CyanLines

100 miles of nature in the city

CL3/ ROUTE GUIDE

St Peter's Square to Whitworth Park

Walking the knowledge quarter

The walk begins from Manchester Central Library next to St Peter's Square tram stop. These days, the square is a much greener place than it once was, with an abundance of trees. There's a quick detour to the Emmeline Pankhurst statue 'Rise Up, Women'. Moss Side-born Pankhurst was a key figure in the suffragette movement and helped pave the way for women's right to vote in 1918.

You'll arc south, past Bridgewater Hall, home of The Hallé symphony orchestra, and along the Rochdale Canal to Oxford Road, Manchester's 'quarter' of learning. The walk connects the vibrant parks in and around the corridor, exploring Manchester Metropolitan University and the University of Manchester, discovering various cultural sights along the way.

Potential detours include the Manchester Museum, voted European Museum of the Year in 2025 and the Whitworth Gallery at the end of the walk.

Practical information

Distance	Start point	End point
6.69 km	Emmeline Pankhurst Statue, St. Peter's Square M2 3AE	Whitworth Park M15 6ER
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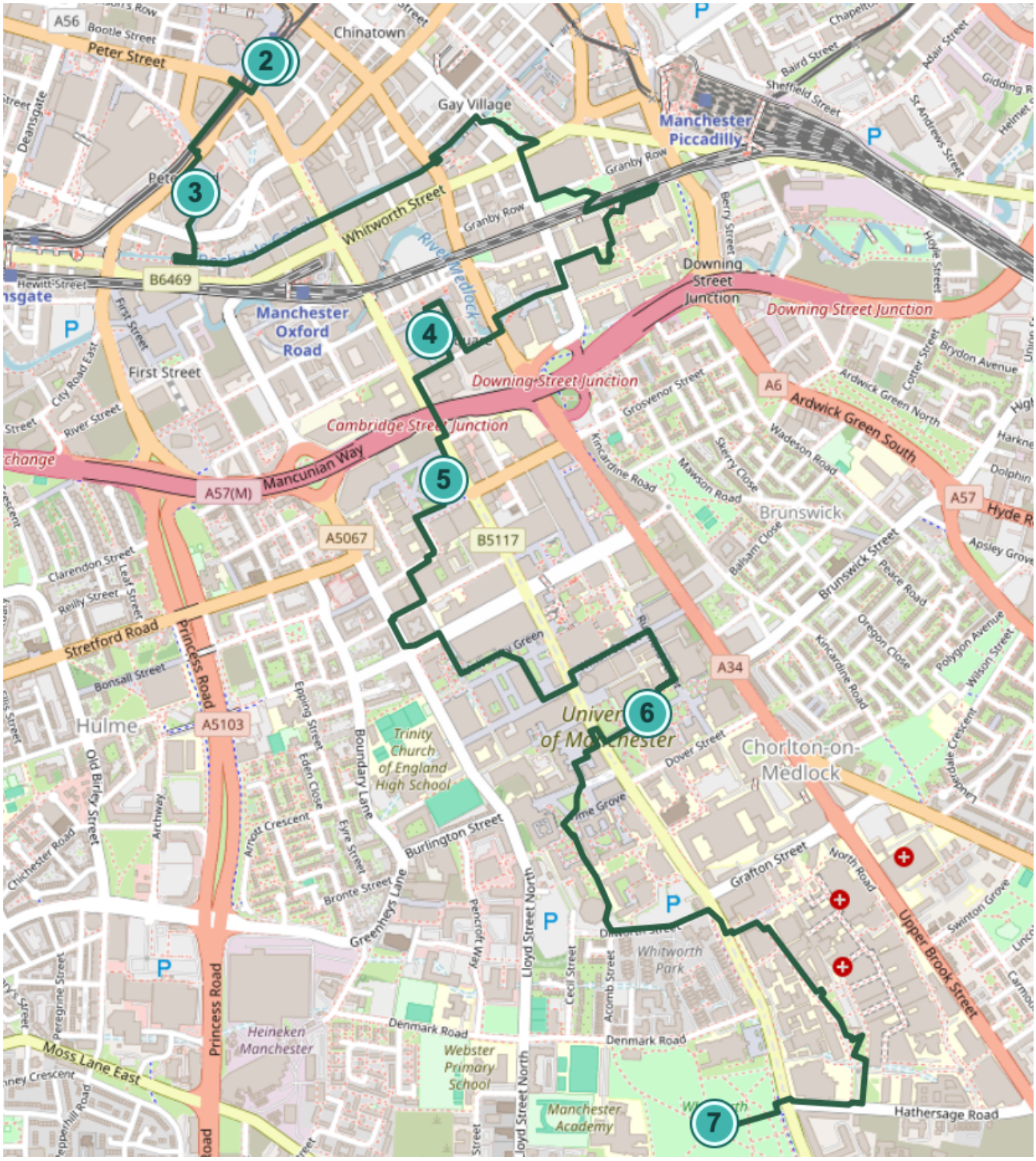
Notices

The route is as accessible as currently possible for a wide variety of users. The route joins Oxford Road through the University campus and if you want to return to the city centre there is a very frequent bus service.

Accessibility

The route has been designed to be step and barrier free where possible. It's worth noting that: there are some uneven cobbled and degraded surfaces along the Rochdale Canal; access to Canal St from the canal is up a short incline and some shallow steps; and access to the green space around 'Sister' in the Renolds Building is down an incline.

Route map



Map data © Openstreetmap contributors

1 Rise Up, Women (Emmeline Pankhurst statue)

2 St Peter's Square

3 Bridgewater Basin

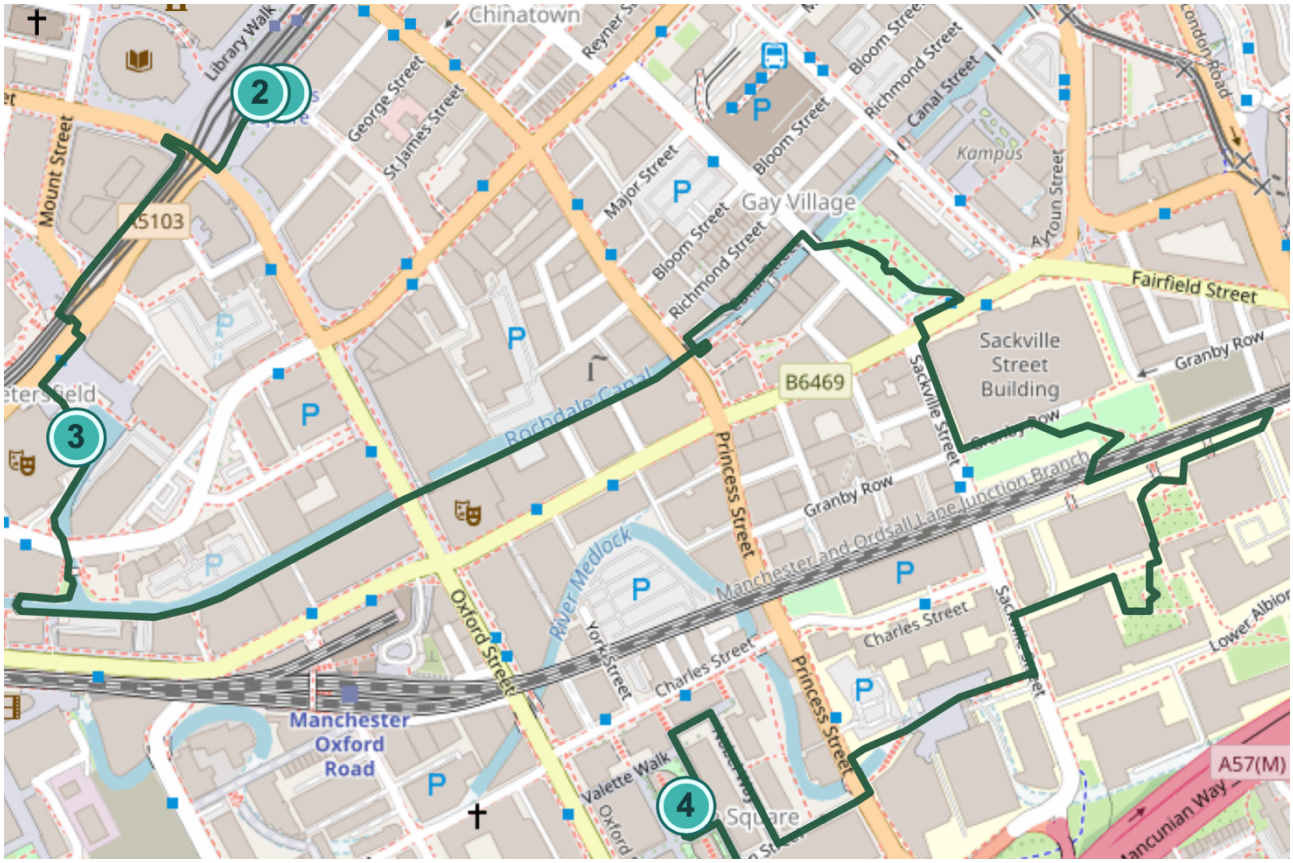
4 Symphony Park

5 All Saint's Park

6 Brunswick Park

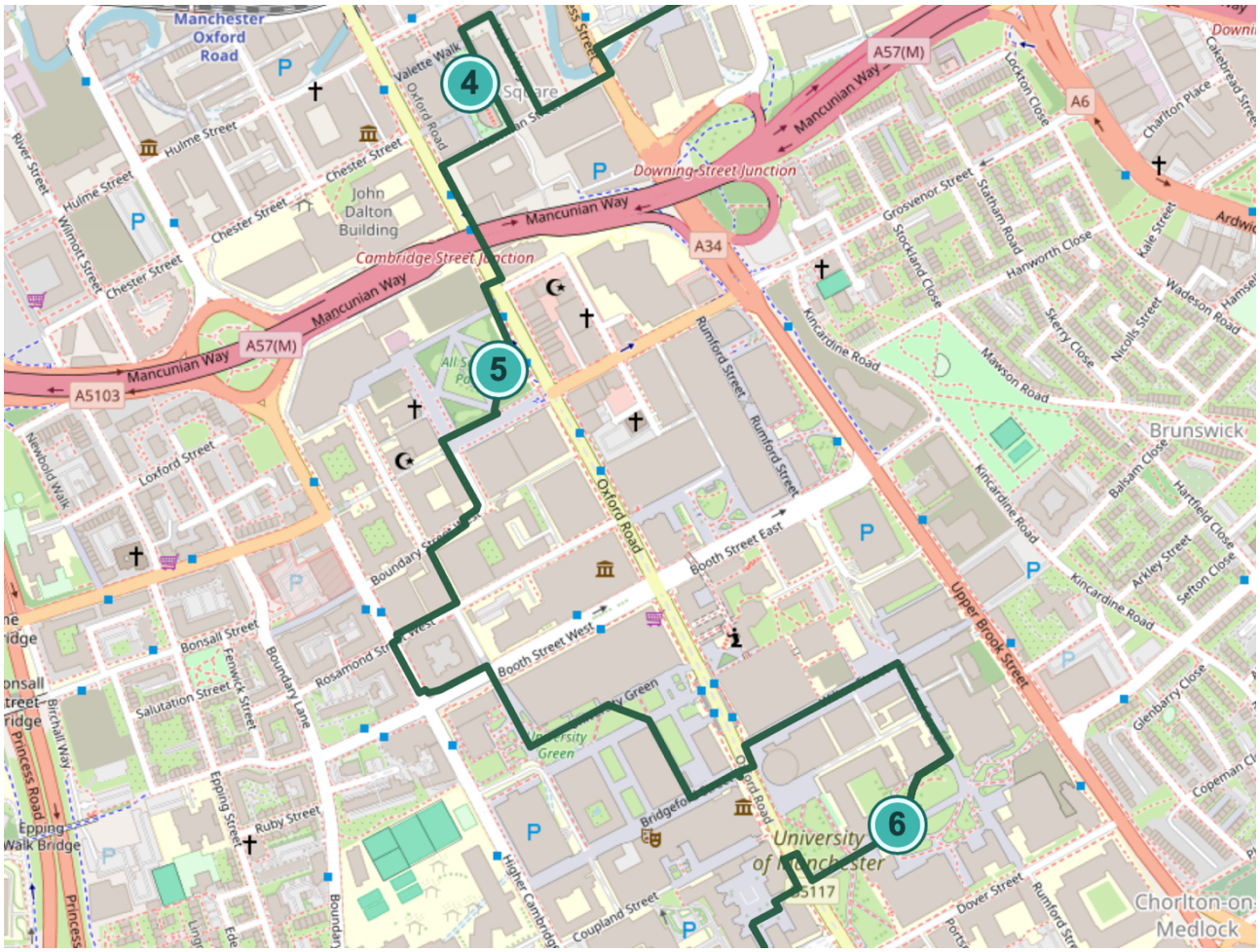
7 Whitworth Park

Route detail



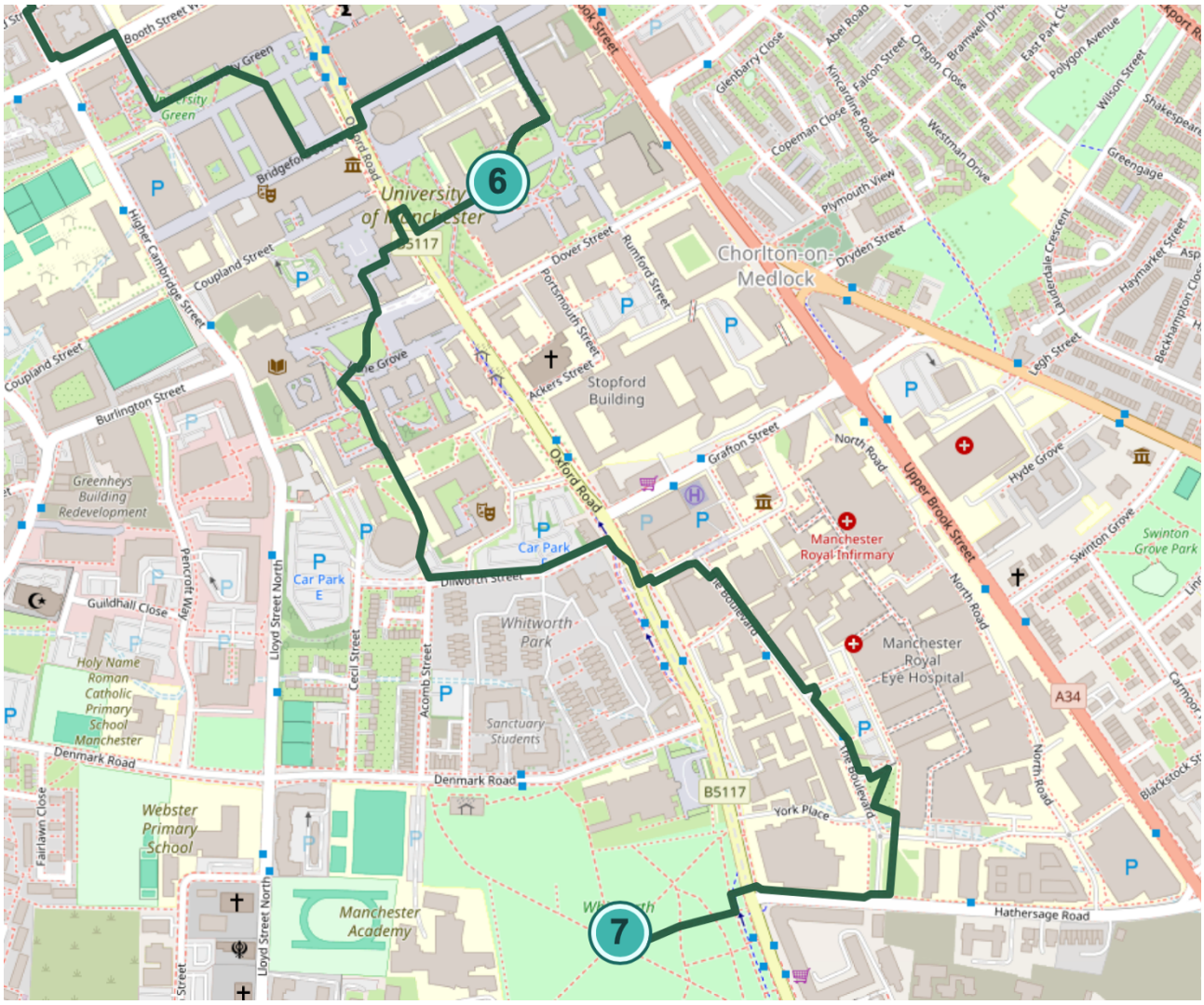
Map data © Openstreetmap contributors

Route detail

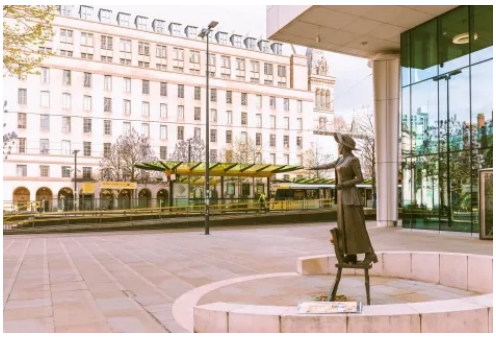


Map data © Openstreetmap contributors

Route detail



Map data © Openstreetmap contributors



1 Rise Up, Women (Emmeline Pankhurst statue)

The Glade of Light is a living memorial to the 22 people who lost their lives in the Manchester Arena attack on 22 May 2017, and to everyone injured or affected. Designed as a tranquil garden for remembrance and reflection, it centres on a white marble halo bearing the victims' names. Native planting brings colour and light through the changing seasons, creating a peaceful place to pause in Manchester's historic Medieval Quarter



2 St. Peter's Square

Cathedral Gardens is a green oasis in the heart of Manchester's Medieval Quarter, surrounded by some of the city's best-known landmarks, including Manchester Cathedral, Chetham's School of Music and the National Football Museum. Lawns, mature trees and natural stone paving create an open space to sit, meet and pause amid the bustle of the city. Throughout the year, the gardens also come alive with festivals, events and seasonal celebrations, bringing people together in every season.



3 Bridgewater Basin

Sadler's Yard sits at the heart of Manchester's NOMA neighbourhood, a welcoming public square surrounded by a mix of historic buildings and contemporary city life. Named after pioneering balloonist James Sadler, who made Manchester's first manned balloon flight in 1785, the square is a place to meet, sit and linger. Green planting softens the urban setting, while regular events, food and drink bring activity to the space throughout the year for residents and visitors.



4 Symphony Park

New Century is one of Manchester's great modernist landmarks, built in the early 1960s for the Co-operative movement. Its Grade II listed hall has a remarkable musical history, hosting everyone from Jimi Hendrix and The Kinks to Manchester's house pioneers. Carefully restored, its original sprung dancefloor, wood-panelled walls and distinctive illuminated ceiling remain, while today the building is once again alive with gigs, food, events and creativity at the heart of NOMA.



5 All Saint's Park

St Catherine's Wood is a restored riverside woodland in the Irk Valley, bringing a once-overgrown green space back into public use. Accessible paths wind through mature trees and new planting, with seating, viewpoints and interpretation along the way. The woodland combines nature, local heritage and regeneration, creating a greener connection through this changing part of north Manchester.



6 Brunswick Park

Queen's Park is one of Manchester's oldest public parks and one of the first municipal parks in Britain, opening in 1846. Originally laid out around Hendham Hall, the former home of the Houghton family, today it offers a welcome stretch of green space in Harpurhey. With mature trees, open lawns, play areas and space for football, it's a place for walking, playing and spending time outdoors



7 Whitworth Park

Whitworth Park is a well-established park just off Oxford Road, next to the Whitworth art gallery. Mature trees, lawns, shrubs and benches make up much of the park, alongside an adventure play area, a statue of Edward VII and a First World War memorial. It's a popular route through the area used by students, local residents and visitors.

CL3 - St Peter's Square to Whitworth Park - accessibility notes

The CL3 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.

Narrow access, uneven or degraded paths

- Narrow towpath tunnel under **Great Bridgewater Street** in the early part of the route
- Uneven but passable cobbles and an awkward turning on the approaches to the Rochdale Canal
- Footbridge, especially on the south side
- Damaged but passable brick-built towpath surface on the Rochdale Canal
- New brick-built path by the River Medlock, uneven because of ruts between bricks

Gradients and physical effort

- Access to **Canal Street** from Rochdale Canal has a short steep gradient and a number low steps with curved edges. For wheelers and buggy users we suggest leaving the canal at **Beaver Street** and continuing along **Whitworth Street** where you can cross Princess Street and access **Canal Street**.
- After crossing Vimto Park you proceed along **Altrincham Street** in front of the **Renold building**. If you are a wheeler or using a buggy, you'll pass the steps on your right so that you can access the green space around 'Sister' via the ramped access road.
- Moderate uphill gradient on the ramp from **Sackville Street** by the **Pendulum Hotel**