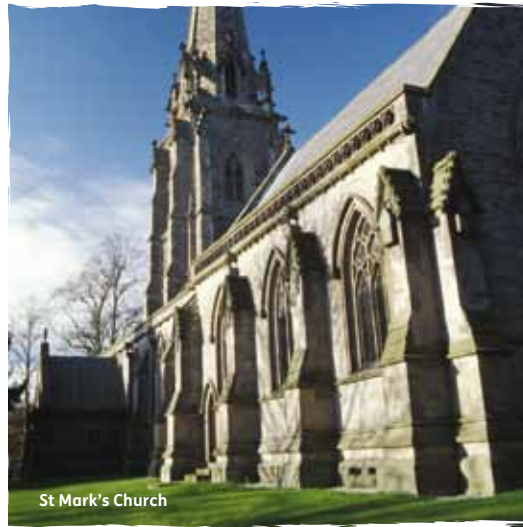




Nailmaker's House



St Mark's Church

# WORSLEY VILLAGE

## Manchester's Countryside

There's another side to Manchester

PACKET HOUSE - THE GREEN - WORSLEY WOODS -  
OLD WARKE DAM - KEMPNOUGH BROOK -  
ST MARK'S CHURCH - DELPH - BRIDGEWATER CANAL



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### ⑤ ST MARK'S CHURCH

St. Mark's was endowed by the 1st Earl of Ellesmere. The foundation stone was laid on 15 June 1844 by George Granville Francis Egerton, eldest son of the Earl, as part of his coming of age celebrations and was consecrated on 2 July 1846.

Leave the church grounds via the path to the right, heading through the church gate and turn left. Walk under the motorway bridge and take a left at the roundabout onto Worsley Road, keeping the Court House on your right

### ⑥ THE DELPH

Past the Court House, look over the bridge to your left to The Delph. It provided stone for the Bridgewater Canal construction and is also the entrance to the underground canal system – a total of 48 miles. Work started on the underground canal in 1759 and a million tons of coal a year was mined until 1887.

Cross over Worsley Road and take the footpath down by the side of the old red phonebox. Walk down the slope past the old white building on your left.

This is one of the oldest buildings in Worsley, dating from the 17th Century. Originally a residential dwelling, it became the Nailmaker's Shop when construction of the canal commenced.

Past the Nailmaker's House, follow the path and walk over Alphabet Bridge.

The bridge was so christened by scholars from St Mark's School who used the bridge and practised their alphabet on the 26 planks that made up the span.

### ⑦ THE PACKET HOUSE

Over the bridge on your left is the Packet House. Both the Packet House and the Boat Steps date from 1760. Passenger services started on the canal in 1769 and by 1781 there was a daily service between Manchester and Worsley. You would have purchased your ticket at the Packet House and boarded at the Boat Steps, directly in front of the house. Cruises on the canal can still be taken today.

Continue past the Packet House, up the slope to Barton Road, and cross over returning to the car park.

*This walk forms part of a series of walks and trails developed by Manchester's Countryside. For more information on Manchester's Countryside, including downloads of the walks visit [www.manchesterscountryside.com](http://www.manchesterscountryside.com)  
Telephone: 0161 253 5111  
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# WORSLEY VILLAGE

## DISTANCE:

3 miles/5 km

## STARTING POINT:

Start at Worsley Court House on Barton Road opposite the car park.

## HOW TO GET THERE:

**By Car** - the trail is easily accessible from the M60, with a public car park off Barton Road.

**By Train** - the nearest station is Walkden, which is approximately 2 miles from the start of the trail.

**By Bus** - regular services serve Worsley via Barton Road and Worsley Road including 26, 33, 61, 62, 68, 293 & 556

## GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

0871 200 2233 [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)

## PLACES TO EAT

Worsley village has a number of restaurants and pubs including Ambiente, Bridgewater Pub, The Barton Arms and The John Gilbert. The Quays coffee shop on Barton Road is also perfect for a drink and a light bite.

## WALK SUMMARY

This 3-mile circular walk around Worsley takes in the picturesque village, the Bridgewater Canal, its fascinating heritage and explores the rich woodland area of Worsley Woods.



Packet House

# THE WALK

## ① COURT HOUSE

It's difficult to imagine that Worsley, with its picturesque half-timber buildings, village green and tranquil canal-side setting, was once the birthplace of the 'transport revolution' in the 18th Century. But the building of the Bridgewater Canal, linking coal mines in Worsley with Manchester, was responsible for halving the price of coal overnight, fuelling the industrial revolution.

Worsley Court House was built in 1849 for the 1st Earl of Ellesmere to house the Manorial Court of Worsley.

From the Court House turn left and walk down Barton Road.

On your right is the Bridgewater Pub, named after Francis Egerton, 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, 'The Canal Duke'.

## ② BRIDGEWATER CANAL

At the Bridgewater Pub, turn left and cross over the canal using the hump-backed bridge. Pause on the bridge. To your left in the distance is the Packet House and the Boathouse, built by Lord Ellesmere to house a barge specifically designed for Queen Victoria's visit in 1851. To your right is the oldest example of a dry dock associated with a canal, dating from c.1761.

## ③ THE GREEN

On the other side of the bridge, take the path to your left and walk around The Green until you reach Worsley Road. The Green is not a traditional village green. Until c.1903 it was Worsley Yard, the centre of a busy, noisy industrial complex with a boat building yard, motor mill, timber yard, nail makers, wheelwrights, basketmakers and a warehouse. On The Green you will find a monument to Francis - 'The Canal Duke'.

The yard boasted an unusual clock that struck 13 at 1 o'clock, so workers could hear it over the noise of the yard. The clock is now housed in St. Mark's Church where it still strikes 13 today.



Cross Worsley Road and head left, then take the first road on your right. Continue to the top of Mill Brow until you reach Worsley Woods.

## ④ WORSLEY WOODS

Worsley Woods covers around 30 hectares and is a popular place for walking, cycling, running and horse riding. The woods were declared a local nature reserve in 2006, including a Site of Biological Importance, and are home to a huge array of wildlife and wildflowers.

Follow the path to your right, heading into the woods. After a short time, the path will lead you past an expanse of water to your left - the Old Warke Dam.

Old Warke Dam was built in the middle of the 19th Century as a private boating and fishing lake for the first Earl of Ellesmere. On the opposite side of the water is the Aviary, a black and white mock Tudor building, originally built in 1850 as a hunting and fishing lodge.

Continue along the path, bearing left at the end of the water, where the paths cross. Turn left at The Lodge and keep following the path.

The area to your right is known as New Plantation, originally planted around 1890 by the 3rd Earl of Ellesmere as a game reserve. On your left is Kempnough Brook which meanders alongside the path for the rest of the route through the woods.

Follow the path underneath the motorway bridge. Continue forward following the footpath, stay in the woods with the brook on your left. At the end of the path is Beesley Green's row of Tudor style cottages. Turn left, continue along Greenleach Lane to the junction with Walkden Road. Turn left onto Walkden Road, passing the Marriott Worsley Park Hotel & Country Club on your right. At St. Mark's Church, enter via the first gate on your left.