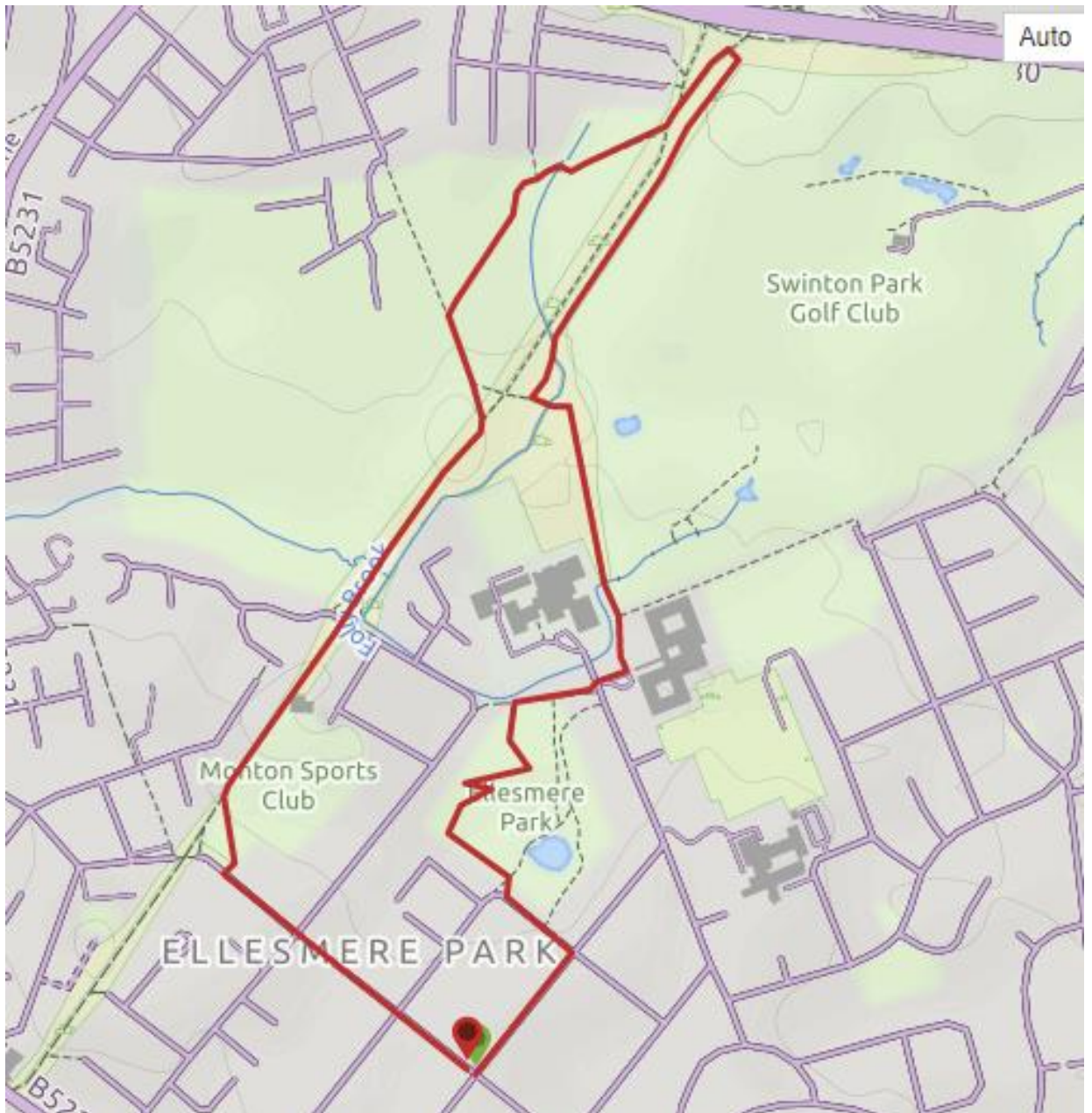


## Black Harry Bridge Circular

**Total distance: 2.3 miles Time: 45 minutes**

An easy two mile stroll through Three Sisters and Campbell Road Fields. Much of this route is scheduled to be upgraded to "Loopline" standard and named the Swinton Greenway



**Route directions are on page 2**

## Description of the Route



Walk down Westminster Road to Rutland Road, turn left here and, as it turns to become Stafford Road go straight ahead onto Three Sisters. Keep to the left, going behind a fledgling orchard around the perimeter to reach a wooded area where a ditch can be crossed in all but extremely wet conditions. (If defeated go to the right to cross further down.) The path now curls up to the left (avoiding the main path), perhaps passing near the site of the Roman Road (merely a B road from Manchester to Wigan), to join a board-walk and the path running along the boundary of Eccles College.

Turn right here and pass the front gates of the College, crossing the bus turnaround at the end of Chatsworth Road and turning left with Oakwood Academy on your right. After 50m take the left fork and go along what was until recently called Muggers' Ally between the high fences of the college and a golf course. Now better described as Alpaca Avenue since the arrival of these and other unusual breeds which underpin the College's Animal Management Diploma. The last enclosure on the left is home to delightful Capybaras and their pond; definitely worth a detour. Then come back to the bridge and take a right. Go up this track and enter the woods; here there are many options - one of the delights of this walk. A pleasant route to turn first left then first right and right again then left (all within a 20m) and up a gentle slope.

Gaining a now flat and straight path, keep to the golf course boundary; it is a direct run up to the East Lancs Road. The bridge here used to allow the old mineral line access Black Harry tunnel and thence Clifton Junction on the Manchester and Boltonmain line. Poorly maintained and used only for coal traffic, the tunnel collapsed in 1953 engulfing a pair of semi-detached houses with the loss of five lives.

Turn back before the bridge, don't venture up to the road! The return route via Campbell Fields gradually diverges to the right approaching but mainly hidden from some houses. Keep to the right at forks until reaching a double dip - this can be muddy but is always passable. Rising up onto the field take the mown path leading to the left of the small copse and join the main track to reach the College and the embanked old railway path. On the right here, at the time of writing, is an area of dereliction apparently discarded by the builders of houses which are appearing higher up towards Thorne Road. But there is good news. This former sewage works site is to be transformed into a large public open space linking up with Folly Lane.

Continue along the path as it bridges Bradford Road and goes behind Monton Sports Club grounds. Cross the playing field before reaching Quaker Bridge, leaving diagonally opposite to gain Ellesmere Road and then Westminster House.