CLAYTON VALE
HERITAGE TRAIL

an exciting trip
back in time
To most people, the area covered by the North East Manchester Parks is one blighted by the industrial age which brought employment, but at a cost to the local landscape. Clayton Vale for instance, once a quiet river valley, was almost totally destroyed by pollution and neglect. It may therefore come as a pleasant surprise to see how the City Council and its partners in the Medlock Valley scheme are bringing about a remarkable regeneration of this derelict area which is now a shining example of true urban country parkland, a haven for wildlife and an ideal spot for informal leisure. This rejuvenation has been given a boost as East Manchester becomes the focus for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and the North East Parks form the main leisure area for visitors attracted by the many activities.
HOW TO REACH THE TRAIL

THE ENTIRE TRAIL IS APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES LONG AND AN AVERAGE TIME TO WALK IT WOULD BE 2 1/2 HOURS THOUGH YOU DO NOT HAVE TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE TRAIL AT ONE TIME AS THERE ARE SEVERAL ENTRY POINTS ACCESSIBLE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT. WE START HERE AT CLAYTON HALL BUT YOU CAN COVER THE TRAIL IN THE REVERSE DIRECTION STARTING AT BRISCOE LANE.

FOR THOSE WITH THE TIME OR INCLINATION ONLY TO COVER PART OF THE TRAIL, WE SUGGEST YOU TAKE A BUS TO PHILIPS PARK AND WALK THROUGH THE LUSH CLAYTON VALE ENDING AT CLAYTON BRIDGE.

BY CAR

There is parking behind the Bay Horse public house, and a few spaces in Brookdale Park. There is road side parking in Fairclough Street, which runs between Philips Park and the Velodrome. There is also parking on Riverpark Road adjacent to the Dissenters gate entrance to Philips Park Cemetery.

BY RAIL

From Manchester Victoria every half hour on the Manchester-Oldham-Rochdale loop line to Dean Lane, which is approx. half a mile from Brookdale Park, ideal if you only wish to walk the central section.

BY BUS

Frequent services from Manchester City Centre to various access points:- Droylesden Road, Newton Heath for Brookdale Park and Clayton Bridge. Allan Turing Way, Bradford for Philips Park and Cemetery. Ashton New Road, Clayton for Clayton Park and Hall.

DESIGNATED PICNICT SPOTS

Beside the Visitor Centre and in Philips Park. There are also countless spots where you can picnic in Clayton Vale, while The Bay Horse inn provides a welcome pause for refreshment.

A shining example of true urban country parkland.
ONCE UPON A TIME...

Fossils of plants and insects in the rocks of the area show a very different climate and landscape from today's. Swamp forests and luxuriant growth were encouraged by the warm moist air. At the start of the Triassic Period, Britain was largely covered by desert. Then the landscape producing a great salt lake over much of Northern Britain, after which the desert conditions returned.
CLAYTON HALL is on Ashton New Road, hidden behind the trees in a small park just before the cenotaph. Cross the narrow moat bridge into the grounds of the Hall.

A Grade 2 Star listed building, the Hall is a rare example of a medieval moated site. Originally built for the Clayton family, it passed into the hands of the Byron family (of which the poet Lord Byron was a member) in 1194. The Byrons lived here until they sold it to two London merchants, George and Humphrey Cheham, in 1620. Humphrey is famous for founding Chehams School and Library in the centre of Manchester. After an eventful life, Humphrey Cheham died at the Hall in 1653. In 1897 Clayton Hall was acquired by Manchester City Corporation, which had ensured the survival of this romantic link with the past in a most unlikely area.

Viewed from outside, the section on the right is the older half, dating back to the 16th century. The left half dates from the 18th century and contained the dining room, kitchen, larder, scullery and pantry of the Hall.

During the Civil War, Royalist cavalry were stationed here, before the attack on Manchester. According to legend Oliver Cromwell was also said to have spent three nights at the Hall, though not at the same time!

There is also a Grey Lady who, tradition has it, was murdered in the Hall some four hundred years ago.

Last but not least is the spirit of a child who in the 18th century fell into a fire and was burned alive. The present children in the rented half of the Hall have seen and apparently 'played' with her. Mysterious lights have also been seen and an electrician called in on one occasion was so terrified he refused to return to complete the job.

The oldest surviving structure on the site is the sandstone bridge crossing the moat. Dating from late medieval times, it was built to replace the original wooden drawbridge over the moat which is planned to reline and fill.

THE GHOSTS OF CLAYTON HALL

No old hall would be complete without its ghosts, but Clayton Hall boasts three. The Boggart, an evil and mischievous spirit, lived in the Bell Tower. He rattled chains and had a nasty habit of snatching your bedclothes as you slept. A clergyman was called in to exorcise the ghost, but only succeeded in dislodging the Boggart into a cupboard off the dining room, which you can visit.
THE BIRDS AND THE TREES
The banks of the moat and the parkland surrounding the Hall and adjoining churchyard feature ash, willow, holly and poplar trees. On the moat side there are also several ancient hawthorns, while a substantial hawthorn hedge surrounds three sides of the moat and a long beech hedge flanks one side of the park. As you cross the moat bridge, two lime trees form an effective archway to the inner garden and hall.

The combined areas create a sheltered habitat for the varied fauna and the garden has a resident robin, a thrush and a small family of squirrels, while the moat has wildfowl visitors and supports various invertebrates.

DOWN THE FARM
Leaving the Hall and crossing the moat bridge, we could turn left to visit Clayton Community Farm, some 250 meters along Ashton New Road. Though not part of the North East Parks, it is another oasis of green in the grey urban landscape. Created in 1982 by local people with the assistance of the City Council, and run entirely by volunteers, it has an interesting range of farm animals including sheep, goats, pigs, ponies and chickens.

THE BRICK CHURCH
If you have not visited the farm, turn right on leaving the Hall entrance and you almost immediately come across the church of Saint Cross (Grid reference SJ 8803 9854), a tall 19th century building designed by William Butterfield who was known for his budget conscious churches. Notice the patterned brickwork. The interior is surprisingly rich and a barn-like roof towers above the nave.

CLAYTON PARK
On the other side of Clayton Street, this triangular area was purchased by Manchester Corporation in 1983 to develop into a park and recreation ground. It includes a children's play area and sports facilities.

Now turn into Clayton Street, at the end of which the welcome greenery of Clayton Vale beckons you on. Just after the Youth Centre, on your left, you enter the Vale. Soon the embankment of an old mineral railway appears on your left. A late addition to Manchester's rail network, it was built some time between 1898 and 1909 by the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company to serve the power station and chemical works in the area. We now climb the steps up to the track bed of the old single track line, bear left over the brick archway until you reach the steps which lead down to Bank Street.
THE MINERAL RAILWAY VIADUCT
Cress the road to a small gate, gaining access to Philips Park and pass under the railway arches.

PHILIPS PARK
Opened in 1846, this was the first municipal park in the world. It took its name from Mark Philips, the main supporter of a public fund raising campaign to which Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister, contributed.

Two archaeological finds have been made in the park: a Roman coin (Grid ref SJ 873 991) minted in the reign of Emperor Gallienus and a halberd (a type of spear) dating back to the 16th century.

Follow the outer path of the park and make for the lodge entrance. Leave the park here to see the canal and the lock house.

MANCHESTER & ASHTON UNDER LYNE CANAL
Began in 1792, this was one of the earliest canals in the North West. You can see two locks which were used to lift and lower barges along sections of the canal. This canal carried the raw material for the cotton mills in the area.

Today it serves the leisure industry, being used by holiday boats and supporting a cycle route.

We now return to Philips Park through the lodge gate and turn left to the valley area.

As you descend down the valley, Bradford Hall stood in the area to your right.

BULB TIME IN THE VALLEY
In Victorian times this was the site of famous displays of over 120,000 bulbs, visited by thousands of local people. Though the present day display is more modest, it is still extremely colourful. The valley and hidden path running close to the river is the site of many mature trees and a gathering place for owls.

TROUBLE AT 'MILL
A water mill stood on this site (Grid ref SJ 8724 9923) as long as 500 years ago. But there was trouble here almost from the start. There are records of disputes in 1561 and 1601 and in 1648 the mill was destroyed by a crowd led by Humphrey Chetham's nephew. Little now remains of this turbulent spot.

Once over the bridge we are in the cemetery. Originally part of the park it opened in 1869 as the city centre cemeteries filled up. It consists of four areas: Church of England, Roman Catholic, Jewish and Nonconformist.

OLD CHAPEL
The old chapel bears plaques to the two soldiers who won the Victoria Cross and are buried in the churchyard. They share their last resting place with over 600 soldiers, sailors and airmen and women who took part in campaigns from the Napoleonic Wars to World War 2. Among them are two who took part in the Charge of the Light Brigade. The exploits of five of them are told in Appendix A.

'ZULU'
The story of Private William Jones' bravery was told in the film 'Zulu'. He was the soldier who stayed in the burning hospital to help his comrades escape. For this and other brave actions during the battle he was awarded the Victoria Cross. 139 defenders beat off the repeated assaults of some 4000 Zulus. Jones, born in Evesham Worcestershire in 1839, later moved to Manchester and died in 1913.
THE FAMILY THAT WENT DOWN WITH THE LUSITANIA
This is the grave of a family who perished when a German U-boat torpedoed the 'Lusitania' in the First World War. Of the 1906 passengers and crew, 1195 died, including husband, wife and all four children of the Bartley family. This sinking was a major reason for the Americans entering the war.

THE DISSENTERS GATE
This is the only cemetery in England with a Dissenters Gate, reserved for those people who did not accept the teachings of conventional churches. It is about 100m. Along Cemetery Road from Bank Street.

BANK BRIDGE PRINT WORKS & TANNERY
(Grid ref. SJ 8742 9927)
The chimney behind the Jewish Cemetery is all that remains of the once extensive works complex shown on Johnson's map of 1820.

THE WILD FLOWER MEADOW
(Grid ref. SJ 8742 9927)
This is the most important wild flower meadow in the Medlock Valley. The unusual acidity of the soil plus the very dry conditions provide a greater variety of species than anywhere else in the area, including Ragged Robin, Meadow Cranesbill and Oxeye Daisy.

THE DAY THE BODIES WERE WASHED AWAY
(Grid ref. SJ 8776 9940)
You will notice that the River Medlock, as it flows past the cemetery, is culverted with red brick work.
This was the result of the river overflowing its banks in 1872, causing bodies from the Catholic part of the burial ground to be washed downstream. Three had to be recovered and re-interred.
We now re-enter Clayton Vale.
This was once a pleasant river valley but was heavily polluted throughout the Industrial Revolution and as recently as 1981. At this time the City Council purchased the entire valley and began an ambitious reclamation programme spanning several years. The aim was to provide a pleasant landscape setting, to improve access for walkers and to create a wildlife sanctuary. About a quarter of a million trees were planted over an area of 114 acres. A network of paths was created and two ponds were developed.

The area is now a semi-mature woodland with large open-grassed areas. The Vale is ideal for walking and the paths support bicycle and horse-riding. The once heavily polluted Medlock now has a returning fish population and in the National Register of Sites of Biological Importance, Clayton Vale has a Grade C status. 37 varieties of trees and shrubs were planted, including white poplar, aspen, six types of willow, silver birch, sessile oak, red oak, bird cherry, honey locust and many others. 20 varieties of grasses and rushes have been recognised and over 60 wild flowers have been recorded. Among the varied fauna are the bank vole, the field vole, common and pigny shrew, the stoat, and the weasel. The Pipistrelle bat, Common Long Eared bat, Natterers bat, and Daubentons bat have been observed. Most of the common bird species and some rarer ones are found in the Vale, plus Common Hawker and Common Darter dragonflies together with damselflies and many butterfly species, amphibians and invertebrates.
THE VALE'S MAIN FISHING POND
The surrounding slopes are vegetated with bracken and nettle. Balsam Poplar occurs at the foot of the slope with crack willows and sallow. The pond contains hornwort, relatively rare in this area, reed swamp, and substantial patches of reedmace. Salix fragilis occurs in several places with sea buckthorn near the bridge over the river.

THE DISAPPEARING POND
Originally a very small pond and gradually drying out, this area is dominated by Lesser Reedmace. Bindweed has spread from the slope into the water and around the reeds. Surrounding it is Himalayan Balsam and Field Horsetails.

THE OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE
The stone blocks are all that remains of the railway bridge carrying the branch line for the Print Works that lay on the opposite side of the river. In the south side of the river bank you can see substantial remains with searchlights and decking still visible. The bridge went out of use when the Smallpox Hospital was built.

THE SMALLPOX HOSPITAL
When the Manchester Ship Canal opened, the city became an inland port and was required to have an isolation hospital for sailors bringing in infectious diseases. Originally known as Clayton Infectious Diseases Hospital, and shown as such on the 1909 Ordnance Survey map, it had changed its name by 1933 to Clayton Smallpox Hospital. On the north bank of the river, opposite the site of the print works, you can clearly see the stone foundations with brick walling on top of the stonework. To the south of the river stood the nurses home, and other associated buildings.

THE FRESHWATER POND
Before crossing Clayton Vale Bridge a detour on the northern side of the river bank takes you to the fresh water pond. The fish stocks are low, and pike predominate. There is an extensive area of Common Reed, Lesser Reedmace, Unbranched Burreed, 

Several wild birds find the reed a suitable habitat, in particular mallard, coot and moorhen. Among the aquatic flora can be found the pondskater, freshwater louse, water beetles, wandering snails and Tenkin’s spireshell.

Two species of dragonfly have been observed in flight and large carp are readily visible. Dominant species clinging to the nearby river bank are Butterbur, Mugwort and Himalayan Balsam.

BUTTERFLY CORNER
Between the two paths near the river is a narrow strip containing Birdsfoot Trefoil which attracts many butterflies, especially the Common Blue. The underlying material is pulverised ash from the power station, which stood on the site of the present Velodrome, so vegetation was chosen to tolerate alkaline and salt conditions, to stabilise the slopes and fix nitrogen without any further maintenance.
Common Duckweed, and Hard Rush. Tall Rocket, and Great Hairy Willowherb, both locally rare species, are found here. Dragonfly and damselfly nymphs are seen, while brookline covers some of the damp areas. This pond has the largest range of aquatic flora in the Vale.

THE OLD PRINT WORKS
Returning to the Clayton Vale Bridge from the fresh water pond cross to the site of the old print works.

At a sharp bend in the river, on the south bank was Clayton Vale Print Works (Grid ref. SJ 8831 9945), shown on Johnson's 1820 map. By 1888 the OS map shows the works as being disused and in 1909 the ten buildings of the complex were demolished leaving little to be seen today.

THE SALT ROAD
Clayton Vale Bridge (Grid ref. SJ 8842 9943) stands on the site of a very ancient crossing place. A salt road crossed the river at this point, having passed Clayton Hall, Clayton Mount and Clayton Vale House on the south side of the river. The House built in the early 1800's was later the nurses home for the hospital and stood 100m from the bridge.

The Mount about 300m further back was built in the 1700s. The salt road continued north, passing Culcheth Old Hall and Moston Hall on its way to Rochdale and Rossendale. From early times, salt was an essential ingredient for life, as phrases like 'worth his salt' and 'the salt of the earth' confirm.

flanked by Great Hairy Willowherb, and is overshadowed by a mass of Butterbur. Towards the river, where the land is drier, saplings of small oak and beech have been planted. Between them are two locally rare species of Yarrow and Greater Knapweed.

CULCHETH DYE WORKS
As you near the Visitors Centre a large open landscaped area on the opposite side of the river marks the site of the dye works, (Grid ref.SJ 8861 9949) shown on the 1893 OS map as a collection of buildings with large reservoirs. Because the more modern dyeworks made a greater demand on the water supply than could be provided by the river, the industry moved elsewhere. Culcheth Dyeworks, latterly known as the Failsworth Dyeing and Finishing Works, fell into disuse in the late 1960s and the site has since been landscaped.
THE CLAYTON VALE VISITORS CENTRE

The centre provides information and photographs of the trail and has open grassland suitable for picnics. On the north bank of the river you see a flat area of grassland which was the site of a number of cottages, demolished in the 1960s. Before you cross Clayton Bridge, turn right and walk a few hundred metres up Edge Lane to No.330.

LIEUTENANT JAMES KIRK

Born at Cheadle Huime, James Kirk joined The Manchester Regiment in 1914, was wounded in the Dardanelles campaign, and after recovering, served in France. On November 4th 1918, just a week before the war ended, he was killed after displaying 'conspicuous bravery' and showing 'supreme contempt of danger' for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. The war poet Wilfred Owen was killed in the same action. News of James Kirk's death reached Droylsden on Armistice Day, and saddened a day of rejoicing in the area.

We now retrace our steps and cross Clayton Bridge.

CLAYTON BRIDGE AND COATES FARM

A bridge at this site (SJ 8910 9943) is mentioned as far back as 1697. Before this there was a ford, suggesting an ancient river crossing which might have been used since prehistoric times. Coates Farm (SJ 8908 9948) held a summer gala for local children before the First World War with races, tea and lemonade. The stone wall next to the river is probably one of the remaining walls of the farmhouse. This area of Clayton is known to locals as 'Daddy Nailors' after a popular publican in Clayton Vale.

THE BAY HORSE INN

Pause for refreshment! (SJ 8915 9949) Originally a farm building, it became a pub in the 19th century, the Grey Mare. The inn served the small hamlet which sprang up in the 18th and 19th centuries as a result of the dye and print works.
THE RAILWAY VIADUCT
Follow Millstream Lane from the side of the Bay Horse as far as the 'Ten Arches Viaduct', built to carry the Manchester & Leeds Railway. Some 150 meters along Millstream Lane we reach the area of Mill Houses where there was a corn mill in the 14th century. Return to the inn. As we climb Berry Brow we pass the site of St. Cuthbert's Church (SJ 8898 9950).

which had a short life of 75 years, being demolished in 1965. The bell was given to the Church of the Holy Family at Failsworth, where it still rings.

DR BEECHING WAS HERE!
Clayton Bridge Railway Station opened in 1844 and became a victim of Dr. Beeching's cuts, closed in the 1960s. The signal box was also used to operate the level crossing gates.

BOOT MAKER TO MAN. UNITED!
Number 2, Berry Brow, was the home of John Readist, VC, who joined his father's business as a clogger and shoe repairer at 600, Ashton New Road in Clayton. Here they won a 10 year contract to repair the football boots of Manchester United. During the First World War, John won the Victoria Cross for bravery in Mesopotamia.

FIRST A HALL, THEN A NUNNERY, NOW A CHURCH
Turn into Ashton Road at the end of which is Christ the King Catholic Church (SJ 8890 9980). The church stands on the site of Culcheth Hall a medieval building dating back to at least 1246 AD. The wall is probably the original one for the hall and its grounds. During the 19th and 20th centuries the site was used as a nunnery, the home of 'The Little Sisters of the Poor' who cared for the elderly poor who could not look after themselves. The nunnery closed in 1972.

BROOKDALE PARK
We now walk up Culcheth Lane, turn right into Daisy Bank and cross Droylesden Road into Brookdale Park (SD 880 003). This was once the site of Brookdale Hall, built by John Taylor, a Justice of the Peace, in the mid-19th century. Another member of the Taylor family owned Newton Heath Silk Mill which still stands near Oldham Road. After Mr. Taylor's death, Manchester City Council bought the grounds and converted them into a park.
LISTEN TO THE BAND

The original Victorian bandstand still exists. Notice the unusual hollow supporting standions which are, in fact, decorative drainpipes. The park is varied in its wildlife, encouraged by the presence of so many mature trees. By far the most abundant are the poplars and sycamores, but there are also many ash and horsechestnut. Rather less abundant are beech and silver birch. Recent plantings have included sessile English oak and Norway maple. You will also find willow, holly, cherry and hawthorn here. The birdlife of the park is quite rich, including most of the common species. Some of the more uncommon ones include the great spotted woodpecker, greenfinch, goldcrest, linner, sparrowhawk and tawny owl.

Mammals in the park include grey squirrel, hedgehog, fieldmice, the common shrew, foxes, weasels and, in summer, pipistrelle bats. Insects and bugs have not been surveyed but most of the commoner species are present.

THE COULGH A BIRDS PARADISE

The clough in Brookdale Park (Grid ref SD 880 003) runs for about 200 yards and is connected to the former sunken rose garden which bordered the Old Hall. The trees here are mainly poplars, with ash and elm. Blackbirds, blue tits and woodpigeon are likely to be seen. As the path rises it comes to the sunken rose garden; most British finches have been recorded here. Other regular visitors are the dunnock and the wren. Close to the rose garden there are three remarkable survivors of the Dutch Elm Disease which struck Britain in the 1970s and which may also have been responsible for the great elm decline which took place in Britain around 5,000 BC recorded in pollen diagrams, causing over 80% of elms to disappear from our countryside.

The survivors here are an English elm and two hybrid elms.

DELL ONE (SD 880 003)

Dell One is a good place for bugs and small mammals. If you are lucky you may see one of the many black-and-white blackbirds which sometimes occupy this area. Squirrels can be seen in the taller trees. Silver birch, ash, sycamore, willow and poplars line the top of the dell.

DELL TWO (SD 880 003)

Dell Two has been left to enjoy a natural life cycle. The large number of trees here have deposited a rich humus on the ground, making an entomologist’s paradise. The dead and dying trees provide food for the greater spotted woodpeckers, tits, and tree creepers. Sparrowhawks are regular visitors and at night tawny owls and foxes may be observed. The trees are mainly mature horse-chestnut with some tall beech midway into the Dell.

OPEN HABITAT (SD 880 003)

This area is described by birdwatchers as an ‘open habitat’. Magpies, crows and mistle thrush use their powerful beaks to dig out worms and leatherjackets. Recently planted English oak and a three metre grass covered strip around the margins provides a good habitat for fieldmice.

We leave the park by the main entrance and turn right along Dryden Road.

A 19TH CENTURY HOME GUARD

At the junction of Briscoe Lane and Culchee Lane is All Saints Church (SD 8830 003), built in the 19th century to replace an earlier church of timber, wattle and daub which collapsed in 1808. Inside are the colours of the Newton & Failsworth Volunteers, a sort of early Home Guard formed to fight the expected invasion by Napoleon. When the regiment disbanded, their colours were displayed in the Tower of London, but later returned.

BACK TO THE ROMANS

We now turn left into Briscoe Lane (SD 8820 003), originally a Roman road linking Castledfield, off Deansgate in Manchester, and Castleshaw in Oldham. This road was built between about 79 and 84 AD by the 20th legion of the Roman Armies. It then continued into the Yorkshire Pennines. On Johnson’s 1820 map, Briscoe Lane is called Back Lane. It acquired its present name after a house called Briscoe, opposite Briscoe Lane School. It’s a good idea to finish the trail in Gaskell Street (return past the church) where a section of the Roman road was excavated in the last century and found to be 24 feet wide. It had a gravel surface and was supported by logs over boggy ground.

You could end your walk on a ‘green’ note by looking in on the recreation ground on Gaskell Street.
APPENDIX ONE: THE BRAVERY BENEATH THE STONES

SERGEANT RICHARD BROWN, 11TH HUSSARS, SJ 5708 9917
Sergeant Brown took part in the valiant “Charge of the Light Brigade” at the Crimean War, when 600 British cavalrymen charged into a deep valley against heavy Russian artillery fire. Few men survived to reach the enemy lines; Sergeant Brown was one of the fortunate few.

PRIVATE GEORGE STRINGER, VC
THE MANCHESTER REGIMENT
(Sgd ref: SJ 8708 9917)
Born at Newton Heath in 1889, George joined the Lancashire Fusiliers at the age of 16 and when he was posted out joined the Manchester Regiment, winning his VC in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). For staying at his post and holding back the attacking enemy horse until his unit had withdrawn. He died aged 86, and was buried with full military honours.

2ND LIEUTENANT L. FLEET
ROYAL FLYING CORPS SJ 5743 9912
Bombed in the Jewish Quarter, Lieutenant Fleet joined the Royal Flying Corps which preceded the R.A.F. set up originally as an observation corps, the RFC soon became a fighting unit. Lancashire Fleet was killed in action at the age of 22.

TROOPER JOHN RICHARDSON, 11TH HUSSARS (SJ 8755 9925)
Another survivor of the “7007”, Trooper Richardson was buried with full military honours, in ironic fashion as he ended his life in the workhouse.

NUMBER 13, PRIVATE DAVID LYNCH
(SJ 5762 9913)
David Lynch survived twelve battles during the Peninsula Campaign early in the 19th century and lived to the age of 70, which suggests he was a strong man, physically and mentally.

APPENDIX TWO: THE GEOLOGY
The solid geology of the Chorlton area consists of Carboniferous rocks of coal measures series and rocks of the Permian-Trias series.

The coal measures of the Carboniferous period consist of alternating layers of sandstone, shale and mudstone, while the mixed coal measures had less sandstone and became more cindered.

The Carboniferous rocks were compressed by the overlying Permian-Trias series, creating a depression which is deepest in West Lancashire and Central Cheshire. This depression was steadily filled by sand and mud debris deposits. Later these sediments were folded, then eroded by earth movements, producing the low and flat terrain of Chorlton and the surrounding area.

The drift geology of the area is mainly glacial, dominated by clay, glacial sands and recent riverine deposits, of which clay is the most extensive. The resulting sand and gravel deposits came from the alluvial environments of the River Medlock, which, for much of its course through the area, is confined to narrow valleys or gorges which have been cut through the rocks of the Permian-Trias series.

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10. The South Trafford Archaeological Group
11. Mr. Derek Whitaker
12. Mr. Fitzhen
13. Mr. Ronald Hogg

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2. British Rail 061 812 8333 and 228 7811
3. Gas Council 061 740 3339
4. Clayton Vale Visitor Centre 061 371 5988
5. North East Parks Main Office 061 228 1209

SOURCES
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MAPS
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