

Trail Trips - Mersey Meander - Sale Water Park - Northenden - Urmston

Sale Water Park - Northenden - Urmston and return to Sale Water Park - 12 miles (19km)

Suitable for walkers and cyclists - this section is suitable for families who can shorten the route by turning back at any point

TPT Map 1 West: Irish Sea - Yorkshire



Mersey Valley Visitor Centre



Reserve at Mersey Valley Visitor Centre



From Sale Ees to Jacksons Boat

Start the route at the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre at Sale Water Park. Head away from the visitor centre on the pathway directly outside the centre door. Follow the pathway through Sale Ees and on to Jacksons Boat where you cross the bridge over the River Mersey. After crossing the bridge turn right onto the Trans Pennine Trail towards Chorlton Water Park, Northenden and Didsbury.

After running alongside the Mersey you will find signs to enter Chorlton Water Park. Go clockwise (left) around the lake (where you can also find the visitor centre). Take care to follow the signs for the Trans Pennine Trail (east) when leaving the park. Make sure that you follow the Northenden signs and soon you will find Kenworthy Woods, which you pass through before reaching the Northenden Riverside Park. Cross the main road to access the riverside park and proceed down the pathway until you get to the end. At this point turn around and follow the same route back to Jacksons Boat.

Instead of going back to the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre stay on the Trail through to the Chorlton Ees Nature Reserve. Pass through the reserve but take time out to check the biodiversity. Chorlton Ees is a network of trails winding through meadows, woodland and rough grassland. You will come across well-established ponds hidden amongst the trees and may find the unusual adders tongue fern amongst the greenery.



Jacksons Boat



After leaving Jacksons Boat for Northenden



Chorlton Water Park

TPT route maps can be obtained from the Trans Pennine Trail office if required:

**Trans Pennine Trail, c/o Economy Culture and Housing,
PO Box 597, Barnsley. S70 9EW Tel. 01226 772574
info@transpenninetrail.org.uk www.transpenninetrail.org.uk**



View over Chorlton Water Park near the visitor centre



Take care to follow the signs for Didsbury and Northenden



Turn left in Kenworthy Lane

The Trail is particularly well signed in this area and just keep following the Trans Pennine Trail (west) signs until you take the bridge over the M60 motorway and ride on through the picturesque Kickety Brook which takes you on to Urmston and the A6144 where you can turn around and return to the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre and the end of the ride.

Getting there: To get to the Sale Water Park and more particularly the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre take the M60 motorway until you reach Junction 6 (either direction). If you are travelling eastwards take the exit and turn left at the roundabout. If you are heading west use the same junction 6 but bear right under the motorway before taking the left turn signed Trafford Water Sports Centre.

Useful information: On the route you will pass through or be within close distance of Sale Water Park, Chorlton Water Park (Manchester's first designated local nature reserve is one of the most popular spots in the Mersey Valley), Kenworthy Woods, Chorlton Ees Nature Reserve, Broad Ees Dole Nature Reserve and Kickety Brook. Within these areas you can see a broad array of birds, wildlife and botany.

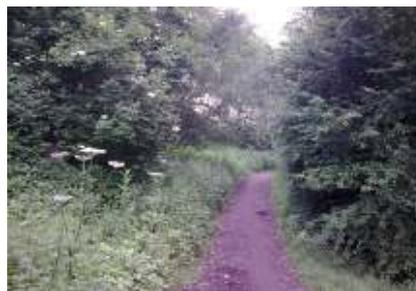
Of note is Jacksons Boat or Bridge which dates back to 1700-1800. Jackson had been a farmer who provided a ferry service in his boat but the bridge was built in 1816 and there was a toll of half a penny to cross it!

When using this route take great care to follow the signs as there are tracks shooting off the TPT at regular intervals all the way through the route.

There is an excellent café and toilet facilities at the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre and also there is the pub at Jacksons Boat.



Chorlton Ees



Picturesque Kickety Brook



To Sale Country Park via Hawthorn Lane



Cross the road into Northenden Riverside



Turn back here for return journey at the



Going out towards Stretford