

TOP RMHT Stage 04: Lymm to Leigh

↔ 12.1 mi

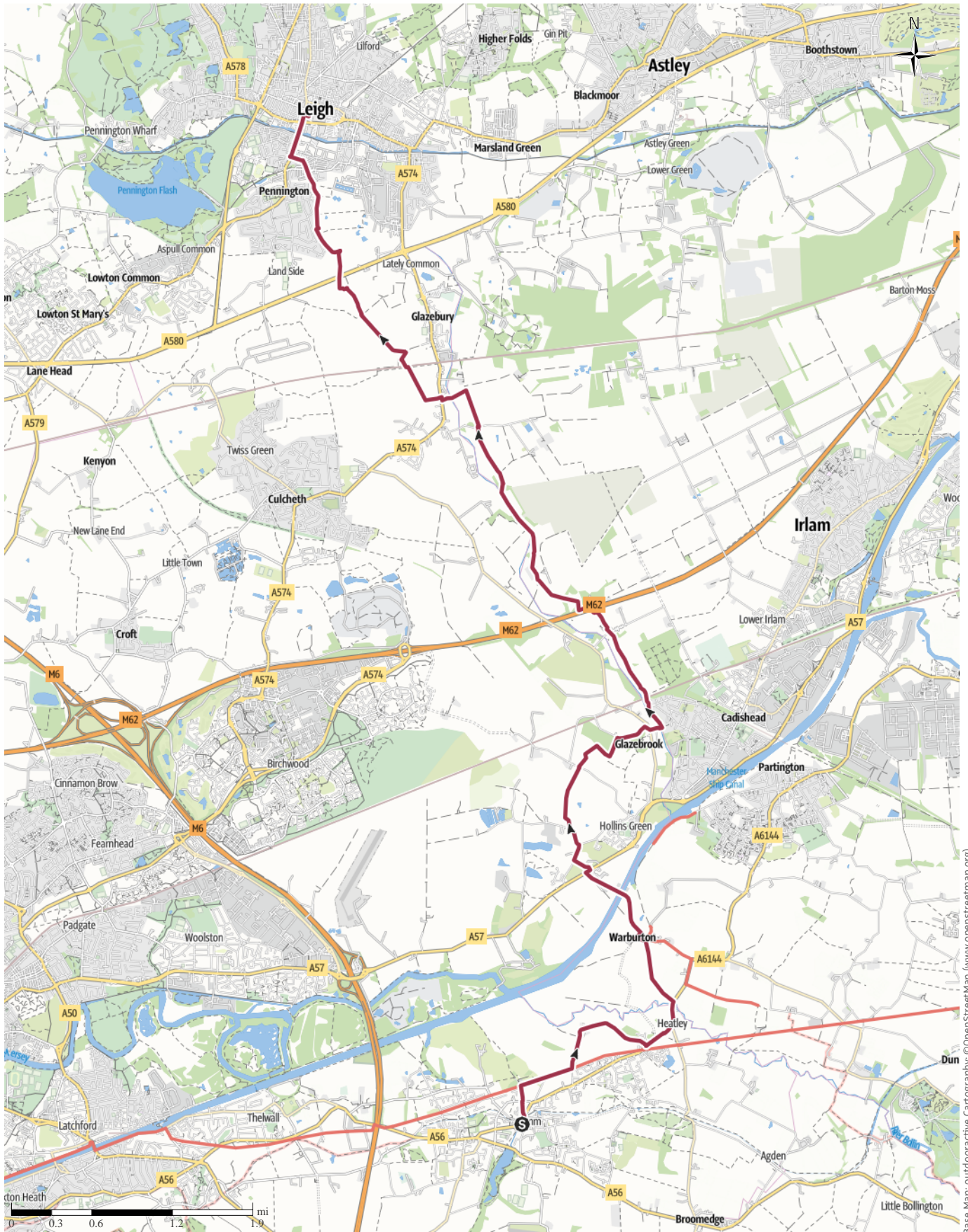
🕒 4:45 h

⬆️ 98ft

⬆️ 89ft

Difficulty

moderate



Base Map: outdooractive Cartography, ©OpenStreetMap (www.openstreetmap.org)

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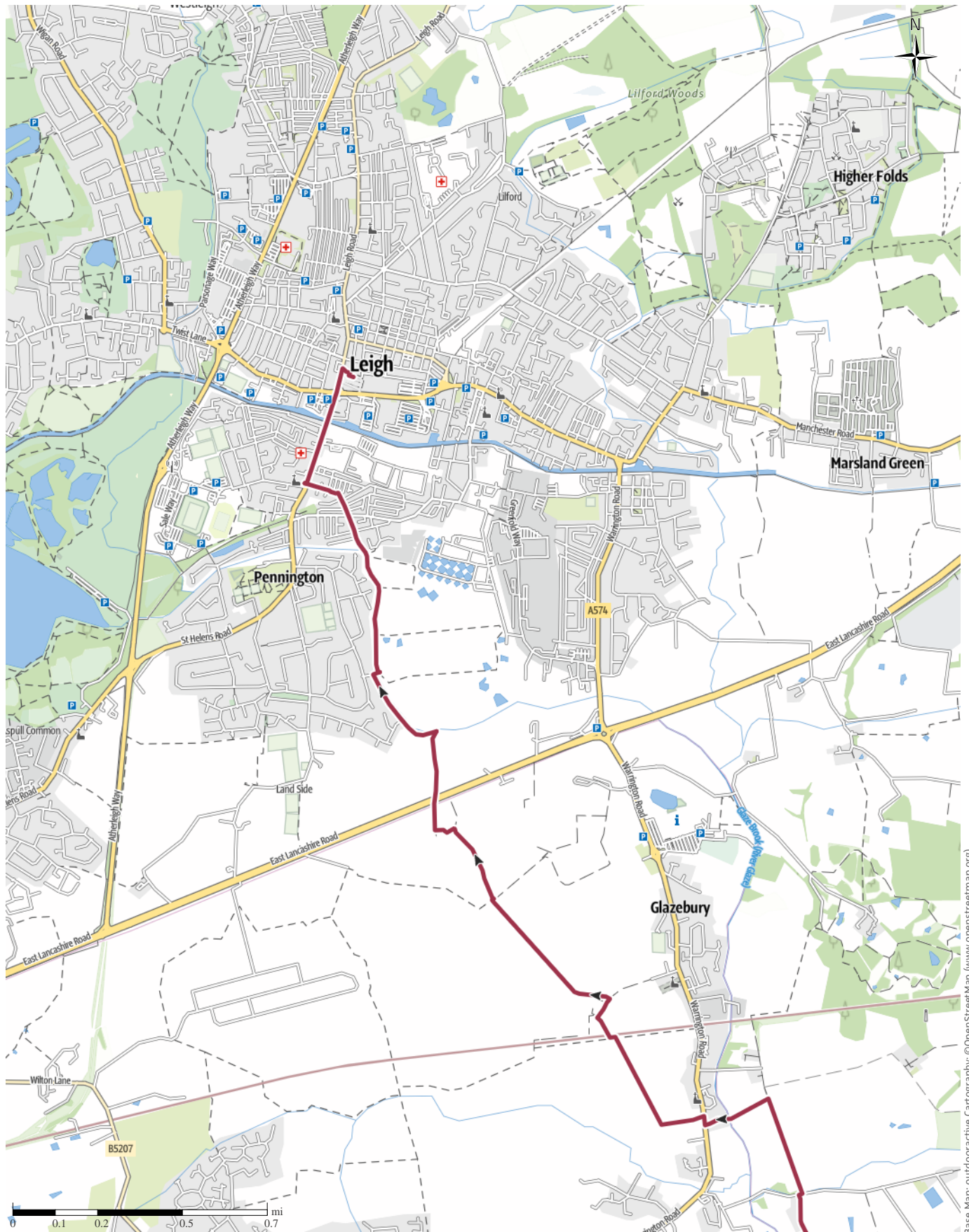
🕒 4:45 h

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⬆️ 89ft

Difficulty

moderate



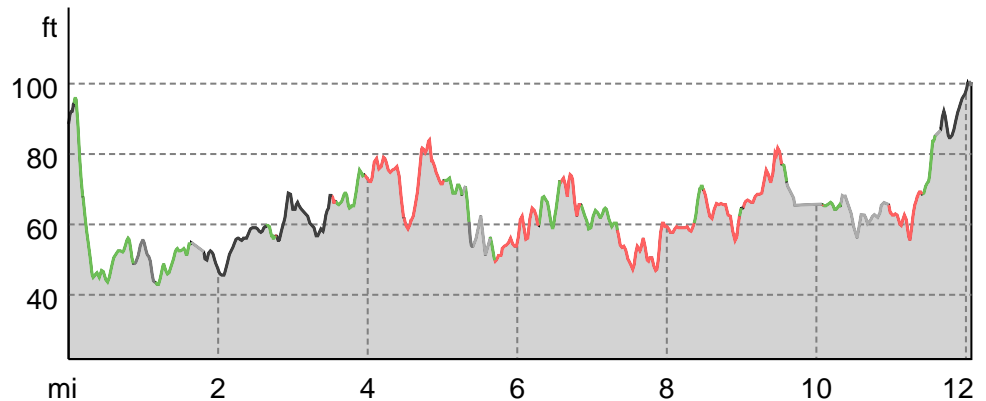
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Road surface

Asphalt	0.4 mi
Way	3.5 mi
Path	4.5 mi
Street	2 mi
Unknown	1.6 mi

Elevation profile



route data

Hiking route

Distance	↔	12.1 mi
Duration	🕒	4:45 h
Ascent	⬆️	98 ft
Descent	⬇️	89 ft

Difficulty	moderate
Stamina	●●●●●
Technique	●●●●●
Altitude	<div> <div></div> <div>102 ft</div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div>43 ft</div> </div>

Best time of year

JAN	FEB	MAR
APR	MAY	JUN
JUL	AUG	SEP
OCT	NOV	DEC

Ratings

Authors

Experience ●●●●●

Landscape ●●●●●

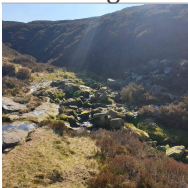
Community

More route data

Properties

Public-transport-friendly Linear route

Multi-stage route



Matthew Ball

Update: September 16, 2021

Stage 4 of the Round Manchester Hiking Trail: Lymm to Leigh via Woolden

Starting from Lymm Cross, we head across the Trans Pennine Trail, Reddish Lane and Townfield Lane and then through the flat Cheshire plane to the Toll Bridge over the ship canal at Warburton. There is some road walking in this section, but with good quality pavements and decent views this isn't too much of a problem. The crown of the Toll Bridge is the highest point of this walk, at 31m above sea level.

North of the Ship Canal, we pass through flat, open fields with big skies before joining the Glazebrook Trail

at Cadishead, and then follow this across the M62 and the two main Liverpool to Manchester railway lines. The countryside continues to be very flat, which on a sunny day can give an impressive sense of being in a very large space. Glaze Brook makes a charming companion on the way, and the planned lunch stop involves sitting down on the Brook's left bank.

After passing through the hamlet of Glazebury, where there is a possible pub stop at the George & Dragon, the path crosses the East Lancs Road before heading to Leigh town centre along Pennington Brook and past Christ Church. This is a flat 12-mile walk across mostly good terrain, but it is likely to be muddy in parts, and so should be rated as being of a moderate level of difficulty.

Author's recommendation

This route was walked by Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) on Saturday 25th January 2020.

As well as being a walking route in its own right, it is also Stage 4 of the Round

TOP RMHT Stage 04: Lymm to Leigh

Manchester Hiking Trail, a 13-stage long distance walk that completely encircles the city of Manchester. The Trail is designed to be accessible by public transport, and to take in a varied selection of the best scenery in the Manchester area. It is 157 miles long in total and has about 6,000m of ascent.

The Trail starts in Macclesfield, and then proceeds in a clockwise direction via the other twelve staging points (Wilmslow, Knutsford, Lymm, Leigh, Blackrod, Entwistle, Rawtenstall, Todmorden, Marsden, Hadfield, Edale, and Buxton) before the last stage takes it back to Macclesfield again to complete the loop.

Since 2019, Manchester Weekend Walkers (a branch of the Ramblers) have been walking each of the stages in order roughly once every four weeks (pandemic permitting), which results in the full loop being completed once every year. The first five stages cover mostly lowland territory, and so are walked in the winter months, leaving the sunnier parts of the year in which to tackle the hills that otherwise nearly surround Manchester on three sides.

As of the summer of 2021, it is intended that the Trail will at some point be registered with the Long Distance Walkers Association as an "official" long distance path, although this hasn't yet happened at the time of writing. However, all 13 stages are available on the Outdoor Active website and can be downloaded as GPX files.

Safety information

The crossing of the East Lancs Road (the A580) is something that needs some care and patience, as it comes near the end of the walk when people are likely to be tired.

Equipment

Good walking boots and otherwise sensible hiking gear.

Additional information

Tips and hints

Assembly Points:

At Lymm Cross there is plenty of space and also benches, as well as a Sainsburys Local if people need any last-minute provisions.

Stiles:

8 on the route, mostly in good condition.

Toilets:

There are no facilities at Lymm Cross, nor (obviously) on the bus, so the best places to go en route are at either Altrincham or Warrington Interchanges, both of which have 20p toilet facilities that are in good condition. After this, there are the woods near Bank Street just before Glazebrook Village. After that we are looking at the pub stop in Glazebury, 2/3 of the way in to the walk. At Leigh there are more 20p toilets in the Bus Station, near Stand A where the V1 service leaves for Manchester.

Obstructions:

None known as of Feb 2021.

Timings:

1:10 - St Werburgh's Church

1:25 - Warburton Bridge

2:20 - Glazebrook Village Green (possible lunch stop)

2:50 - M62 Crossing

3:25 - Glaze Brook opposite Crow Wood (late lunch stop)

4:00 The George & Dragon, Glazebury

4:50 The East Lancs Road

5:45 Leigh Bus Station

Bail-Out Points:

Although there is a railway station near Glazebrook, it is not great as a bail-out point as the services are only once every two hours. The Cadishead estate is better for bus services, with the number 67 running from Lord Street (right by the route) all the way to Manchester (journey time = 75 mins) with departures every 20 minutes during Saturday daytime. From the George & Dragon there is one bus per hour in each direction (Warrington or Leigh).

Alternative Route:

TOP RMHT Stage 04: Lymm to Leigh

If you fancy a longer walk, you could detour away from the Glazebrook Trail to head over either (or both of) Little Woolden Moss or Great Woolden Moss. Depending on how you do it, this will likely add ¾ mile to the route.

Lunch Stop:

Glazebrook Village Green works best for a small group. If you have got a large group and it is raining then Bank Street Woods. A large group also works well (in good weather) for the Crow Wood stop (i.e. on the banks of the River Glaze opposite Crow Wood).

Pub Stops En-Route:

The George & Dragon has a large beer garden and looks suitable, although I have only ever seen it from the outside during lockdown during 2021. The other (very near by) pub in Glazebury (The Glazebury) is lovely but would be best for small groups and it would be best to make sure everyone is comfortable with ditching their boots first as the interior is very nicely done up.

Post-Walk Refreshments:

Lots of places in Leigh, but the Waterside is close to the bus station and also has huge capacity both inside and outside. Right by the bus station, another George & Dragon has great atmosphere but would be best for small groups as it tends to be crowded.

Turn-by-turn directions**Starting point / trailhead**

Lymm Cross

Coordinates:

DD: 53.381152, -2.477761

DMS: 53°22'52.1"N 2°28'39.9"W

UTM: 30U 534738 5914799

w3w: ///pizzeria.equivocal.painting

Point of arrival

Leigh Bus Station

Turn-by-turn directions

Head north from Lymm Cross over the Bridgewater Canal, and then leave the main road to continue northwards along Dane Bank Road. Then continue through the crossroads before turning right to join the Trans-Pennine Trail once the edge of the housing is reached. Follow the Trail eastwards for about half a mile until you reach Reddish Lane, and then turn left. Follow Reddish Lane as it loops around back to rejoin the A6144 after about 3/4 mile. We then turn left,

staying on the pavement at the left-hand side of the road. Follow the A6144 until just after it bridges the River Bollin, at which point turn left again to follow Townfield Lane northwards until reaching Warburton Village. At this point we take a brief detour to the left along Wigley Lane to take in St Bartholemew's Church, before re-joining the road almost straight away to head across the Manchester Ship Canal to the traffic light junction with the A57.

The high point of the bridge over the Ship Canal is also the highest point of this entire walk, at 31m above sea level. Take care crossing the bridge over the Ship Canal, as the pavement is very thin and scratchy, so that you may have to dodge road traffic, although it should slow down for you on its way to the toll booth.

From the A57 (after a brief right-left shimmy) a small footpath heads northwest, leading us to Chapel Lane, onto which we turn right. Taking the left at the next junction on to Moss Side Lane, we are now looking for the first footpath turning on the right. This takes you onto a fairly clear and straight footpath heading north across a field. Stay on this path as it bends northeastward, crossing wooden bridges over drains and also Dam Lane, until we reach a wooded area barring the path ahead. Follow the wood around to its right to continue northeast to Bank Street, which you now follow eastwards to the village of Glazebrook. Cross the Village Green to your right and then look for residential road Carlton Way on the other side of the main road through the village, and follow that eastward, looking for the footpath to the bridge over the River Glaze. Immediately after crossing the river, turn left and head north across the open fields behind the back of the housing to your right. There is a faint path here which will lead you to a recreation area at which we can cross and rejoin the streets just as the housing comes to an end. Then keep heading north to head under the railway line (the main line between Manchester and Warrington) and join the Salford Trail, continuing north. We keep going straight on (passing through the farmyard of Great Woolden Hall) until we cross the M62, which we cross over on a footbridge.

Immediately after the motorway crossing, turn left through a rickety gate onto a very muddy path through a field (that may have some horses in it). Keep near to the motorway and you will soon see a newly built wooden gate, beyond which a fenced path leads you across a stream. On climbing the far bank of the stream, you will see a white cottage to your left - the path takes us just to the left of the cottage before joining a gravel track which bends round to the north again. We then head through another farmyard at Little Woolden Hall (this time with a collection of old tractors and other vehicles). Head for the windmill in the

distance on leaving the farmyard, and then bear left at the fork in the path to stay close to the river. We keep close to the river bank for the next 3/4 mile, and enjoy possibly the best scenery on the walk. The river bank here is also a good place for a lunch break, as there is plenty of space to sit down just off the path. The path presently veers slightly away from the river but continues in its vicinity northwards for about a mile (crossing one major path intersection on the way) before we reach the side turning that we need for the pub stop in Glazebury. The side path is to the left and is indicated by a signpost, and takes us across a field and a small bridge over the river. The George and Dragon is then to our right once the path meets the A574.

From the George & Dragon, cross the main road and head west along the footpath towards Fowley Common. Then at the next pathway intersection bear right and head towards the railway line. After crossing the railway line we bear right to skirt round a large complex of farm buildings – and then turn sharply left to head westward again. The path then bends in a northwesterly direction and becomes straight for about 3/4 mile on the way to Old Field Farm. As we approach the farm, the path is tricky to follow from the OS map because it has been slightly diverted. Instead of the right-of-way marked on the OS map, follow the actual track along the right-hand edge of the field until you pass a sheep-dip on your left, and then turn left to pass between the sheep-dip and a shed. From there you should pick up the waymarks again on the stile to your right. The footpath now takes you down a narrow lane to the East Lancs Road.

The crossing of the East Lancs road is dangerous because: (1) the traffic is moving very fast, 70mph; (2) it can be difficult to see if someone is overtaking; (3) tiredness by this stage in the walk might affect people's judgement of speed and distance, and (4) heavy legs may be slower to respond and move quickly if you need to speed up to get out of the way. If leading a group, it would be a good idea to gather them together in the narrow lane approaching the main road to warn people to concentrate on the road rather than on group interaction, until safely across – and also alert them to the danger factors mentioned above.

From the A580, the path continues northwards for about half a mile, crossing a small wooden bridge over a ditch on the way, before reaching Pennington Brook, which we now turn left to follow in to the built-up-area of Leigh. After about 1/4 mile we reach a footbridge, which we must cross to continue following the brook northwards along the opposite bank. After another 500 yards the brook turns left, but we carry straight on, leaving muddy paths behind to enter town streets. Follow Newlands Road, straight on at first, and then as

it bends to the left and heads for Christ Church in Pennington. On reaching the church, turn right and head along the main road, over the Bridgewater Canal and into the centre of Leigh. From the main crossroads in the town centre, you can head straight on to almost immediately reach the bus station on your right, or else left to get to the Waterside Inn for a post-walk pint.

Getting There



This route is conveniently accessible by public transport.

Public transport

The Cat-5 bus service shuttles backwards and forwards between Warrington Interchange and Altrincham Interchange, and Lymm is the half-way point on this journey, taking about 30 minutes from either terminus.

Altrincham Interchange is reachable by tram and train services from Manchester, as well as bus services more locally.

Warrington Interchange is accessible by frequent train services from Picadilly and Oxford Road stations in Manchester.

All of these services are covered by the GM Wayfarer ticket, at a cost of £14.70. This ticket can be bought from railway stations withing three days of using it. For more details see <https://tfgm.com/tickets-and-passes/wayfarer-adult> for more details.

Getting there

The return leg journey is from Leigh Bus Station, and heads towards Manchester on the V1 express bus service, which leaves Stand A every 20 minutes (early evening on Saturday) and takes about 45 minutes to get to central Manchester.

This service is also covered by the GM Wayfarer.

Takeaway route for iPhone and Android



Scan QR code, save this route offline, share with friends and more...

Website

<https://out.ac/IZGV4B>



View towards the winmill from Little Woolden Hall

Photo: Matthew Ball, Community

Legend

Topography

	Wood, forest
	Moor, swamp, marsh
	Moorland
	Residential building area with single building
	Industrial real estate with single building
	Cemetery
	Golf course
	Sportsfield, stadium
	Stadium
	Open-air pool
	Vineyard
	Petrograph
	Country border
	State border
	District border
	Contour line
	Special use area
	Nature reserve

Topographic single signs

	Summit cross
	Elevation point
	Rock
	Cave
	Church
	Chapel
	Cemetery
	Palace/Castle
	Abbey
	Monument
	Ruin
	Mine
	Cairn
	Broadcasting tower
	Windwheel
	Water-/windmill
	Viewpoint

Streets and ways

	Freeway with number
	Highway with number
	State, country, district street
	Village road
	Main agricultural road
	Agricultural road
	Trail
	Via Ferrata

Lifts, Railway

	Ropeway lift
	Gondola lift
	Chairlift
	Ski-, draglift
	Aerial ropeways
	Railway
	Suburban train
	Subway
	Tram
	Railway station