CyanLines

100 miles of nature in the city

CL2 / ROUTE GUIDE

Mayfield, Islington & Ancoats Loop

From marina to new city park

The walk starts from Piccadilly Station's southern exit. It's not long before you come to Depot Mayfield by Mayfield Park on the River Medlock. This former rail depot is a cultural hub that, among other things, plays host to the legendary Warehouse Project club nights and Freight Island, an open-air food hall.

Later on the route joins the Ashton Canal and explores New Islington, where Cottonfield Park's waterside eateries await, including the much-loved Pollen Bakery. Beyond this you'll explore the heart of Ancoats, perhaps Manchester's coolest district before a walk through the Northern Quarter brings you back to Piccadilly.

Practical information

Distance	Start point	End point
6.6km	Piccadilly Railway Station	Piccadilly Railway Station
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Notices

The route is as accessible as currently possible for a wide variety of users.

At the end of the route a short walk from Piccadilly Railway Station you'll find 'Kampus' with independent food and drink and green spaces gathered around a canal-side garden that's open to everyone.

Accessibility

The route has been designed to be step and barrier free where possible. It's worth noting that:

- There's often pavement parking on Hoyle Street under the railway arch
- St Andrew's street has a number of undropped kerbs from side access streets and entrances

Route map



Map data © Openstreetmap contributors

1 Mayfield Park

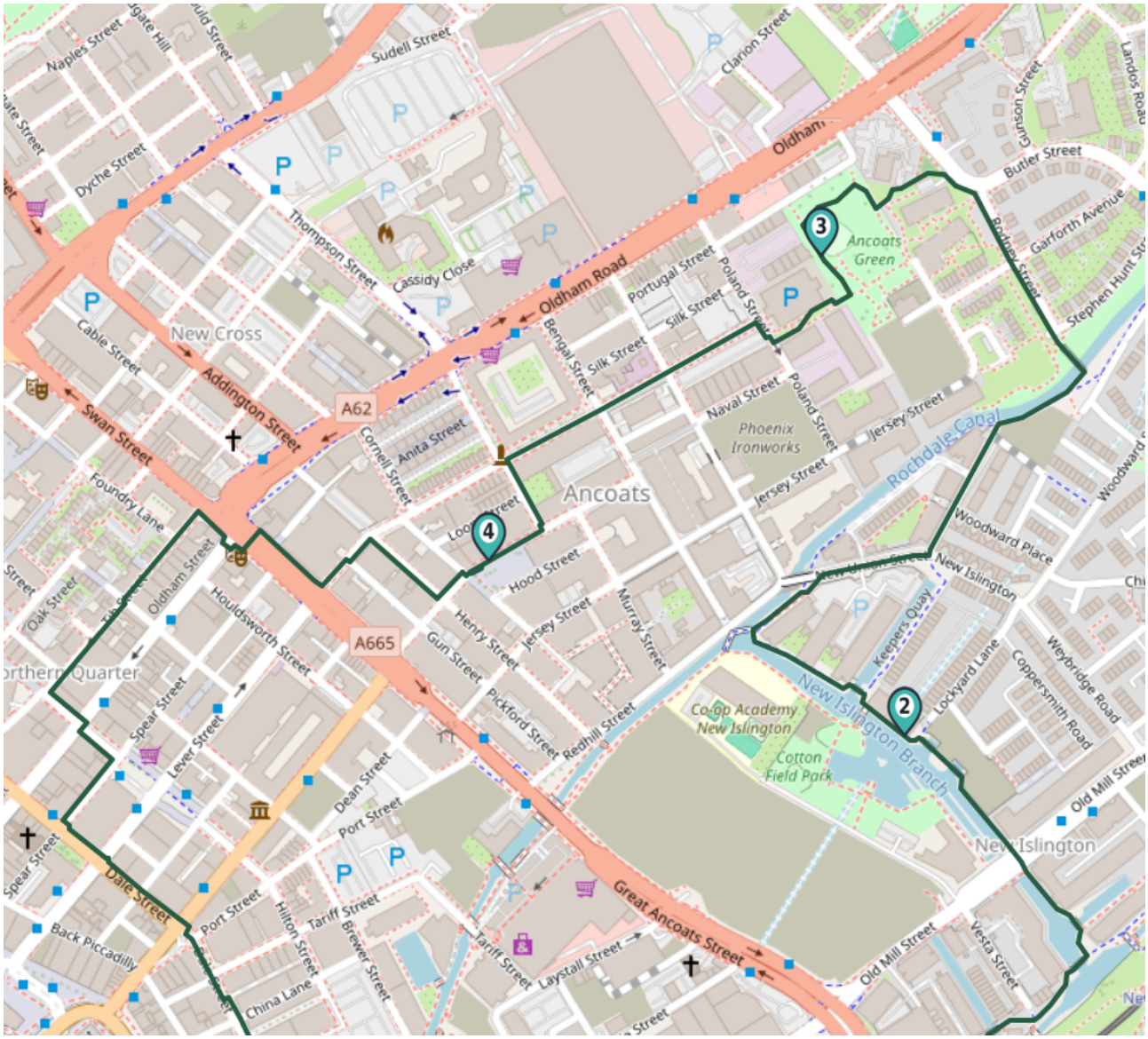
2 Cottonfield Park

3 Ancoats Green

4 Cutting Room Square

5 Kampus

Route detail



Map data © Openstreetmap contributors

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1 Mayfield Park

Mayfield brings together one of Manchester's newest city-centre parks with one of its most distinctive historic buildings. Mayfield Park follows the River Medlock through six and a half acres of green space, with lawns, planting, play areas and waterside paths. Alongside it, the former Mayfield railway depot has been brought back into use as a major venue for music, culture and events, giving this part of the city a completely new lease of life.



2 Cottonfield Park

Cotton Field Park sits beside New Islington Marina, bringing water, planting and open space into the heart of this part of the city. Boardwalks wind around the canal basin and distinctive islands, with wildflowers, reed beds, Scots pines and an orchard helping to create habitat for wildlife. It's a great place to pause on the route, watch the barges, or carry on along the waterside towards Ancoats and the wider canal network.



3 Ancoats Green

Ancoats Green is a newly refurbished park at the heart of the neighbourhood, with many of its original mature trees retained alongside new species that bring extra colour and interest through the seasons. Open lawns, new planting and a mix of natural and formal play areas create plenty of space to walk, play and spend time outdoors. There's also a flexible space for community events, while improved walking and cycling routes connect the park with the surrounding streets and wider Ancoats area.



4 Cutting Room Square

Cutting Room Square sits at the heart of Ancoats, surrounded by some of the neighbourhood's best-known independent bars, restaurants and historic buildings. Its sunken, paved design gives it a distinctive character, with public art and details that reflect the area's industrial past. Alongside Hallé St Peter's, it's become one of Ancoats' busiest gathering places — a good spot to meet, sit outside, grab something to eat or just watch the neighbourhood go by.



5 Kampus

Just off the end of our route you may want to visit Kampus. It sits beside the Rochdale Canal, close to Canal Street and Piccadilly, with homes, independent food and drink and green spaces gathered around a canal-side garden that's open to everyone. Former university buildings and Victorian warehouses have been brought back into use alongside newer buildings, while gardens, terraces and cobbled streets provide a great mixed environment to meet friends or spend some time by the water, just a few minutes from the city centre.

CL2 - Mayfield, Islington & Ancoats - Accessibility notes

The CL2 route has been reviewed to make it as accessible as possible for a wide range of users. There are a number of locations where gradients, uneven surfaces, pavement conditions and restricted access may present difficulties, particularly for wheelchair users, people using mobility scooters and those with limited mobility.

The main accessibility considerations are outlined below.

Uneven, degraded or mixed-quality surfaces

- Rough surface at the east end of the footbridge in Mayfield Park.
- Mixed-quality pavement surfaces and uneven sections in the Hoyle Street tunnel.
- Uneven paving on the north pavement of Tib Street.
- Damaged tactile paving at the north end of Station Approach.

Lighting and personal-safety constraints

- Poor lighting in the Hoyle Street tunnel.

Crossing-related challenges

- Crossing of Fairfield Street can be tricky due to traffic.

Towpath and waterside constraints

- Narrow towpath sections with uneven cobbles (New Islington area).

Pavement obstructions and clutter

- Pavement parking and clutter in the Hoyle Street tunnel.