

# The Wharf Manchester City Trail, Castlefield, Greater Manchester



Easy Terrain

2.5 miles  
Circular  
1 to 1.5  
hours

080315



## Access Notes



1. The walk follows the paved towpaths and street pavements in the city.
2. There are no stiles or gates on route, just a few steps.
3. The route is almost entirely flat.

The Wharf is a great city pub with lots of nooks and crannies, open buzzy areas and a really cracking menu.

A 2.5 mile circular pub walk from The Wharf in Castlefield, Manchester. The walking route takes in some of the highlights of Manchester from the old canals and Gothic Revival town hall to the more recent additions such as the Civil Justice Centre.

## Getting there

Castlefield is a district just to the south west of Manchester city centre, close to where the A56 Chester Road crosses the A57(M). The walk starts and finishes from The Wharf pub on Slate Wharf. The pub has its own car park, but if this is full there is additional pay and display parking on the road too.

Approximate post code **M15 4SW**.

## Walk Sections



### Start to Tib Lock



Leave the pub car park back onto the road, Slate Wharf. Turn right passing the side of the pub and continue until you reach the water ahead. Take a moment to enjoy the wharf area here.

Castlefield district was the site of the Roman era fort of Mamucium, established in AD 79, which guarded the Roman road that ran from Deva Victrix (Chester) to Eboracum (York). Castlefield is a conservation area as a result of its rich industrial history. More of that later...

Turn left for a couple of paces and then fork left to join the path which leads you across the ornate white arched footbridge. At the far side of the bridge, keep right passing in front of a wharf-side bar. Turn right to cross over the first cobbled bridge, with Lock Number 92 to your left. Turn left onto the towpath which runs along the right of the canal.

You'll find this and many more walks at [iFootpath.com](http://iFootpath.com). All iFootpath walks are available to download on the iFootpath App, allowing you to follow your real-time progress on the live satellite map as you are walking (no more getting lost!). You can also add your own comments, ratings and photos to each walk. If you notice any changes required to this walk please contact us at [walks@iFootpath.com](mailto:walks@iFootpath.com)



Pass under the simple stone bridge (No. 100) and then the ornate red and cream iron structure which carries the railway overhead. The towpath leads you under Deansgate Tunnel and up a slope alongside Lock Number 91. Continue along the towpath with several bars and restaurants set into the old arches of Old Deansgate Locks to the left.

In 1804 the Rochdale Canal became the first of three trans-Pennine canals to be opened. It runs for 32 miles from the Castlefield Basin in Manchester to Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire. Principal cargoes included coal, agricultural produce and materials for the textiles industry.

Continue until you reach the next lock, Tib Lock, Number 98.

## 1 → 2 Tib Lock to Town Hall



Keep straight ahead along the towpath, with the canal to the left. You will pass a number of old mills and warehouses each side.

The building of the canal network triggered an early-19th-century factory building boom which transformed Manchester from a township into a major mill town that was granted city status in 1853. Improved efficiency from the canal halved the cost of coal and halved the transport cost of raw cotton. Manchester was, for a time, the most productive centre of cotton processing, and later became the world's largest marketplace for cotton goods. In Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, the term 'manchester' is still used for household linen such as bedding.

When you draw level with Lock Number 87, turn sharp right up the shallow steps and then turn right again to cross the bridge over the canal. Keep straight ahead along Princess Street. At the first crossroads, keep straight ahead signed to Town Hall. If you glance to the right down Faulkner Street, you'll see one of the ornate gates for the China Town district of the city.

You will pass the entrance to the Arts Centre on the right and a little further along you'll see the very large ornate town hall building to the left. Cross the tram line ahead with care, and then cross over Princess Street to reach the corner of the gothic town hall.

## 2 → 3 Town Hall to Deansgate

Manchester Town Hall is Grade I listed and is regarded as one of the finest interpretations of Gothic Revival architecture in the world. The foundation stone was laid on 26 October 1868, construction took nine years and used 14 million bricks. The exterior is dominated by the clock tower which rises to 87 metres and houses Great Abel, the clock bell.

From the corner of the town hall keep ahead to follow Cooper Street as it bends right, following the line of the town hall to the right. You will pass under two covered bridges which connect the original town hall to the extension building (built in 1938) to the left. You will emerge out to the corner of Albert Square. Here you can take more time to appreciate the town hall building should you wish.

Go ahead along the left-hand edge of Albert Square, passing Carlton House on the left. Beyond this, cross over the road to go



straight ahead along Lloyd Street. You will emerge to a crossroads with Deansgate.

## 3 → 4 Deansgate to End



Cross over Deansgate with care and take Harman Street directly opposite. Here you will have chance to enjoy the more modern architecture in this legal quarter of the city. You will emerge to Hardman Square.

Hardman Square is home to Spinningfields, developed in the 2000s as a modern business, retail and residential quarter of the city. It is often likened to being the Canary Wharf of Manchester. The flagship (and tallest) building here is the Civil Justice Centre built in 2007 which houses the County Court, the District High Court as well as other court services.

Turn left along the left-hand edge of the square (Byrom Street) and at the crossroads (with Manchester Opera House to the left) cross over Quay Street to continue on Byrom Street. You will pass St John's Gardens on the right.

Keep ahead until you reach the junction with Camp Street on the left and a development of flats ahead. Turn right here, along the paved Culvercliff Walk. At the end of the walkway you'll come to a T-junction with Lower Byrom Street, turn left along this.

You will pass the Museum of Science and Industry on the right, housed in the former Liverpool Road railway station. At the T-junction, cross over the main road and take the smaller road (Duke Street) opposite. Continue ahead on Duke Street heading down towards the railway arches. On the right you'll pass the Castlefield Roman Granary, ruins from the original Mamucium.

Pass under the first railway arch and then follow the pavement as it swings right running under the rail line. At the T-junction, turn left passing out from the rail line via another arch. Immediately after the arch turn right and then cross over the white arched footbridge. At the far side you'll find the Wharf for some well-earned hospitality.



## Disclaimer

This walking route was walked and checked at the time of writing. We have taken care to make sure all our walks are safe for walkers of a reasonable level of experience and fitness. However, like all outdoor activities, walking carries a degree of risk and we accept no responsibility for any loss or damage to personal effects, personal accident, injury or public liability whilst following this walk. We cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies that result from changes to the routes that occur over time. Please let us know of any changes to the routes so that we can correct the information.

## Walking Safety

For your safety and comfort we recommend that you take the following with you on your walk: bottled water, snacks, a waterproof jacket, waterproof/sturdy boots, a woolly hat and fleece (in winter and cold weather), a fully-charged mobile phone, a whistle, a compass and an Ordnance Survey map of the area. Check the weather forecast before you leave, carry appropriate clothing and do not set out in fog or mist as these conditions can seriously affect your ability to navigate the route. Take particular care on cliff/mountain paths where steep drops can present a particular hazard. Some routes include sections along roads – take care to avoid any traffic at these points. Around farmland take care with children and dogs, particularly around machinery and livestock. If you are walking on the coast make sure you check the tide times before you set out.

