

7 From here the route follows the main Liverpool Road through Cadishead back to Hollins Green. There are many places to obtain refreshments on the return journey and also several points of interest and pieces of urban art to enjoy - produced as part of the I C ART programme [ref: HB3]. Turning onto the main road you immediately pass under Cadishead bridges where a heritage board [ref: HB4] depicts the history of Cadishead Station. Further on you pass Cadishead Park (on your left) to reach Fir St where 'Bob the Butcher', an art piece commemorating the life of a much loved local character, can be seen.

8 In 100m, in the Coach & Horses car park, another heritage board [ref:HB5] depicts the history of Liverpool Rd in its industrial heyday. A little further on artwork entitled 'Bridging the Gap' comes into view wrapping the corner of Dudley Rd - this depicts the life of the district from the earliest settlers to the current period. In 50m, on the opposite side of the road, stands 'Bob's Ferry' heritage board [ref: HB6] on the corner of Bob's Lane, depicting an important passenger service that once crossed the Manchester Ship Canal to Partington.

9 For 500m or more the old site of Lancashire Tar Distillers fronts Liverpool Road and forms the canvas for another piece of art 'Introducing the Cadwallas', which depicts the everyday life of a typical family in the district. Shortly after passing Longfield Lodge, and crossing Graham Crescent, the Marge and Steel sculpture [ref: HB7] comes into view on the by-pass roundabout to your left. A plaque about the sculpture can be found in the shrub verge to the left of the bollards in front of you.

10 Continue straight ahead along this quiet road to cross Victory Road and then on to join the main road once again. Cross the bridge over the River Glaze and stay on the pavement to the traffic lights at Glazebrook Lane. Carefully cross Glazebrook Lane to return to the start of the walk, at the Black Swan.

There is a surprising amount of railway history in Rixton-with-Glazebrook and Irlam and Cadishead.

Further reading:

'The Cheshire Lines railway between Glazebrook and Godley - a route of strategic importance'
Bob Pixton

'Lost Railways of Merseyside and Greater Manchester'
Gordan Suggitt

A booklet entitled 'The railways of Irlam, Cadishead and Glazebrook' is available on:

www.irlamandcadishead.net

This is the sixth in a series of local walking guides which are available to download from:
www.rixtonwithglazebrook.net

Your feedback will be much appreciated - please email us at hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk or call 0161 222 4003

For more information on the Rights of Way network and bridleways please telephone 01925 443321 or visit the website: www.warrington.gov.uk/Leisureandculture and follow the links to Parks and Open Spaces.

Please follow the Country Code

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Cadishead Railway, Moss and Urban Art Trail

A 4½ mile circular rural walk that includes information on local heritage as well as several pieces of unique urban art to enjoy.

Easy walking on level terrain — boots or strong footwear recommended.



Allow 2 to 2½ hours



Park in Black Swan car park



No. 100 from Warrington & Manchester stops outside The Black Swan pub on Manchester Road



OS Explorer™ 276



The Black Swan
Several pubs and cafes offer a variety of refreshments on route

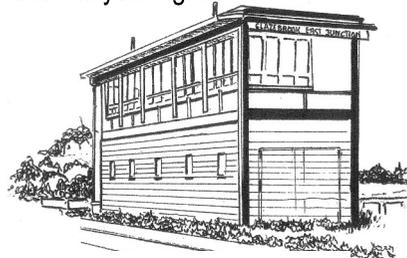
The walk starts from the Black Swan pub car park on Manchester Road and guides you gently along the rural public footpaths in Rixton before heading over Cadishead Moss. The route takes in some of the railway heritage of the district, including Glazebrook East Junction. Themap and numbered Heritage Boards (HB) over page provide a snapshot of the area's railway history and a brief introduction to the urban art that you will see on the return stretch down Liverpool Road. Refreshments are available from several cafes and public houses in Cadishead and Hollins Green.

❶ From the car park turn left down Manchester Road and in 140m turn left onto the path crossing a stile by the metal gate. Cross next stile in 30m into field and follow path, keeping hedge and then fence on your right, for 90m to junction. Turn right across field. At the finger post turn left keeping line of trees on your left to corner of field. Bear right at the corner, ignoring gap in hedge, and continue for 45m to the waymark sign. Pass between the hedge and fence post and turn right along edge of the field. In 80m ignore path to the left and continue straight on to edge of disused military camp.

❷ Enter camp and follow path as it swings to the right. At Y junction in 70m, bear right to follow tarmac path. Continue straight ahead and in 85m keep on this path as it then bears left. In further 55m the path broadens, but ignore all the left hand turns before bearing right. In a further 5m turn left through the trees. Follow this path as it winds through the wood to emerge onto Bank Street in 120m.

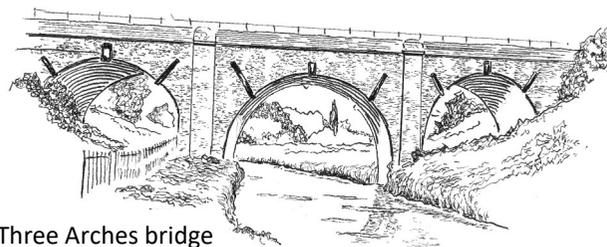
Turn immediately right through a wooden gate onto Glazebrook Village Green. Cross the Green towards the Post Office and carefully cross busy Glazebrook Lane, before turning right past a couple of detached houses. Turn left into Carlton Way and follow this road for 60m to the corner. Just before No.17, take the pathway down to cross the bridge over the River Glaze.

❸ Cross the bridge, then turn immediately left over the field, following the hedge and vegetation to the children's play park in 300m. As the Three Arches railway bridge comes into view, head towards the road (Bedford Grove) on the right. Follow the roadway to the left, passing under the railway arch. Before crossing the metal stile note the Glazebrook East Junction signal box which can be seen to your right.



Glazebrook East Junction signal box

❹ After crossing the metal stile go straight ahead on the gravelled path and bear right along the edge of the field with vegetation on your left. Take the opportunity to look back for a good view of the Three Arches railway bridge over the River Glaze.



Three Arches bridge

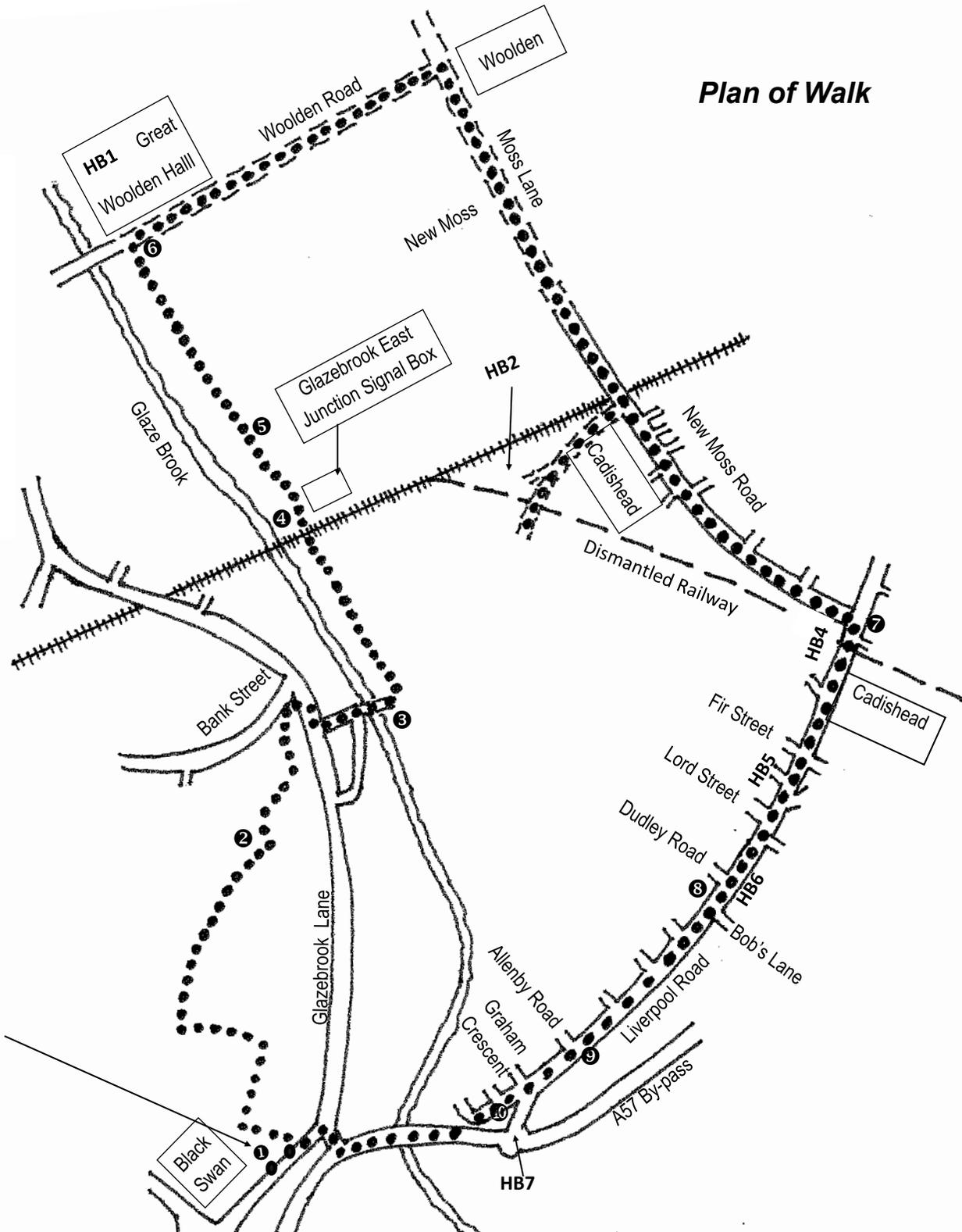
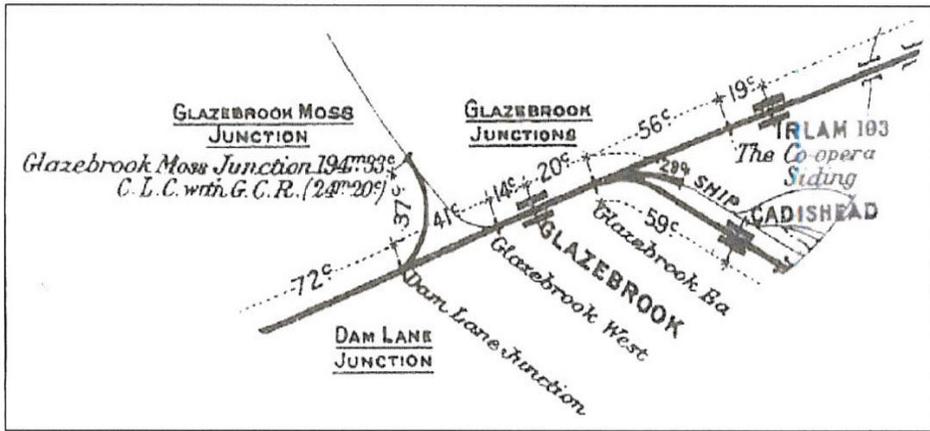
❺ Continue along the edge of the field keeping the hedgerow on your left. At the end of the field carry straight on through vegetation to a kissing gate. Pass through the kissing gate onto a ridge, following the fence line on the right with Great Woolden Hall ahead in the distance and the River Glaze down to your left. Horses graze in these fields so please ensure that your dog is on a lead. Keep on towards Great Woolden Hall [ref: HB1] as the ridge descends to another kissing gate and then ascends to a further kissing gate as the path joins the track in front of the hall.



Great Woolden Hall

❻ Turn right along Woolden Road to reach Oakwood Farm in 600m, observing the livestock and wildlife as you cross Cadishead Moss. Turn right along Moss Lane, passing an original Moss dwelling on your left - Woolden View Farm. In 400m pass New Moss Wood on your right (those wanting to extend the walk can take a 2km detour here through the wood). Continue along Moss Lane for a further 400m until reaching a railway bridge over the Warrington to Manchester line at the top of New Moss Lane. Railway enthusiasts may wish to turn immediately right after crossing this bridge, to follow the path past Cadishead Junior FC's ground, before it ascends to the left up to Sandy Lane Bridge to view the now disused site of what was Glazebrook East Junction [ref: HB2]. Retrace your steps back to the railway bridge then turn right down New Moss Road to meet Liverpool Road.

Plan of Walk



HB1 Great Woollen Hall

A grade II listed building, believed to have originated as a timber framed building, which had a chequered past and was embroiled in a royal scandal in the 17th century. The site was bounded on three sides by mosslands and the Glaze Brook, a tributary of the River Mersey, making it well placed to take advantage of the natural defences provided by the wetlands.

HB3 I C ART Programme

The various pieces of urban art that you can enjoy on this trail are just a few of a planned programme of art works commissioned by local charity Hamilton Davies Trust (HDT) to help regenerate and enhance the district of Irlam and Cadishead and showcase its heritage.

In 2015 local artist Rachelle Cleary was engaged by HDT to provide the creative drive for their community urban art project I C ART. Rachelle was born and raised in the area and has a genuine love for the district's history as well as being a superb artist. She is known locally as Irlam and Cadishead's answer to Banksy! Art pieces you can enjoy include:

- Bob the Butcher
- Bridging the Gap
- Introducing the Cadwallas

Further works of art can be seen on and around Irlam Station. Leaflets on the various art pieces are freely available to pick up from Irlam Station or from HDT at: 117c Liverpool Road, Cadishead M44 5BG. HDT would love your feedback on the urban art you have seen. Please share your comments on 0161 222 4003 hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk or on Facebook or twitter.

HB2 Glazebrook East Junction

Glazebrook East Junction (so called, but actually in Cadishead) was the start of the Glazebrook to Godley line via Stockport and Skelton Junction. In 1893 the line was realigned following the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal and served the coaling basin as well as Irlam Steel Works. The station closed to passengers in 1964 and to freight in 1981, but remains a protected route and could be reopened in the future. The line, sidings and branch line to the North canal coaling basin remained in use servicing British Tar Products until 1996. The signal box was replaced when the canal opened in 1895 and used to have 80 levers to control this busy junction. The box we see today is the 1961 replacement.

HB4 'Cadishead Station' Heritage Board

The heritage board refers to the history of Cadishead's first and second stations, no longer in existence, but which played a major part in transporting goods and workers during Cadishead's industrial heyday. Several more heritage boards have been produced and installed in the district by local charity Hamilton Davies Trust as part of a project to create a heritage trail that encompasses many aspects of the rich history of the area.

HB5 'The King's Highway' Heritage Board

The heritage board depicts how Liverpool Road was once an important route between Liverpool and Manchester, used by packhorses, farmers, travellers and passing armies as far back as the 1200s. The number of inns and coaching houses grew as regular stopping places were needed for the horses. With changes in transport, the industrial revolution and the introduction of the railways, Liverpool Rd has seen many changes over the years.

HB6 'Bob's Ferry' Heritage Board

The heritage board depicts the importance of the ferry in linking the working communities of Partington, Cadishead and Irlam in the district's industrial heyday. The 20 foot open boat, which carried 10 passengers at a time across the Manchester Ship Canal, transported 35,000 passengers a year. In 1970 six people tragically died in a fire on the canal.

HB7 Marge and Steel Sculpture

The sculpture that features in the roundabout marks the gateway into Salford from Warrington. The design was based on the idea of depicting the many tea dances that were enjoyed by ladies from the CWS Margarine Works and the men from the Steelworks. The two characters Marge and Steel are shown dancing together and portray the many connections that were made between the two industries which forged people's lives together in Irlam and Cadishead. A plaque is situated in the shrub verge telling the story of how the sculpture came about and contains a poem that was created to celebrate the artwork.