Road, Bury BL9 7EY

BUS SERVICE: 163; 471

DISTANCE: 4.7km / 2.9 miles • **DURATION:** 60 minutes • **STEPS:** Approx 6,200

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From the corner of Pimhole Road and Rochdale Road (by the Church of St Thomas and Openshaw Park), head south down Pimhole Road onto School Street passing St Thomas's Primary School and Pimhole Community Farm on your left. Continue along the path under the East Lancashire Railway Bridge.
- 2 Cross over the footbridge with the River Roch now to your left, up a slight incline, then keeping to the footpath follow the river south.
- 3 After going past a wooden gate (that gives access to this part of the trail) follow the path south along Redmere Drive, then take the path off to the left which takes you behind the houses, with the River Roch now in sight again on your left.
- 4 After a slight incline, at a junction in the path, you will see the cemetery on your right and Goshen Sports Fields in front of you. Take the path on your right at the end of the cemetery wall to walk up onto St Peters Road.
- 5 At the main entrance to Bury cemetery, turn right staying on the main route through the cemetery now heading north towards Gigg Lane.
- 6 On leaving the cemetery, turn right onto Gigg Lane. Continue down Gigg Lane to a mini roundabout with Alfred Street.
- 7 Turn left onto Alfred Street now heading north passing Pilot Mill, previously the home of Antler Luggage and Suitcase production. Continue up Alfred Street crossing back over the East Lancashire Railway Bridge.
- 8 From the bridge take your 5th turn on the right onto Nuttall Street, at the bottom of the street turn left onto James Street.
- 9 Head north up James Street passing the garages on the right.
- 10 At the junction with Hurst Street, turn right and follow Hurst Street heading East through the pedestrian barriers back to Pimhole Road turning left back to the start point by the Church of St Thomas and Openshaw Park.



WALK NAME: Hollins Vale Nature Reserve Circular

START POINT: Outside Unsworth Medical Centre, Parr Lane, Unsworth Bury BL9 8JR

BUS SERVICE: 92; 94; 97

DISTANCE: 4.5 km / 2.8 miles • DURATION: 60-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 5,900

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From Unsworth Medical Centre turn right and head north along Parr Lane, bearing slightly left at St George's Church where the road becomes Hollins Lane. Continue along Hollins Lane, crossing to avoid the narrow pavement and then returning back across the road when safe to do so.
- 2 On reaching Sykes Lane (across the road) take the next right turn past a small burial ground on the right. Follow the path crossing Church Meadow and entering Hollins Vale Nature Reserve.
- 3 Follow the main footpath by the edge of the reserve and follow the path down where it now runs parallel (but at a lower level) with the M66 motorway.
- 4 At the bottom of the footpath turn left onto Aviation Road and follow this past the water course on your left* and through to the junction with Pilsworth Road. (*N.B. There are several additional linking footpaths to explore within the nature reserve that can be accessed from this point, although these are better accessed in the summer months when the ground is drier under foot.)
- 5 Turn left onto Pilsworth Road and continue west, passing Blackford House Medical Centre on your right where the road then becomes Croft Lane.
- 6 At the junction with Borden Way, turn left and head east to the end of the lane, then turn right taking the foot bridge across Hollins Brook and onto another footpath. This footpath climbs slightly passing a lodge on the left before opening into a small carpark to the left of a lane called The Hags.
- 7 Follow the lane past open ground to your left and then past a primary school on your right before climbing up to meet the main road; Hollins Lane, with the Hollins Bush public house in front of you.
- 8 Turn left along Hollins Lane and follow this road south leading onto Parr Lane arriving back at Unsworth Medical Centre.





WALK NAME: Hurst wood and Nuttall Wood Circular

STARTING POINT: Corner of Old Hall Lane and Copper Lane, Stand, Whitefield, Bury M45 7JU

BUS SERVICE: 98; 513

DISTANCE: 3.4 km / 2.1 miles • DURATION: 50 minutes • STEPS: Approx 4,300

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

1. From the junction of Old Hall Lane and Copper Lane, head west along Copper Lane and follow the lane left until arriving at the entrance to Hurst Wood on the right.
2. Enter the Hurst Wood taking the path to the right of the wooden sign and follow the well laid winding path in a south-westerly direction.
3. Continue along the trail, ignoring the cut through trail on the left at the first junction and continue around Nuttall Wood.
4. Proceeding around the bottom section of the trail, where the views now look over towards the Giant's Seat and Clifton Country Park, bear left at the next trail junction and circle around the trail now heading in north-easterly direction.
5. Continue along the trail bearing left at the next trail junction, keeping the information board to your right. (Another great vantage point from behind looking through the wooded valley to the right.)
6. Where the cut through trail joins the main trail from the left hand side, continue right and follow the trail back to start point passing Hurst Farm on the right.
7. Exit the wood trails back onto Copper Lane and continue in a north-easterly direction, turning east at the bend in the road back to the start point where the lane meets Old Hall Lane.





WALK NAME: Prestwich Clough and Drinkwater Circular

STARTING POINT: St Mary's Church Entrance, Church Lane, Prestwich M25 1AN

BUS SERVICE: 90; 92; 93; 94; 95; 97; 98; 484

DISTANCE: 5.6 km / 3.5 miles • DURATION: 75-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 7,300

ROUTE DESCRIPTION



- 1 From St. Mary's Church's gates, walk along the ginnel to the left of the gates and follow the path round to the right, keeping the wall on your right.
- 2 Continue downwards along the footpath through the woodland, crossing the brook at the footbridge.
- 3 Continue along the footpath, passing through the gate, leaving the Clough and crossing over Buckley Lane.
- 4 Turn left at the entrance to Drinkwater Park onto a broad concrete path. Follow the path as it turns sharply to the right.
- 5 As the path straightens take a left turn off the path onto a wide dirt path heading south.
- 6 (Various paths lead off to the east and west of this path) Take the second path on the right.
- 7 After a short distance, turn left onto another path and follow the path southwards, along the east bank of the lake. (On reaching the bridge across the lake you'll find a good spot to sit and take in the scenery.)
- 8 Once over the bridge take a left turn onto a path leading south along the west bank of the lake.
- 9 Follow the path to the end of the lake turning left and left again to circle back up the east side of the lake now heading north back towards the bridge.
- 10 On reaching the bridge, now cross for the second time and go straight ahead in a westerly direction, passing between football fields.
- 11 At a fork in the path, bear right, now heading north along the east side of the River Irwell.
- 12 After approximately 250m, the path turns sharply to the right, and then to the left, passing the end of the lake and coming to another path that crosses it.
- 13 Continue straight ahead. After a couple of 100m, the path turns sharply right, and meets with the path that entered into Drinkwater Park from the Clough.
- 14 On leaving Drinkwater Park turn right towards the clough crossing Buckley Lane and through the gate into Prestwich Clough.
- 15 Keep to the path (do not cross the brook until you reach the second bridge).
(*If you wish, there are now several paths to your left that will link you onto the original route you started the walk on, now going up-hill.)
- 16 Once across the bridge take the right hand path for an alternative way up the clough.
- 17 Ignoring the first flight of steps, pursue the path, keeping the brook on your right.
- 18 Mount the next flight of steps, then take the path to the left. (The right hand path leads to St. Mary's gardens), climbing straight up bringing you back to the ginnel leading to the church gates where the walk ends.



WALK NAME: Park, Lake and Woodland Walk

STARTING POINT: Metrolink entrance to Heaton Park, Bury Old Road, Prestwich M25 1JE

BUS SERVICE: 90; 135; 484

DISTANCE: 4.7 km /2.9 miles • DURATION: 60-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 6,200



ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From the Metrolink entrance gate, proceed down the main path, turning right at the bottom going past the new children's play area, on the left hand side.
- 2 Taking the second path on the left, go around the bottom of the lake, keeping left and continue along the main path with the boating lake on the left hand side.
- 3 On reaching the tram lines, cross with caution and turn right, joining the main path.
- 4 Take the third path on the left and continue upward passing the war memorial after 100m on the right-hand side. (Alternatively if it is a dry day under foot, when you have just passed the barrier, you can turn right which goes down a woodland path, then over a small wooden bridge, which bring you out near the tram house. Then go right and straight up for the war memorial.)
- 5 Continue straight on until you get right up to the Ha-Ha wall where Heaton Park Hall now faces you to the left.
- 6 At the junction, turn right following the path counter clockwise around the base of the Temple Hill with the golf course on your right, continue along the woodland trail past the toilet block at the end of the trail on your left hand side.
- 7 On reaching the junction with the rear of Heaton Park Hall to your left and the Stables Café and Animal Farm to your right, cross over to the Stables outdoor seating / courtyard and take the path on the far right-hand side which follows the tree line on the left and goes up to the children's play area which will then be on your left.
- 8 Turn left at the car park and continue left along the main path/road passing the United Utilities reservoir on the right-hand side. Follow this road to the junction signed for the Garden Centre.
- 9 Turn left at the junction, passing the Bowling Pavilion on the right-hand side and the Garden Centre, set back at the top of the path by a small car park. *The Hidden Gem Café is located inside the Garden Centre.
- 10 When you reach the Garden Centre take the path to the right keeping the wooden railings to your left, through a wooded section keeping on the path passing through open parkland with the football pitches to the right. Continue along the path which now descends gradually back to the start point of the walk.



WALK NAME: Radcliffe, Outwood Trail and Canal-side Walk

ADDRESS: Radcliffe Leisure Centre Car Park, Springs lane, Radcliffe M26 2SZ

BUS SERVICE: 512; 524; 91: 98

DISTANCE: 4.9 km / 3 miles • DURATION: 60-90 minutes • STEPS: Approx 6,400

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 With the Leisure Centre behind you, turn right and walk along Spring Lane to the next pedestrian crossing.
- 2 Once across, turn left onto Darbyshire Street and cross the street following the path that goes through the trees and runs along the former railway line.
- 3 At the end of the street, cross Blackburn Street at the pedestrian crossing and continue straight ahead onto Pilkington Way.
- 4 Continue along Pilkington Way for about 20m, then take the path to the left that leads to the car park.
- 5 On reaching the car park, turn left onto Green Street, keeping the car park on your right and the wooden fence to your left. At the end of this path turn right onto May Street and continue to the end of the path.
- 6 Take the car park access road to the left, using the pavement on the right hand of the road. At the end, go right then immediately left down a steeply descending footpath.
- 7 At the bottom of this short path, turn right and cross Pilkington Way at the lights. (N.B. No light signals for pedestrians here.)
- 8 Once across, continue along the right hand side of Sion Street, taking care when crossing the junction with Hutchinson Way.
- 9 When opposite the start of the Outwood Trail, cross Sion Street and take the gently rising path. Be aware this path is initially a dual use path for both walkers and cyclists.
- 10 At the top, cross the bridge over the River Irwell. Once over the bridge, the path becomes triple use to include horse riders.
- 11 Follow this broad path straight ahead until it splits after about 600m. Keep to the right hand path.
- 12 After about 300m you will come to a very large sculpture. Turn right up a short incline to the junction, take the narrow gently descending path opposite. Follow this path downwards for a few 100m to the bank of the River Irwell which you now cross using the footbridge.
- 13 Once across the river, turn right and walk along Mount Sion Road for about 250m, ignoring the turn into the cottages on the left.
- 14 Turn left up the hill. Follow the track round to the right, ignoring an access road to a short terrace of cottages to the left.
- 15 Just before the brow of the hump back bridge, take the ginnel on the right. This leads down to the towpath on the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal.
- 16 Walking right, (back towards Radcliffe) keep to the canal towpath for the next couple of kilometres until the towpath leads up to the roadside to meet Water Street. In the area of the junction, a number of sculpted reminders of the canal age are to be found.
- 17 Turn left along Water Street as far as the pedestrian crossing, cross over the road and then turn right and cross again at the bottom of Ainsworth Road. Continue straight ahead crossing Knowles Street and the entrance to a care home facility before reaching the Royal Oak. Turn left down the left-hand side of the pub to re-join the canal towpath.
- 18 At the junction with the locally known banana path, turn right and follow the footpath to the end entering Spring Lane by Radcliffe Leisure Centre where this circular walk ends.





WALK NAME: Ainsworth Woods and Lodges Walk

STARTING POINT: Outside the Duke William Inn (PH), Well Street, Ainsworth BL2 5SQ

BUS SERVICE: 91; 510; 511

DISTANCE: 4.8 km / 3 miles • **DURATION:** 60-70 mins • **STEPS:** Approx 6,400

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From outside the Duke William Public House (set back on the right hand side of the main road through Ainsworth from Bury) take the first and second left turning into Knowsley Road. Proceed along this narrow little used road without pavements. In fine weather the views on the right are quite awe inspiring.
- 2 On reaching a crossways, turn right in front of Knowsley Cottages, after which the way becomes single file through the trees and through a gate. Continue across the edge of the field and through a second gate onto a farm road to a junction to another farm road.
- 3 Turn right onto the farm road until reaching a gate on the left for the path to Cockey Moor Wood. The path ends with a stile after which the path skirts a fence on the right, before turning left down an incline through trees.
- 4 At the bottom of the incline cross a footbridge over a stream and continue the rise towards the middle water lodge.
- 5 Pursue the path upwards in a straight line, leaving the lodge more and more to the left. In the corner of the field, pass through the kissing gate and along the narrow path.
- 6 At the end, turn left onto a dirt farm track passing a stone farmhouse and duck pond on your right. Where there is a gate across the path, cross the stile and follow the path between hedges into a field. Follow the path downhill to the footbridge crossing the lodge you can see ahead of you.
- 7 Cross the footbridge, turn left then bear right to a hedge line and wire post fence. Keep a lookout across the field on your right for a stile, then follow the path to the next stile before reaching Barrack Fold Farm through a gate.
- 8 Go through the farmyard, turning left then quickly right to cross a stile by the stables. The views on the next stage can be superb with Winter Hill etc. in the distance.
- 9 Continue on this rough farm track for some distance until reaching the stile to Arthur Lane. Turn left onto the footpath (this can be a road with fast traffic.) Walk along the footpath until you reach the garden centre on the opposite side of the road, where refreshments and toilet for customers are available.
- 10 (If leaving the garden centre) Cross the road again to resume the walk. Turn first left onto what appears to be a house driveway, but quickly turn left up a large step onto an ancient single pathway. Follow this path until you reach the rear of the Duke William Inn. Turn right, then under an archway to the front of the pub back to the start point of the walk.

BURY AS TOWN OF CULTURE

In 2020 Bury became the very first 'Town of Culture' in Greater Manchester, celebrating Bury's cultural heritage and the distinctive creativity of our Borough.

On receiving the accolade Councillor David Jones, Leader of Bury Council remarked that the Borough 'are delighted and honoured to be chosen as the Greater Manchester Town of Culture... it is a fitting recognition of what we have here, coming shortly after we unveiled a statue to Victoria Wood, arguably Bury's most famous daughter and loved by millions.'

It was Victoria Wood's work which inspired the Town of Culture bid, based on the concept of happiness – how Victoria approached her work and wanted her audience to feel – and was described by Greater Manchester's Mayor, Andy Burnham, as "powerful concept that was uplifting and life affirming". The impact of culture on happiness and wider wellbeing will be a legacy of the time as town of culture.

The Borough's culture heritage is rich – from mainstream performers such as Elbow and Oscar winner Danny Boyle to a vibrant community arts scene; award winning venues and attractions; and heritage in the form of transport, invention, military association and of communities of interest.

Ever wondered about Bury's cultural heritage and where in Bury's Town Centre you might find such places of interest? Do you know the history behind the statues, gardens and museums, how they came to be or why they are there?

Follow our Bury Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk and let it guide you around our favourite 10 places of cultural heritage in recognition and celebration of Bury as the Greater Manchester inaugural Town of Culture.

EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

Bury Bolton Street railway station, first opened in 1846 and substantially rebuilt in the 1880s and again in the 1950s, is now home to the East Lancashire Railway. Winding through the scenic Irwell Vale along a 12 mile line, the East Lancashire Railway provides a truly unique journey past quaint villages and rural vistas, where passengers can take in the sounds, smell and stunning surroundings of this heritage railway.

BURY TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The industrial heritage of the North West is brought to life before your very eyes at Bury Transport Museum, which houses a collection of vintage vehicles including buses, steam rollers and trams. Hands-on interactive exhibits explain the development of transport in the North West, how the Goods Warehouse, (now the Museum), was used and the types of materials that would have been handled here.

SIR ROBERT PEEL STATUE

Born in Ramsbottom, Bury, in 1788, Sir Robert Peel founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829 when Home Secretary to Lord Liverpool's Tory Cabinet and twice served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom in 1834-35 and again in 1841-46. In Britain today many still commonly refer to police officers as 'Bobbies' although originally when the Metropolitan Police first patrolled the streets of London they were also known as 'Peelers'.

THE ROCK

Opened in July 2010 The Rock is a mixed-use scheme offering a shopping, dining and leisure experience all within one complex, meaning you can stay all day and all evening as part of Bury's Purple Flag accredited town centre – the first in Greater Manchester! Unlike other North West shopping centres, The Rock is uncovered and has been developed around Bury's historical street layouts.

BURY MARKET

Bury's 'World Famous' Market has been in operation for nearly 600 years. Now with over 350 stalls the market has quite the collection of accolades including; Market of the Year 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015 and more recently voted Britain's Favourite Market in 2019. No wonder this award winning market continues to bring in over 1,000 coach loads of visitors to Bury year after year.

KAY GARDEN

Born at Park Farm, Bury in 1704, John Kay invested his famous "picking peg" in 1733, which made the shuttle in his hand loom move more quickly. It became known as the "Flying Shuttle" and revolutionised cotton weaving, quadrupling human power and placing England in the front rank as the best market in the world for textile manufacturers. With this, the town of Bury and the surrounding area grew at an astonishing rate.

FUSILIER MUSEUM

The Fusilier Museum is home to the collections of the 20th Lancashire Fusiliers and the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers. Together they record over 300 years of history and heritage of the people who served and continue to serve in the regiments from 1688 to the present day. You can visit the museum to learn how the Lancashire Fusiliers resulted in 'six VCs before breakfast' at Gallipoli and the military heritage of the Borough.

BURY ART MUSEUM AND SCULPTURE CENTRE

Bury Art Museum, housed in a distinctive Edwardian building, is the perfect place to enjoy art and find out more about the rich history of Bury and the surrounding area. Showcasing the best of international and local art Bury Art Museum can truly offer something for all interests. The collections and exhibitions are supported by a range of activities and events which allow visitors to explore and enjoy the Gallery and Museum further.

VICTORIA WOOD STATUE

Born in Bury on 19th May 1953, Victoria Wood CBE, was a comedian, actress, singer, composer, screenwriter, producer and director who wrote and starred in dozens of sketches, plays, musicals, films and sitcoms over several decades. Victoria's live comedy act was interspersed with her own compositions, which she performed on the piano where much of her humour was grounded in everyday British life, where she included observations of culture and satirising aspects of social class.

THE MET

The Met is a stunning, award winning, live music venue noted nationally for its specialist folk music programme. Having recently undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment, it incorporates two modernised performance spaces and Edwin Street Creative Hub which includes a Recording Studio. The Met is also the proud organiser and promoter of the Head for the Hills festival and has been named Cultural Venue of the Year 2018 and 2019 by the This Is Manchester Awards.



WALK NAME: Bury Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk

STARTING POINT: Outside East Lancs Railway, Bolton Street, Bury BL9 0EZ

DISTANCE: 2.3 km / 1.4 miles • **DURATION:** 30-60 mins • **STEPS:** Approx 3,000

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

- 1 From the **East Lancashire Railway Station**, using the pelican crossing, cross Bolton Street turning left then right through Castle Car Park to the **Bury Transport Museum***.
- 2 From the **Bury Transport Museum**, once back onto Bolton Street, continue east crossing Market Place where you can see the Church of St Mary the Virgin set back in the corner to the left with the Robert Peel Statue positioned immediately before you.
- 3 From the **Robert Peel Statue**, follow The Rock Road with the church wall now to your left and continue along this road to join the pedestrianised shopping zone and follow the rainbow path to The Rock shopping centre.
- 4 From **The Rock** follow the pedestrian way past the shops, heading south east towards Rochdale Road. Follow the path round to the Mill Gate Shopping Centre, using the Parkade Entrance. Once in the shopping centre turn right then left and then follow the parade until you reach the jewellery shops. Turn left here and continue down the parade until you exit the shopping centre, with the famous Bury Market straight ahead.
- 5 From **Bury Market**, with your back to the Fish and Meat market, facing forwards towards the Millgate Shopping Centre, take the first left under the covering and continue until you reach the Bus Station. Follow the path to the right, with the Kay Statue now in sight and head into **Kay Gardens**.
- 6 From **Kay Gardens** with the Bus Station to your left, cross Haymarket Street at the zebra crossings and continue towards the end of Moss Street arriving at the **Fusilier Museum** and Tourist Information centre on the right.
- 7 From the **Fusilier Museum**, the **Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre** can be seen directly across the road to the left. To visit the Art Museum continue to the top of Moss Street and use the zebra crossing system to cross to the triangular pedestrian island before crossing back along a second zebra to reach the other side of Moss Street and the entrance of the Art Museum building.
- 8 From the **Bury Art Museum and Sculpture Centre** cross back to the central pedestrian island and cross again over a third zebra crossing to reach the Library Gardens straight ahead where the **Victoria Wood Statue** stands proudly before you.
- 9 From the **Victoria Wood Statue**, continue north up Silver Street until you reach the zebra crossing. Cross here and continue, turning right onto Bolton Street at the junction. Continue along until passing the roundabout on your left and cross Market Street at the zebra crossing. Once you have crossed onto Market Street, turn right towards Kay Gardens with **The Met** located only a few metres ahead on your left.
- 10 **Congratulations!** You have now completed the **Bury Town Centre Cultural Heritage Walk**. We hope you have enjoyed exploring and discovering some of the Town Centre's places of cultural interest and heritage and will come back and revisit soon.



We hope you have enjoyed your walk!

If so, please do let your family, friends and neighbours know so that they too can enjoy walking in our local greenspaces, woods and parklands and see for themselves what Bury has to offer. *If you use Facebook or Twitter, don't forget to include @BuryBePartOfIt and #BuryWalks in your post so we can share your positive experiences and walking selfies/photos/videos with our Bury followers.

If you have encountered any problems along the route, please do let us know by visiting our website at: **www.bury.gov.uk**

Click on the Report It option, then from the Roads, pavements and highways list, click on Public Rights of Way. From here you can select your issue and report directly using an online form, or Email/Telephone the Highway Network Services directly.

If you would like to join us on one of our local led walks, please get in touch at:

Bury Walk with Me

Bury Live Well Service, Sport and Physical Activity Team, Castle Leisure Centre
Bolton Street, Bury BL9 0EZ

Tel: 0161 253 7575

Email: walkwithme@bury.gov.uk

Website: www.walkingforhealth.org.uk/walkfinder/bury-walk-me

For convenience, and to share these self-led walks further, this booklet is also available to view online. To download and print additional copies of your chosen walk, please go to <https://gmwalking.co.uk/bury-self-led-walks> or visit The Bury Directory website at: www.theburydirectory.co.uk and search for Bury self-led walks.

Want to know more?

If you would like to know more about walking in other areas of Bury, or would like to join other local walking groups you may find the following links useful...

www.village-link.com

www.westpennineway.org

www.buryhf.org

www.buryramblers.com

www.hamish-nworienteering.co.uk

www.kramblers.org.uk

If you would like to plan your own walking route in the Borough, you can view all the recorded public footpaths and bridleways using the Bury Online Maps. To do this go to www.bury.gov.uk and click on Online Maps. Using the What would you like to do? menu, click on Choose Map Layers. Then tick the Public Rights of Way box.

Remember! Wherever and however you choose to walk, please always follow the Countryside Code **www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code**

Keep Safe, **www.ramblers.org.uk/advice/safety**, but most of all...

Enjoy the outdoors and have fun!