



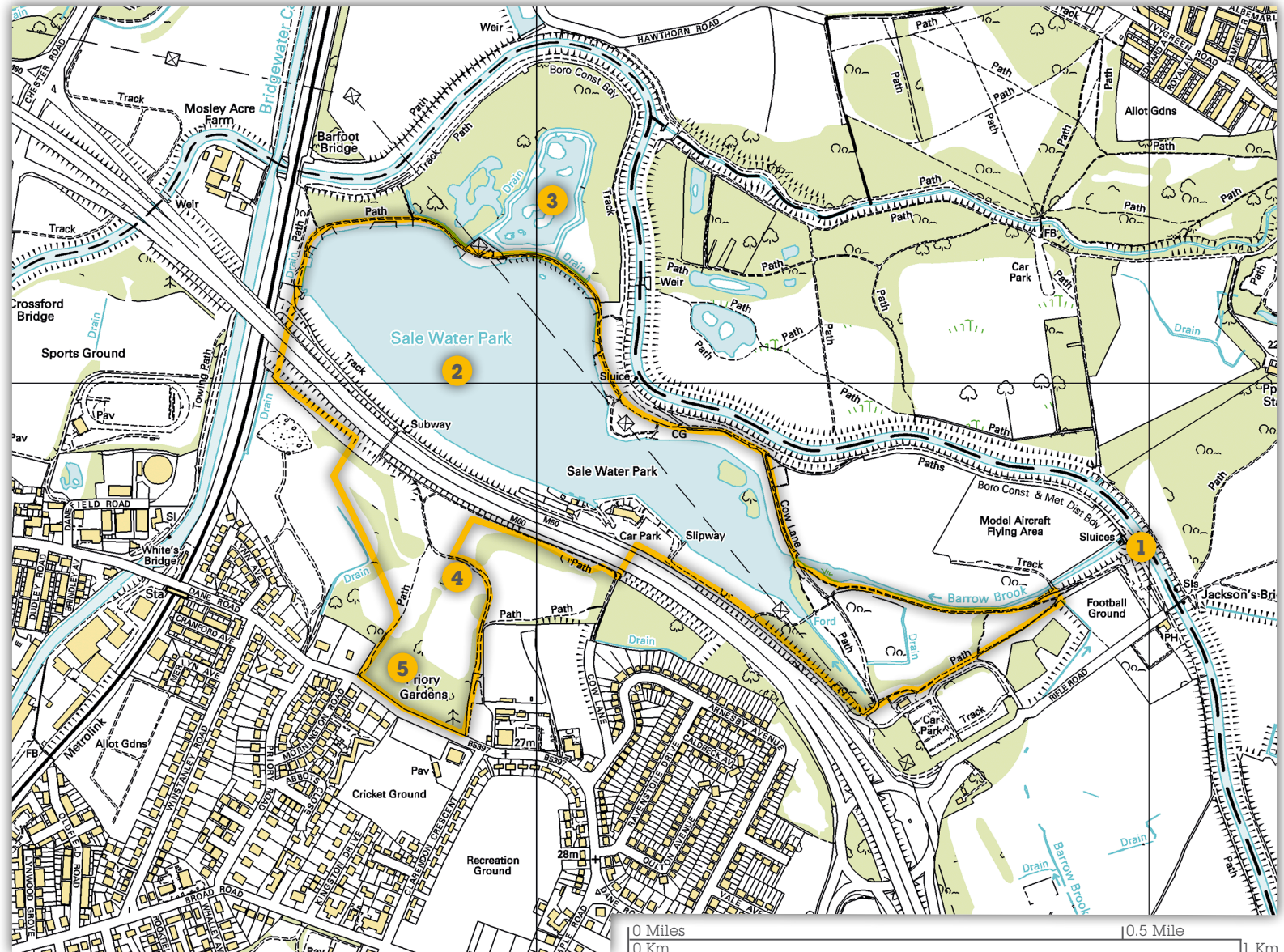
# SALE WATER PARK AND PRIORY GARDENS

 Distance: 2.4 miles / 3.9 km  Allow 1 hour

## ACTIVE TRAFFORD GREENSPACE

This walk is one of ten exciting routes designed to help you explore some of Trafford's most beautiful countryside and parks on foot.

Trafford supports a diverse range of open spaces from the historic Longford Park, to visitor attractions such as Sale Water Park and Dunham Massey. Recreational routes, such as the Trans Pennine Trail and Bridgewater Way, pass through the borough's heart, linking local communities and visitors to the Mersey Valley and beyond.





## WALK DESCRIPTION

This circular route takes in the wildlife and history of Sale Water Park and Priory Gardens. It passes along Barrow Brook and Broad Ees Dole before heading into Priory Gardens, via the underpass. Once here walkers can enjoy the tranquility of mature woodland or explore a number of trails around the meadow. The return loop guides people along a mature beech avenue and over the M60 footbridge to the southern section of Sale Water Park.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Paths are surfaced in areas but soft underfoot elsewhere. Some may become muddy after heavy rainfall. Suitable for off-road cyclists.

Sale Water Park offers access for wheelchairs and prams. Terrain more challenging in Priory Gardens.

## TOILETS

**Sale Water Park.**

## START POINTS

**Sale Water Park**, M33 2LX (recommended)

**Priory Gardens**, M33 2BY

## TRANSPORT LINKS

**Metrolink:**

Sale Water Park - Dane Road

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**1 Sluice Gate:** Sluice gates in Sale and Didsbury work in conjunction with each other to maintain water levels in the River Mersey and prevent flooding to local properties.

**2 Sale Water Park:** The lake occupies the site of a former gravel pit, which was excavated during the 1970s to create an embankment for the M60 motorway.

**3 Broad Ees Dole:** Trafford's first Local Nature reserve provides a variety of wetland habitats for resident and visiting birds. Herons, kingfishers and other species can regularly be seen.

**4 Priory Gardens:** Once home to co-founder of Manchester Royal Infirmary Hospital, Dr. Charles White (1728-1813) was also known for keeping the embalmed body of Hannah Beswick, the Manchester Mummy, on the roof of the Priory. The house was demolished in 1932.

**5 Heritage Beeches:** Enjoy the 'avenue' of mature beech trees within Priory Gardens. Look out for the fire damaged beech which continues to support wildlife, including interesting fungi.



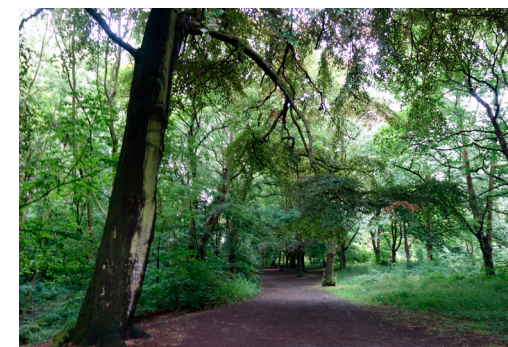
Broad Ees Dole



Heritage beech



Pollarded heritage beech



Priory Gardens