

HIDDEN WALKING GEMS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
 For further information contact Salford Ranger Team.
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 Clifton Country Park Visitor Centre, Clifton House Road, Swinton, M27 6NG

Go to www.salford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/cycling-and-walking/walks-in-salford for more walks from our hidden gems series.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Swinton Greenway follows the route of the Patricroft and Clifton Railway. From where the Greenway ends, the line went under a tunnel, locally called 'Black Harry'. Housing was built above it, but unfortunately in 1953 one of the early construction shafts collapsed and took two houses from Temple Drive with it, killing five people. After this the tunnel was largely infilled and the line was never used again.



Memorial plaque image © Nick Harrison



HIDDEN WALKING GEMS in Salford

APPROX
6m/9.5k
 CIRCULAR WALK

WALK **7** FREE ROUTE MAP

Irlams o' th' Height to Swinton

DID YOU KNOW?

Inglewhite is one of three big houses in Oakwood Park that well to do Victorian merchants built for themselves, wanting to live away from the busy city. The Haven and the Priors are now demolished and only the Priors stables remain, once used by Salford Mounted Police, now used by Langworthy Reds.

DID YOU KNOW?

Irlams o' th' Height gets its name from the Irlams family, who ran the Pack Horse Inn, which was located on the turnpike road from Manchester to Preston, and the Height part is because it looked down on the rest of Pendleton from its height. Queen St and Claremont Road show part of the early street pattern of the village, when it was a community of handloom weavers.





START

Start in Aldi car park, M6 7NJ. As you face the store entrance, note the low brick wall on your left, separating the car park from the road, with the gap at the end. Go through this, turn right and walk past the shops. Turn right down Queen St.



1.

Turn left onto Claremont Road, walk a short distance then turn right onto Godfrey Road. Walk to the end then enter Lightoaks Park. Lightoaks was opened as a park in 1925. It has a duck pond, play area and multi-use games area. Walk past the play area, bear right, pass the outdoor gym, and take the exit after the primary school grounds.

LIGHTOAKS PARK, VOTED SALFORD'S FAVOURITE PARK IN 2020

2.

Turn left onto Park Lane. At the end, cross Swinton Park Road and walk into Oakwood Park, passing the large white building called Inglewhite on your left. Cross the car park, enter woodland, take a left and walk straight on the path through Oakwood Park, past the rugby pitches. At the end is Lancaster Road. Look for the mini roundabout to your left, cross over here and turn onto Branksome Drive. Walk to the end of this road, then turn left onto Welwyn Drive. At the end of Welwyn Drive, walk down the ginnel with the playing fields on your



left, emerge on the corner of Hereford Road. Turn right, walk to the end, and look carefully to your right for another ginnel between the houses. Go down here, turn left, and walk straight along this rather wild path. Look out for goldfinches which like feeding on the thistles here.

3.

After passing Oakwood School buildings, the path splits. Turn right, cross the stream, and continue with Salford College grounds now on your left. When you are nearly at the end of the grounds, turn right onto Swinton Greenway.



4.

Continue along for a while, going under the bridge of the A580 East Lancs road. Eventually, you should come out onto Overdale, near the Primary School. However, ignore this exit and bear left, continue along the Greenway with the green railings to your right, and walk along until the route finally brings you out onto Hartsprings cul de sac. Turn right onto the A6 road. The Farmers Arms, an old inn on this ancient route, stands here, and is a great place to stop.

5.

From here you have got the option of turning left and walking along this road until you get to the Civic Centre and the Swinton shopping parade, but to finish the walk, cross the road and walk up through Victoria Park, pass

the bandstand which dates back to 1897, when the park was first opened. Walk to the far end, to its highest point, leave the park and turn right onto the road. Go through the ginnel which leads you onto Temple Drive. Just as this road bears right, take a left turning. At the back of the houses, take the right fork in the path, and continue straight for some distance. Ignore the footpath turning to your right to North Drive.



6.

Eventually you emerge onto Hospital Road. Turn right and walk down here. On your left is Oaklands Lodge, built in 1873 to house the first children's hospital in the UK, now luxury apartments. At the end of Hospital Road, you have a choice. You can turn left and walk along the A6, continue until you reach



the roundabout which you can walk underneath, and get back to Aldi car park.

Or, (only attempt this route if it has been dry for a while!) you can turn right, cross over carefully, and look for the Bridgewater Road turning on your left a little further on. After you spot this, turn left down through the woodland.



7.

You are now following the course of Folly Brook, between the backs of the houses. Take care: it is a lovely spot but very marshy underfoot. You should come out onto the A580. Cross over, walk down Lancaster Road

which is directly in front, and then turn left back into Oakwood Park again. Retrace your steps back through the park and come out onto Swinton Park Road, where you turn left and walk back up the road, back to Aldi.

