

WHITE ROUTE

Easy 1.5 miles (30 mins)

A nice level walk or cycle from the car park that takes in the fishing lodges, Lever Bridge and the main River Irk footpath.

Go through the gate in the direction of Middleton. Head across the meadow, following the footpath up to Alkrington Park Road.

TURN RIGHT here and either have a wander through Irkside nature reserve or go straight on to cross Lever Bridge.

TURN RIGHT and follow the River Irk footpath.

Follow the river as it bends right and cross the Iron Bridge.

TURN RIGHT, turning back into the picnic area. Continue through the second kissing gate.

TURN LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT AND RIGHT to follow the path around the Big Lodge to return to the car park.

Other Walks

You may wish to try walk or cycle from the Town Centre Gateway to Heaton Park (2 miles) along the River Irk path. Please note however, when you leave the reserve the path is badly eroded in places so be careful.

The Boardman Brook public footpath links the bottom of Mainway, Alkrington and Silburn Way, Rhodes (1 mile) it is mostly level and links to the Irk path

BLUE ROUTE

Easy 1.25 miles (25 mins)

Again a level walk or cycle. This may be suitable for pushchairs in dry weather.

Follow the main path out of the car park, past the Big Lodge and TURN LEFT; follow the River Irk until you CROSS Lever Bridge.

TURN RIGHT and follow the River Irk footpath.

Follow the river as it bends right and cross the Iron Bridge

TURN RIGHT into the picnic area. Continue through the second kissing gate.

KEEP LEFT through the small meadows and keep an eye out for the native wildflowers that thrive here.

TURN RIGHT when you approach Manchester Old Road and follow the edge of the Big Lodge and return to the car park.

YELLOW ROUTE

Medium 1.5 miles (40 mins)

This circular route involves some hill walks and rough paths but takes you through both Kitchen and Alkrington Woods.

Starting at the town centre gateway, follow the River Irk path and BEAR LEFT at Lever Bridge following the road up the hill towards the hall.

TURN RIGHT at the first footpath which takes you through Alkrington Wood and follow the top of the valley clockwise; travel through a small valley back to where you entered the wood.

Cross the grassed hill in front of the hall and enter Kitchen Wood near the bench.

TURN RIGHT then BEAR LEFT following the perimeter path towards the Manchester New Road entrance where you can drop down LEFT to the Irk Footpath.

TURN RIGHT at the river to return to the town centre Gateway.

RED ROUTE

Hard 3.0 miles (90 mins)

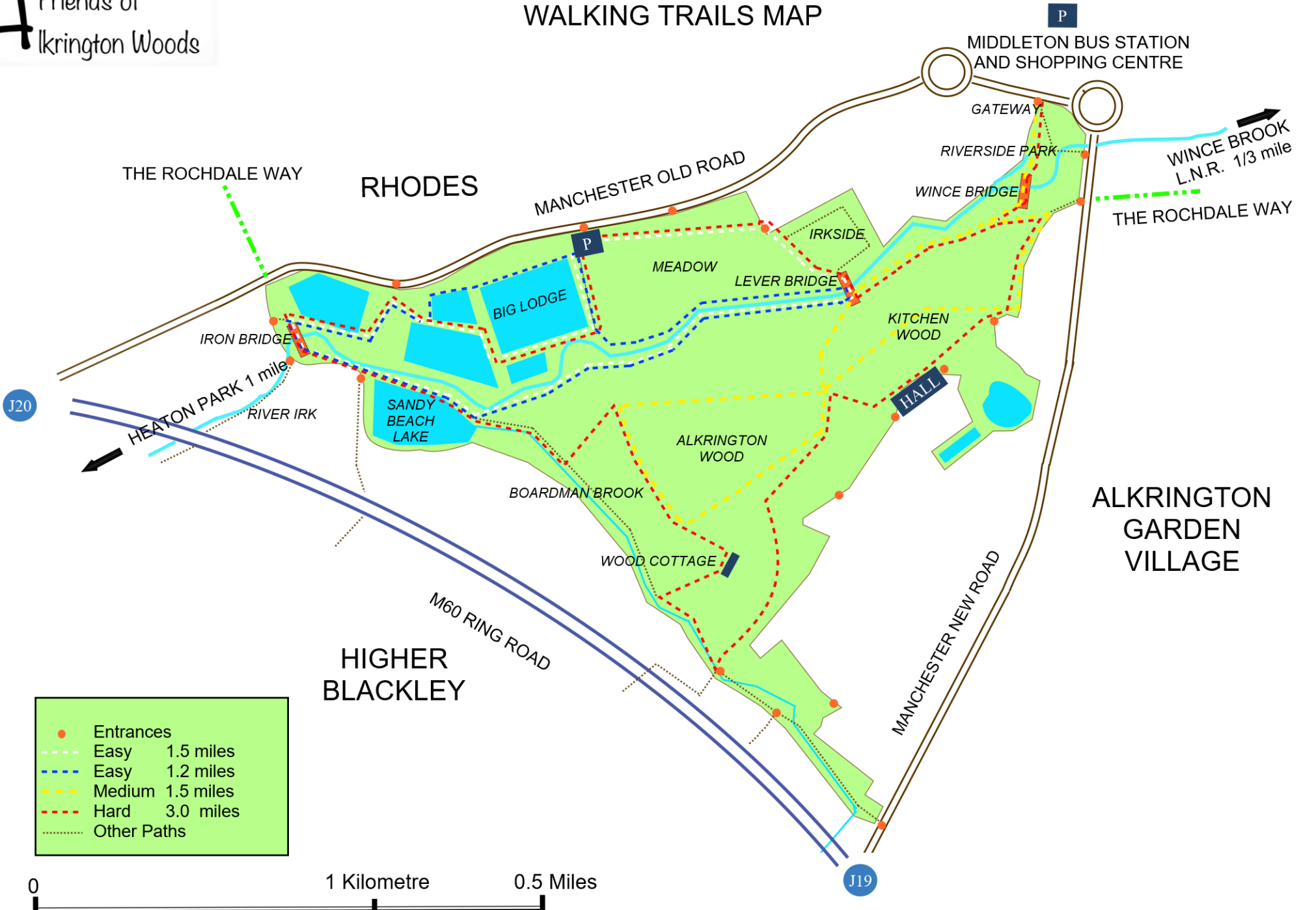
This route takes in most of the reserve so allow several hours to complete. It includes hills and muddy paths.

If starting at the town centre Gateway, cross Wince Bridge and, TURN LEFT and climb towards the Manchester New Road entrance.

TURN RIGHT up the wooden steps and keep on the perimeter footpath crossing in front of the Hall. Drop down the track and, TURN LEFT before reaching Wood Cottage, along a muddy path that skirts the back of Meadow Road, dropping down to a footbridge over Boardman Brook. TURN RIGHT and after a short walk,

TURN RIGHT up the track and TURN LEFT at Wood Cottage into Alkrington Wood. Follow the top of the valley until it drops steeply down towards the River Irk and, GO RIGHT towards the Iron Bridge. TURN RIGHT again turning back into the picnic area. Continue through the second kissing gate. TURN LEFT, RIGHT, LEFT following the path around the Big Lodge to the car park. Go across the Meadow, over Lever Bridge and keep left to return to the Gateway.

ALKRINGTON WOODS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE WALKING TRAILS MAP



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MIDDLETON BUS STATION AND SHOPPING CENTRE

GATEWAY

RIVERSIDE PARK

WINCE BRIDGE

WINCE BROOK L.N.R. 1/3 mile

THE ROCHDALE WAY

THE ROCHDALE WAY

RHODES

MANCHESTER OLD ROAD

MEADOW

LEVER BRIDGE

IRKSIDE

BIG LODGE

KITCHEN WOOD

IRON BRIDGE

HEATON PARK 1 mile

RIVER IRK

SANDY BEACH LAKE

ALKRINGTON WOOD

HALL

BOARDMAN BROOK

WOOD COTTAGE

ALKRINGTON GARDEN VILLAGE

J20

J19

HIGHER BLACKLEY

M60 RING ROAD

MANCHESTER NEW ROAD