

## Tiny Treks - Burrs Country Park

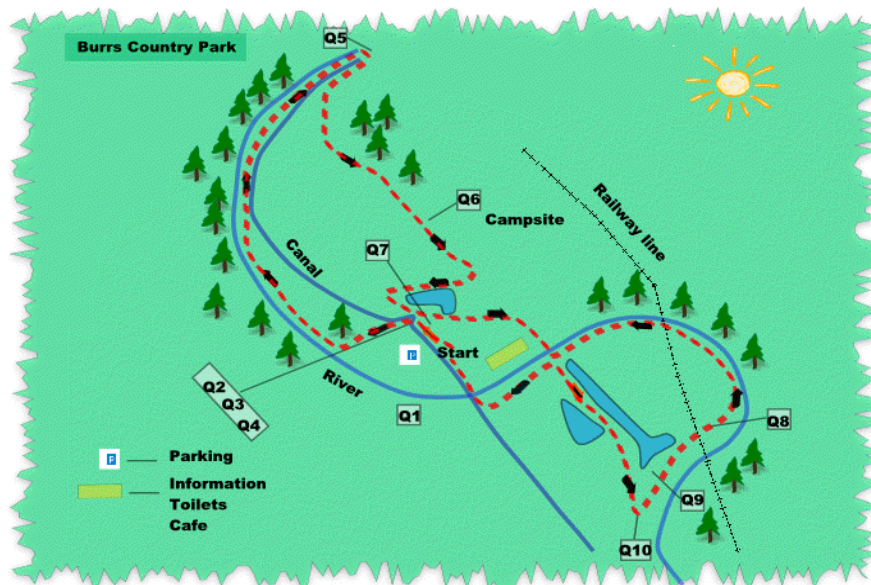
**Start:** Burrs Activity Centre Ltd. Woodhill Road, Bury, Lancashire. BL8 1DA

**Facilities/ Information:** Toilets, Parking, Visitor Centre (with activity centre) and Café (open school holidays and weekends)

**Walk:** 1.5 miles (2hrs), Easy.

### Walk instructions.

1. From the Car park walk toward a large "Mouse Trap" (Q1), go up the steps onto the canal bank and turn right.
2. Walk over a small wooden bridge. (Q2-Q5) At a junction in the path take the left path  "riverside walk to weir".
3. On reaching the weir (Q5) turn Right doubling back towards the activity centre. As you enter the main showground field take the path to the left towards the caravan site and adventure play area. (Challenge Q6)
4. As you reach the exit gate near the Caravan Club entrance, continue around the field until you get to the sensory garden.
5. Left past the sensory garden and through the gate, (Q7) walking between the canoe training pool and the canal towards the activity centre cottages.
6. Walk towards the activity centre cottages to the far side cross a bridge over the river Irwell and turn left. The river should be on your left.
7. You will pass under a railway bridge that transports the East Lancashire Railway.
8. At the second railway bridge **TASK (Q8, Q9)** continue on the path that turns into a cobbled street.
9. At the entrance to the Burrs Country Park (Q10) turn right through a small car park that takes you through the top of the mill house.
10. Continue straight on past the two fishing ponds and to the river Irwell again.
11. Prior to the river turn right cross a small road and up onto the canal bank where you turn right towards the start and the mouse trap.



### Activity Sheet / Walk Diary

We went on our walk on (date).....,  
with.....

Q1.  Look for the mouse trap called "picnic area" by David Fryer

☐

What is its other use at Burrs Country Park? \_\_\_\_\_

Q2.  Look for  "The Stone Cycle" by Julie Edwards ☐



Q3. How many  can you find? \_\_\_\_\_

Q4.  Look for  ☐  ☐

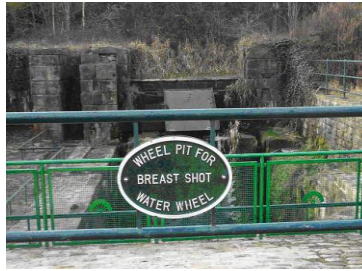
Q5. How many weir steps are there? \_\_\_\_\_

Q6. **Challenge.** Start at one end of the play area and work your way to the other end without touching the floor. Number of times floor touched \_\_\_\_\_. Task completed Yes/No.

Q7.  Look for  ☐  ☐ 

Q8. Under the second railway bridge can you make an Echo? \_\_\_\_\_

Q9  Look for

☐☐

Q10.  Look for

☐

### My Notes on Burrs Country Park

#### Some information about Burrs Country Park

In 1752 a farmhouse was built on the north side of the river. The original farmhouse is still in existence and is now the Brown Cow public house. With the coming of the industrial revolution the site started to change rapidly, Burrs Mill was built for Peel and Yates and Higher Woodhill Mill for Richard Calrow who were engaged in the processing of cotton. Initially the mills were powered by water from the river Irwell and a weir and goit were constructed to carry the water to the mills. Later the mills were adapted to steam power.

The construction of the Manchester, Bolton Bury Canal meant that a water supply was required to feed the header reservoir at Elton. To accommodate this the canal feeder was constructed around 1803 and connected into the existing goit. In 1808, Burrs mill was sold to Richard Calrow and in 1829 a major fire led to the rebuilding of the mill with additional buildings including a manager's house, an apprentice's house and blacksmith's shop.

The 1850's boom in cotton manufacturing was a time of great prosperity and lasted until the cotton famine brought about by the American Civil war between 1861 to 1865. The shortages of raw cotton lead to the Calrow family business going into liquidation.

The mills were finally sold in 1870 and a new bridge built over the river to replace the ford and by 1880 the mills were manufacturing paper. Further building took place in 1893 and Burrs mill was converted in to a bleach works. 1920 saw the fields to the rear of the Brown Cow laid out as a cricket ground and bowling green constructed. By 1925 Woodhill Road had been constructed along the side of the canal feeder and a manager's house built. The manager's house is now the Garsdale public house.

In 1930 Higher Woodhill Mill was demolished and in 1933 the depression caused the remaining mills to close. During the Second World War Burrs Mill and the associated buildings were used as an army billet and then to house prisoners of war.

In 1952 the earliest part of Burrs Mill was demolished. The rest of the mill followed in 1982 leaving only the chimney and the workers cottages. The site was acquired by Bury Metro in 1986 and work started on redeveloping the site as a country park.

#### Irwell Sculpture Trail

The site is on the Irwell Sculpture Trail and has three sculptures, 'Waterwheel' by David Kemp, 'Stone Cycle' by Julie Edwards and 'Picnic Area' by David Fryer.