

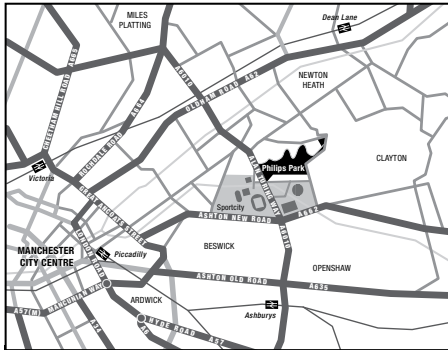


# PHILIPS PARK

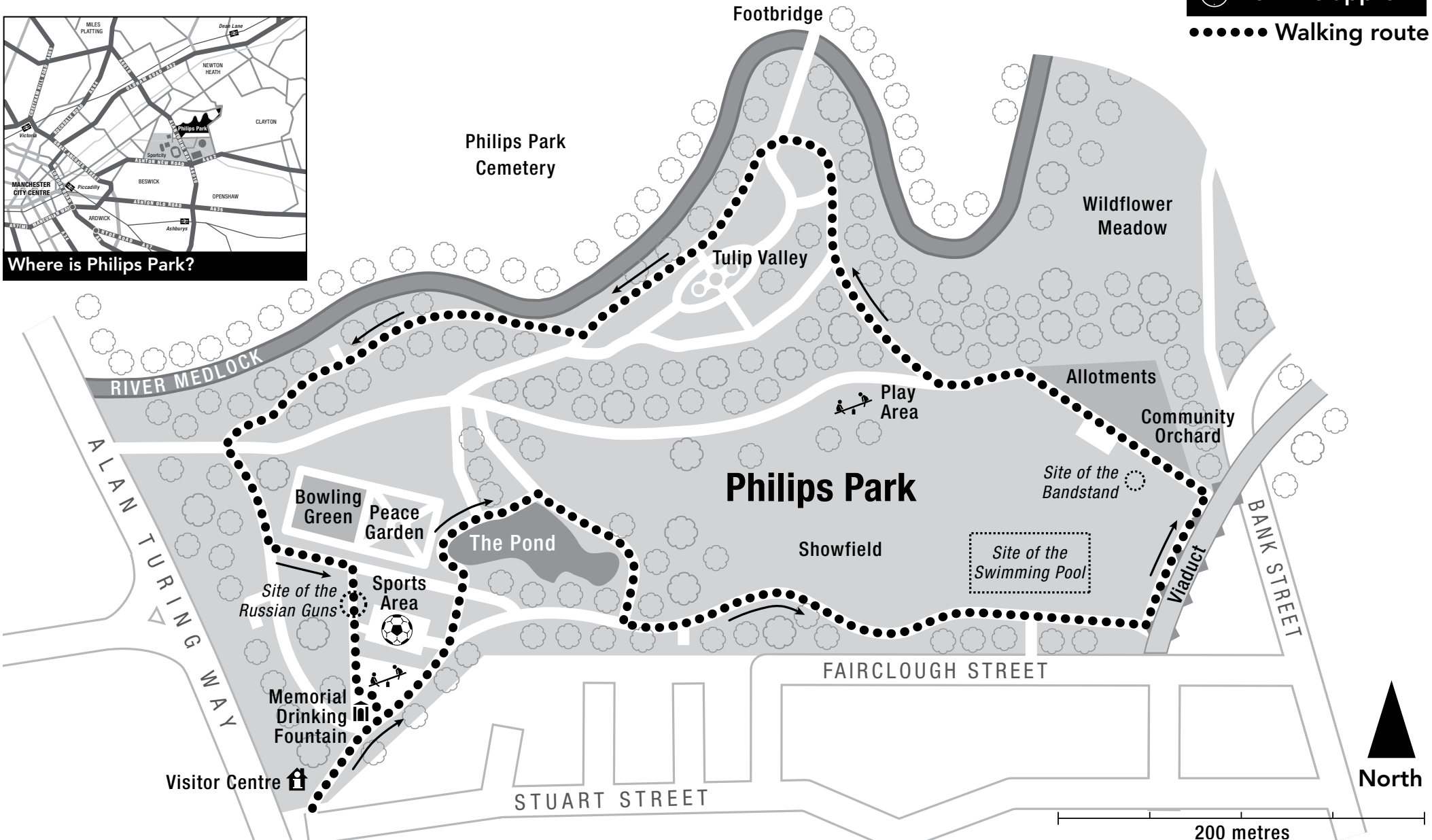
# History Walk

25 mins approx

●●●●● Walking route



Where is Philips Park?





## Information

### Visitor Centre

Located at the entrance on Stuart Street, open 9am – 5pm.

### Main Entrances

- Stuart Street via Manchester Velodrome
- Fairclough Street off Bank Street

### Arriving By Bus

- From Manchester City Centre: the **217** and **218** buses (Manchester to Tameside General Hospital) stop on Alan Turing Way near the park.
- Other services include the **53** (Cheetham Hill to Old Trafford), the **54** (Cheetham to the Trafford Centre) and the **185** (Sportcity to North Manchester General Hospital).
- Visit [www.gmpete.com](http://www.gmpete.com) for bus times.

### Arriving By Car

Car parking is available at the nearby Manchester Velodrome.

**For more information telephone 0161 231 3090, or visit the website at [www.philipspark.org.uk](http://www.philipspark.org.uk)**

### The Water Fountain

The drinking fountain, no longer functional, was installed in 1896 to mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the park.

### The Pond

The pond is all that remains of the river that ran from the SE to NW corners of the park before emptying into the River Medlock. There were originally 3 ponds in 1849. This later rose to 6 ponds that were used for boating, paddling and encouraging wild fowl. In 1865, all the ponds were filled to a shallow depth for the safety of ice skaters in winter. The remaining pond is the wild fowl pond.

### The Swimming Pool

In 1891 Manchester's first open air swimming pool was opened on this site. One of the ponds was converted using white tiles for the bottom and glazed brick for the sides at a cost of £3,000. The resulting pool had no heating and measured 200 x 70ft. This was filled in and closed in 1953.

In 1912 the pool was used by the Olympic swimming team to train and acclimatise for the games in Stockholm, where the swimming was held in a river. The swimming team came home with 2 silvers and 2 bronze medals and the water polo team came home with the gold medal.

### The Railway Viaduct

The railway viaduct was built in the early 1900s to link the main line with the power station and the chemical works in Clayton and Openshaw. The ash from the furnaces was taken along this railway into Clayton Vale to be dumped. The National Cycling Centre now sits on the site of the old power station. Clayton Vale is now a reclaimed park and in 2006 was given the status of being a Local Nature Reserve.

### Tulip Valley (Amphitheatre)

The first ornamental flowerbeds were sown in 1847. In its heyday during the 1920s, the display in Tulip Valley used around 60,000 bulbs and attracted visitors from across the region.

### The River Medlock

The River Medlock starts above Oldham and flows down to empty into the River Irwell in the centre of Manchester. The Medlock has long been an important feature of the park. The red brick channel that you see today was built after the flood of 1872, when the river rose suddenly and tore away part of the printworks in Clayton Vale and washed away 40 – 50 bodies from the cemetery. After this disaster the river was lined with red bricks to allow the water to flow safely through the park.

### The Peace Garden

The Peace Garden was developed on the site of the first bowling green to be opened in Manchester (1872). The site was converted into the Peace Garden in 2002. The adjacent bowling green was first opened in 1882.

### The Russian Guns

To the south of the bowling green once stood a pair of Russian cannons from the Crimean War. They were presented by the War Office and placed in the park in 1857. The guns were removed in 1941 and melted down to help with the war effort (together with the park railings).

### The Lodge

This is the only lodge left standing in the park. It was commissioned from Alfred Derbyshire who also designed Manchester's Palace Theatre. It originally cost £529.00 and the main gates cost £48.15p. The lodge was refurbished in 2002 and now serves as the park's visitor centre.