

All in your stride... Moston Brook area

35-45
MINUTES
2.2KMS

For a shorter walk, turn left under the brick underpass and keep left until you arrive back at the Rochdale Canal. Cross the bridge, with Failsworth Top Lock 65 on your left. Turn right onto the canal and return along the same route to Failsworth Town Hall.

Turn left onto Hale Lane and left onto Hardman Lane, passing Failsworth Metrolink stop.

6 Turn Left onto Old Road and follow until it rejoins Oldham Road A62, opposite Failsworth Town Hall.

The Failsworth Industrial Society Old Road branch was formally opened on 24 September 1898. A 686 square yard site was purchased for £205. A grocer's shop, a butcher's shop and three houses were built with a reading room above one of the shops. The buildings were erected by Jonathan Partington of Middleton Junction, from the designs of F W Dixon, the architect. The expenditure on the shop premises was £2385, and on the houses £805 14s 11d.

7 Joseph Burgess was born at 64A Old Road on 3 July 1853. He was a Christian Socialist and spent his life, talents and energy in the cause of the working class.

Aged just six, he began work in a card-cutting room as a cotton operative until he was 28 when he became a correspondent for a local newspaper. His talents as a journalist could have earned him an easier life, but he refused to compromise to satisfy the print employers. Burgess established and worked for a number of socialist papers including the Yorkshire Factory Times and Bradford Pioneer.

He was active in the creation of the Independent Labour Party (ILP), a socialist party established in Bradford in 1893, which was affiliated to the Labour Party from 1906 to 1932. He was elected as a member of Glasgow City Council between 1902 and 1905.

Burgess married three times, had six children and died in January 1934. A blue plaque in his memory was unveiled in October 2007.

 **JOSEPH BURGESS**
1853 - 1934

5 Continue along the top path, passing the canal and the dark grey brick Metrolink underpass. Don't take the steps down to the brook, remain on the path. Where the path forks, keep to the right and continue until you reach Hale Lane.

Moston Brook valley is a green corridor linking Failsworth and Moston. Sections of the brook have riverside paths and there are lots of walking routes through the woodlands, linking with the Rochdale Canal. The brook even has a nature reserve at Moston Fairway. From earlier industrial uses the brook has been transformed and flourished into an urban wilderness, great for spotting wildlife and getting fit!

4 The path leading from Belgrave Road to Wrigley Head was always known as "cutting across the white stuff".

This name persists even today with this area of the brook being known locally as "The White Stuff", "The White Hills" or even "The Chalkies". The "stuff" was a white ash/chalky material tipped on site. Folk have fond memories playing on the hills.

By the early 1980s the land on the brook was reshaped and paths created and the White Hills are no more.

Leave the canal at the Wrigley Head canal bridge, (Bridge 78). Cross the bridge and turn left onto Moston Brook.

3 The Rochdale Canal runs for 32 miles (51km) across the Pennines, from the Bridgewater Canal at Castlefield Basin in Manchester to join the Calder and Hebble Navigation at Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire.

It opened in 1804 and reaches Failsworth at Bridge 78 Wrigley Head.

There are seven further bridges in Failsworth and four locks numbered 65 - 68.

2 Walmsley's Corn Warehouse has seen a variety of uses since it was built. It has been a printers with a stationery shop at the front, a plumbers merchants, two bars, an import & export company and a kitchen store. I wonder what will come next? Hopefully, not the demolition squad.

1 START outside Failsworth Town Hall & Library. Continue straight ahead across the road bridge and turn right heading down to the canal. At the towpath, turn right, under the bridge.

Failsworth Town Hall & Library was built in 1880 at a cost of £2600. The library was added in 1908 after receiving £3000 from American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. The library was opened on 16 October 1909.

The town hall façade was redesigned by E Ogden and P Cartwright to form a harmonious blend between the old and the new.



Did you know

Walking can help you reduce your stress levels, improve your mood and keep your bones healthy and strong. For example a 25 minute brisk walk every day can add up to seven years on your life, and walking for just 20 minutes can burn off around 100 calories.

Transport for Greater Manchester and its partners are committed to promoting walking throughout Greater Manchester, encouraging people of all age groups and fitness levels to get out and walk.

Thank you

This self-led walk has been created by the collaborative working of Transport for Greater Manchester, The Moston Brook Project and Friends group and the enthusiastic contribution made by local residents. A special and big thank you goes to the Action Oldham Fund as their funding will allow individuals and families to enjoy this scenic stroll.



All in your stride...

Moston Brook self-led walk

Failsworth Town Hall
& Library

Rochdale Canal

Joseph Burgess'
House

Moston Brook

A step-by-step guide of discovery

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