

Mersey Valley Footpath Network Walk 1

Stretford



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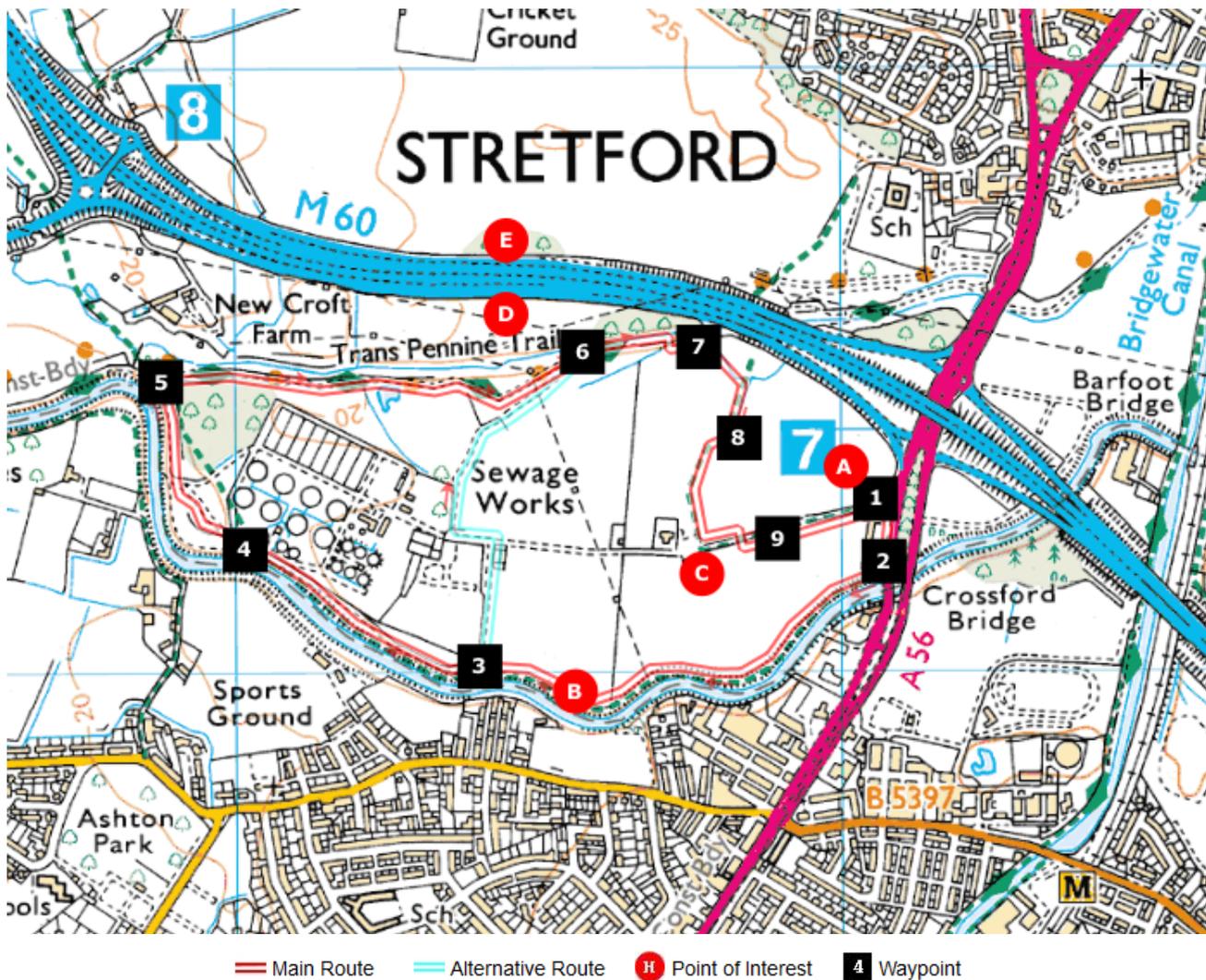
Starts at Bradley Lane, Stretford SJ791933

1 hours 0 minutes | 2.1 miles 3.4 km | Leisurely

Developed by: Ramblers Trafford Group Footpath Mapping Team

(Note re text: *if in italics - local information; if in red - safety information*)

A 2-mile circular walk in an area which has few through routes, which are consequently little used. Walkers will find significant points of interest, and walking the route will help to keep down vegetation in some areas.



Terrain: a (short) main road pavement, a country lane, paths and tracks, fields (which can be muddy), and a stretch of river bank (the adjacent River Mersey is an attractive feature but care must be taken to stay on the river bank track and away from the water. Children and vulnerable adults should be supervised).

All the information on this site is designed as a guide only - readers take full responsibility for any use they make of the information. We've tried our best to make the route information as accurate as possible but obviously there will be some differences between maps and the actual terrain. 1

Maps: O.S. Explorer 277, Landranger 109. (note that the map above is not up to date; for instance, the Trans Pennine Trail (green diamonds) no longer continues under the M60; instead, it turns back at Waypoint 6 and crosses the M60 over a new bridge, marked by red discs (D) and (E).

Starts at:

Kiwi Nurseries, Bradley Lane, Stretford, Manchester M32 8RH, where there is a car park (red disc "A" on the map) which you are welcome to use but, if possible, go in and let them know before starting your walk.

Getting there:

By car: driving north along A56 from Dane Road traffic lights, turn left into Bradley Lane 100m north of the bridge over the River Mersey. Use Kiwi Nurseries car park immediately on right as you turn into Bradley Lane (photograph on page 4).

If driving south along A56, move into the outside lane before the Mersey bridge and continue 100m beyond the bridge to find a turning lane across to the northbound carriageway.

By bus: (a) northbound: bus stop outside TGI Friday's just south of the Mersey bridge;

(a) southbound: bus stop 100m south of the Mersey bridge;

Bus passengers, or walkers from the south, should start the walk just over the bridge at the footpath sign (see [1] below)

The Route:

Notes:

Numbers [1] to [8] below correspond to the marked (black) Waypoints on the map. Letters (A) to (E) next to red discs correspond to Points Of Interest (POI). The first POI (A) is next to Waypoint [1] and is the CAR PARK (see the "Starts at" and "Getting There" sections above).

Route instructions:

[1] Start at Kiwi Nurseries in Bradley Lane (nursery sign boards on A56 100m north of the Mersey bridge). Bradley Lane is a narrow private road, so roadside parking is not advisable. You are welcome to use the nursery car park but, if possible, go in and let them know before starting your walk.

Turn left out of the car park, then right along the A56 for 100m.

[2] There is a Walking Man sign here. Make your way along the Mersey bank path, a good level path which runs 10 feet below the high bank.

(B) After 500m, as trees approach on the right you will see that the river turns into "rapids" as it falls over rocks (see photograph on page 4).

A short way further on, as the river bends left, the broad track branches: to stay on the main route, keep to the lower level. The branch to the right rises, leading to a point where a shorter, alternative walk option turns off.

[3] The shorter option (1.5 miles) should be clear from the map. From the top of the rise to the right, the route follows a Mersey Valley Authority path northwards to Bradley Lane; after 30 metres to the left along the lane, another MVA path continues northwards to another waypoint (no. 6 below).

If on the main route, continue along the river bank for 400m.

[4] At this point (floodlights across the river, sewage works fence on the right), the track continues along the river bank, but the official "definitive" path branches right (though not where the map shows it going through the sewage works!) and rejoins the river bank further on. This route should be used for preference in order to maintain the line of the definitive path.

[5] As the river again bends to the left there are gates and barriers ahead and to the right. Turn right along the Trans Pennine Trail, a broad gravel track.

[6] After 700m a track from the right crosses diagonally and heads left (before turning back left towards the new bridge over the M60 - not shown on the route map). But our route continues forward here. About 60 metres before the motorway bridge look for a right turn between saplings to a footpath sign and a stile. Cross the stile.

(D & E) The position of the new bridge over the M60 is shown by the red discs ("D" and "E")

[7] Turn left along the field boundary. Keep to the left if you can, but aim to minimise damage to growing crops. The field edge turns to the right alongside the bank of a ditch, past a tree to a bush at the end of the ditch.

[8] From here, looking straight ahead, the aim is to reach a gap in the hedge (not always easy to see from here) just to the left of the raised tip area. From the bush, the official right of way curves off to the right, following the line of an old and filled-in stream. Nowadays this is usually part of cultivated land, so the realistic way is to follow a line straight ahead, following the usual good walking practice of avoiding crop damage where at all possible. Aim for a telegraph pole. In recent years this line has formed the boundary between two crops, where each crop grows thinly.

Reaching the tip area, follow the field edge round to the gap in the hedge (just before a street lamp - there is a footpath sign). Go through the gap and turn left.

[9] Follow Bradley Lane to return to the start (**narrow lane - watch for traffic**). *(C) However, a 100m diversion to the right will reveal some working yards; in the yard on the left, interesting "pod" houses are manufactured (see photograph on page 4) and there are usually one or two to be seen under construction.*

Acknowledgements

Developed by Martin Elliott for Ramblers Trafford Group (RTG) January 2013, and checked by other members of the RTG Footpath Mapping Team and, where relevant, representatives of Mersey Valley Authority and Sustrans."

The Ramblers is Britain's walking charity. We work to safeguard the footpaths, countryside and other places where we all go walking. We encourage people to walk for their health and wellbeing. To become a member visit www.ramblers.org.uk





A56 northwards through Sale just after the Mersey bridge, approaching the start of the walk - turn left into Bradley Lane ("A")

Photo taken by: Martin Elliott



"Rapids" on River Mersey at SJ785929 ("B")

Photo taken by: Martin Elliott



"pod" houses at SJ787922 ("C")