IRWELL SCULPTURE TRAIL

VISITOR GUIDE
Maps and pre-planned routes

HALO John Kennedy, Near the Rawtenstall Cluster
Image Nick Harrison
irwellsculpturetrail.co.uk
Winding its way from Bacup to Salford Quays, Irwell Sculpture Trail features over 70 artworks by locally, nationally and internationally renowned artists.

The Trail is the largest sculpture route in the UK and makes a great free day out for all the family, connecting local heritage, the landscape and communities.

The Trail also links a host of cultural attractions from art galleries and museums to the East Lancashire Railway.

Whether you are on foot, on a bike or simply walking the dog, the trail provides a fascinating backdrop to the local landscape. You don’t have to do all 33 miles of the trail in one go, we’ve split the trail into bite size clusters allowing you to take a short walk or spend all day exploring the area.
BACUP CLUSTER

Bacup is a town full of industrial heritage and traditions. Experience the Britannia Coconutters performing their traditional clog dancing through the town or visit the Bacup Natural History Museum and its astounding collection.

THE SENTINEL
Artist Jane Dunn
Date 1998
Postcode Nearest, OL13 9DQ

The Sentinel was created to highlight links between the rural and industrial heritage of the area. Meaning ‘soldier posted to keep guard over a special place’, Sentinel incorporates two local traditional skills; stonewalling and felting; and is made from local stone.

The artist learnt stonewalling from a local craftsman and involved local people in workshops.

THE BIRDS
Artist Groundwork Pennine Lancashire Date 2002
Postcode Nearest, OL13 0AT

These birds were created to signal the entrance to Bacup in Rossendale. They refer to Bacup’s rich industrial history but also look to the town’s future as a thriving 21st Century place.

The work extends to the design of the railings which reflect Bacup’s industrial heritage.

The designs of the railings and the sculpture were developed through workshops with local metal work artists.

MAP KEY
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STACKSTEADS CLUSTER

Lee Quarry and Cragg Quarry in Stacksteads have been transformed into thrill seeking mountain bike trails that form part of Rossendale’s Adrenaline Gateway. The rugged and scarred landscape is a visual record of the industrial history of the area.

FROND
Artist Robin Dobson, Date 2009
Postcode Nearest, OL13 0BB
Frond is one of three sculptures at Lee Quarry which celebrate the area’s industrial heritage as part of the Valley of Stone project. The sculpture highlights the views around Lee Quarry. School children from Holy Trinity Primary School helped to design the sculpture.

Valley of Stone is managed by Groundwork Pennine Lancashire. The artwork was managed and commissioned by local art agency Mid Pennine Arts.

FERROTERROSARUS
Artist Robin Dobson, Date 2009
Postcode Nearest, OL13 0BB
Based in Lee Quarry in Rossendale, Ferroterrosaurus is inspired by industrial machinery and skeletal detailing and provides a ‘drop off’ obstacle for Trial bikers. Mountain and Trail bike riders were invited to a workshop to help design the piece.

It is one of a set of three sculptures at Lee Quarry which celebrate the area’s industrial heritage at part of the Valley of Stone project.

ECO FLY
Artist Robin Dobson, Date 2009
Postcode Nearest, OL13 0BB
Echo Fly is inspired by the dragonflies which inhabit the pools in Lee Quarry. The concept evolved after discussions with local ramblers who expressed an interest in an artwork which would interact with wind and water movement.

It is the final commission in a set of three sculptures at Lee Quarry which celebrate the area’s industrial heritage at part of the Valley of Stone project.

STACKSTEADS RIVERSIDE PARK
Artist Jim Starr Date 2010
Postcode Nearest, OL13 OUG
Commissioned by the Stacksteads Riverside Park Group, this riverside walk is dotted with carved gritstone sculptures. Stone picnic benches by the artist are also to be found in this attractive wooded spot.

Towards Waterfoot, you will find a further large stone carved sculpture by Starr, in memory of his late wife, Anne Star. This piece can be found at The Glen.

THE WEAVE
Artist Michael Farrell
Date 1994
Postcode Nearest, OL13 0NZ
Inspiration for Michael Farrell’s Weave came from the idea of looking at fabric under a microscope and seeing the individual threads intertwined.

The colour scheme is based on gingham with two colours woven across each other. Influenced by the local textile industry, the sculpture incorporates a stone flag floor from the Baltic Mill in Waterfoot.
RAWTENSTALL CLUSTER

Catch the East Lancashire steam train to Rawtenstall to visit Malachi Fitzpatrick’s, Britain’s last Temperance Bar, which has been serving herbalist drinks since 1899. You will find Halo hovering above the town at Top O’ Slate where there are fantastic views of the Irwell Valley and its rural beauty.

**BOCHOLT TREE**
**Artist** Bernard Tindall, Raku Works Sculptural Arts  
**Date** 1991  
**Postcode** Nearest, BB4 6AJ  
Located beside the main Rawtenstall roundabout, the Bocholt Tree celebrates Rossendale’s links with its German twin-town. The sculpture is a symbol of unity between the people of Rossendale and Bocholt, whose civic symbol is the tree, and acts as a reminder to the people that they have friends in other parts of Europe.

**GATEWAY 1 AND 2**
**Artist** Chrysalis Arts  
**Date** 1994  
**Postcode** Nearest, BB4 6AJ  
To create this work on the East Lancashire Railway in Rawtenstall, railway lines were shaped to form the archway of the gates and steel panels were cut with images of steam train wheels to represent the railway and the history of the local area.

**SPACES 9.XXXV’94**
**Artist** Petre Nikoloski  
**Date** 1993  
**Postcode** Nearest, BB4 7JB  
Spaces 9. XXXV’94 (Monument to Nature) was created by Macedonian-born artist Petre Nikoloski. It is a response to the unique environment of the Irwell Valley and links to a series of sculptures around the world by the same artist.

The sculpture explores the depths of the human-psyche and our relation to mystic natural forces.

**HALO**
**Artist** John Kennedy and LandLab  
**Date** 2007  
**Postcode** Nearest BB4 5RD  
Halo is one in a series of Panopticons, commissioned as landmarks to attract visitors into Pennine Lancashire. It is a steel structure set against the Lancashire countryside. By night Halo glows a sky-blue colour, giving the effect of hovering above the town. The Panopticons project was led by Mid Pennine Arts and funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and the Lancashire Economic Partnership.

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**Ramsbottom and Irwell Vale Cluster**

Home to an annual Chocolate Festival, Ramsbottom is a bustling town with great independent shops and a farmers’ market. Join the East Lancashire Railway as they take you to Ramsbottom and back in time during their 1940’s Wartime Weekend.

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**Remnant Kings**
**Artist** Ian Randall  
**Date** 1997  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL0 0QN

Set against the stunning Irwell Valley, Ian Randall’s sculpture refers to the remnants of the once thriving textile and mining industries of the area.

The large timber sections made from local ash are cradled in cogs. This structure suggests movement, throwing the timber forward and releasing the stones within its folds, like seeds bringing new growth.

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**Tilted Vase**
**Artist** Edward Allington  
**Date** 1998  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL0 9AJ

This giant vase draws its inspiration from the legacy of the Industrial Revolution in the valley. The classical shape of the vase reflects local architecture. It was built in sections which were then bolted together to look like a machine.

Allington, an internationally renowned Sculptor, was selected from over 30 entrants to design a new artwork for the site of the old market in Ramsbottom.

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**The River**
**Artist** Hetty Chapman and Karen Allerton  
**Date** 1997  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL0 9AB

The River is an 88 metre stainless steel path, inscribed with poems, which meanders through the picnic site ending with a collection of 34 wooden posts made from railways sleepers, providing a platform to watch the passing trains.

The artists worked with local school children and members of the community to develop writings and drawings for this piece.

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**In the Picture**
**Artist** Richard Caink  
**Date** 1997  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL0 0PB

Richard Caink’s sculpture frames the picturesque view along the Irwell Valley. The sculpture refers to traditional landscape paintings of the 18th & 19th Century, often used to display land ownership. The carvings along the footpath relate to the local industry and in particular the loom-wreckers rebellion of 1826 at Chatterton Mill, where three people were shot after protests about the introduction of a powered loom.

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- **River**  
- **Road**  
- **Railway**  
- **Metrolink**

**Copyright acknowledgement**
### BURRS COUNTRY PARK CLUSTER

Since its acquisition in 1986 Burrs Country Park has been transformed from a derelict industrial area to a pretty park where important features such as Burrs Mill chimney, the mill floor and the water wheel pit have been retained as a reminder of its previous use. The park hosts activities such as canoeing, camping and fishing.

### Stone Cycle
**Artist** Julie Edwards  
**Date** 1997  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL8 1DA

This sculpture is made up of a series of stones recycled from a dismantled bridge on Market Street in Bury. The artist discovered marks made by the original masons to which new carved symbols were added.

Working on site gave Edwards an understanding of the place, the passing of time, the people and the industry of the area, which is reflected in her work.

### Waterwheel
**Artist** David Kemp  
**Date** 1996  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL8 1DA

David Kemp’s Waterwheel marks the entrance to Burrs Country Park, once the site of a large mill. The work, half immersed in masonry suggests an uncovered relic of the huge waterwheels which originally powered the industry of the Irwell Valley.

The wheel symbolises the process of constant change, the changing of a river into an industrial site and its change back into countryside again.

### Picnic Area
**Artist** David Fryer  
**Date** 1998  
**Postcode** Nearest, BL8 1DA

David Fryer’s human scale mouse trap has the words ‘picnic area’ inscribed on its plate in a wry comment on the hidden history of the site and its current use as a country park.

The area has been transformed from a derelict industrial site into a haven for leisure activities such as canoeing, camping and fishing, which prompted the artist to ask whether it is a tourist trap.
Bury was the home of Robert Peel, founder of the modern police service, and is famous for its black pudding and bustling market. For a day out, catch a steam train on the East Lancashire Railway or visit Bury Art Museum to see its fine permanent collection which includes oil paintings by J MW Turner and John Constable.
CLOSE PARK CLUSTER

The larger than life sculptures in Close Park are surrounded by eleven hectares of gardens and parkland. The park was donated by the Bealey family and was first opened to the public in 1925. The park includes river fishing, a children’s play area and a beautiful sensory area.

JAMES AND HIS BALL OF FIRE
Artist Mark Jalland, Date 2006
Postcode Nearest, M26 2QA

This Giant stainless steel origami style dinosaur, takes its inspiration from the former paper-making industry in Radcliffe. The reflective materials respond to different light and weather conditions. The artist worked with Radcliffe Hall Primary School, and choreographer Ruth Jones, to come up with ideas for sculptures in Close Park to ensure the work reflected the fun and playfulness of the park.

TARA IN HER TRAINERS
Artist Mark Jalland, Date 2006
Postcode Nearest, M26 2QA

Jalland’s shiny cheetah-like creature wearing trainers was created with the help of pupils from Radcliffe Hall Primary School and takes inspiration from Radcliffe’s former paper-making and fabrication industries.

CHOCOCUPCAKE BOY
Artist Mark Jalland, Date 2006
Postcode Nearest, M26 2QA

Chococupcake Boy was created as the result of a joint project between Bury Council, Radcliffe Hall Primary School, artist Mark Jallard and choreographer Ruth Jones. Through a series of interactive workshops, the children were involved in formulating ideas for this sculpture.
Radcliffe is steeped in industrial history and was made famous by its manufacture of paper. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside and is home to artworks by conceptual New York artist Lawrence Weiner that are set on the riverside and canal.

**EXTERNAL WAVE**

**Artist** Adam Reynolds  
**Date** 2009  
**Postcode** Nearest, M26 2SP

Installed outside the Radcliffe Medical Practice, these wave forms attempt to bring some of the tranquillity and power of the surrounding countryside into the town. Working with local groups the artist collected clay panels depicting the local area, healthcare and the idea of ‘home’ which were cast in bronze and included in the work.

**FROM THE TOWER FALLS THE SHADOW**

**Artist** Brass Art  
**Date** 2008  
**Postcode** Nearest, M26 2SZ

In Brass Art’s dramatic neon sculpture they refer to Radcliffe’s rich history, with evidence of habitation stretching back to the bronze age. Radcliffe Tower, dating from 1403, is the town’s oldest structure throwing a shadow of history across the area. The work, at Radcliffe Metrolink Station, responds to the passage of both time and the trams.

**WATER MADE IT WET**

**Artist** Lawrence Weiner  
**Date** 2009  
**Postcode** Nearest, M26 2SZ

This text work is located on an old railway bridge over the Bolton Bury canal in Radcliffe and represents the artist’s attempt to understand the nature of water itself.

Weiner is one of the central figures of late 20th Century art and is thought to be one of the founders of conceptualism. Since the mid-1960s, Weiner has used written language as his primary material.

**IN THE BULRUSHES**

**Artist** William Pym  
**Date** 2001  
**Postcode** Nearest, M26 3DX

The artwork takes its inspiration from the nearby Bury Bolton canal and the industries that used the canal. The canal is thick with bulrushes and the artist imagined that objects lost a generation ago would be hidden forever among the reeds. The sculpture depicts a weaving shuttle with bulrush motifs and a small canal barge hidden in the bottom of the bulrushes, only visible close up.

**NAILING HOME**

**Artist** Jack Wright  
**Date** 1999  
**Postcode** Nearest, M26 4EA

The artwork is a series of nine giant frost nails, a type of nail used to attach shire horses’ shoes in icy conditions. Based on the idea of a horse-shoe as a good luck symbol, the nails also evoke rooftops and homes rising from the ground. Each of the nails feature a line of poetry quoting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
WHITEFIELD CLUSTER

Whitefield is rich with social and industrial history. It is home to Besses o’r Barn Band, one of the oldest brass bands in the world. You can visit All Saints church, at Stand which was designed by a young Charles Barry who went on to design the Palace of Westminster.

CASTINGS AT MORRISONS

**Artist** Steve des Landes, OneNineSixTwo Design  
**Date** 2009  
**Postcode** Nearest, M45 8QH

Steve des Landes has created two aluminum panels that represent the rich industrial and social heritage of the area. The first panel tells the story of the Besses o’r Barn Band, one of the oldest brass bands in the world. The second panel depicts the washer women of the now demolished Lilly Hill Steam Laundry as well as tradesman, masons and blacksmiths from Whitefield.

CANARIES IN THE PARK

**Artist** David Appleyard  
**Date** 2010  
**Postcode** Nearest, M45 8QH

David Appleyard designed and created 121 canaries to commemorate the 121 years of the Park’s existence. The canary theme was chosen because the Park once housed an aviary of exotic birds. The canaries’ various colours represent the colours of the sweets once produced by Hall’s sweet works which stood opposite the Park on the site of Morrison’s car park.
OUTWOOD COUNTRY PARK CLUSTER

Mysterious monolithic sculptures can be found at the old Outwood Colliery, which closed in 1931 when a fire broke out. The reclaimed land now forms part of the Outwood Trail, a beautiful 4 km route for walkers, cyclists and horseriders along a former railway line between Prestwich and Radcliffe.

UNTITLED STONES

**Artist** Ulrich Rückriem  
**Date** 1999  
**Postcode** Nearest, M26 1DX

On the site of the former Outwood Colliery, ten monolithic stone pieces are set over a number of locations. Columns stand at the two main entrances, seven slabs are installed on a flat plateau and the largest slab marks where the former railtrack meets up with three other paths. Ulrich Rückriem has works sited all over the world from Berlin and Dublin to Tokyo and Barcelona.

TRINITY

**Artist** Stephan Gec  
**Date** 1999  
**Nearest** Nearest, M26 1DX

Trinity is a memorial to the navies that lost their lives during the construction of the railway. The sculpture uses the symbolic language of flowers which was common during the Victorian period when the railway cutting was created.

The column has rusted over time making the sculpture part of the natural environment, and a symbolic representation of a tree, at home in the surrounding woodland.

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CLIFTON COUNTRY PARK CLUSTER

Clifton Country Park is a haven of peace in the heart of the urban landscape. The site of an old colliery dating from 1740, it is now designated a local nature reserve and currently holds a prestigious Green Flag award.

THE LOOKOUT

**Artist** Tim Norris  
**Date** 2001  
**Postcode** Nearest, M27 6NG

Tim Norris took his inspiration for The Lookout from the history of Clifton Country Park, the landscape and materials left over from the previous industry of the area.

The sculpture was created using a local stone similar to the material quarried at the park. The Lake was created in 1970 through mineral extraction and now is a haven for wild birds.

WET EARTH SCULPTURES

**Artist** Stephen Charnock  
**Date** 2008  
**Postcode** Nearest, M27 6NG

Stephen Charnock’s collection of sculptures was created to mark the site of the former Wet Earth Colliery, one of the first deep mines to be sunk into the Irwell Valley.

Salford City Council secured a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to bring what remains of the colliery back to life.

DIG

**Artist** Rosie Leventon  
**Date** 1999  
**Postcode** Nearest, M27 6NG

Set in the beautiful Clifton Country Park, Rosie Leventon’s work is inspired by a nearly extinct boat, called a ‘starvationer’, because of the external ribs of its construction. Such boats were used to carry coal through narrow underground tunnels on this site. On the site of the work there are disused collieries, underground canals, an aqueduct and old canal boats.
This bustling part of Salford City is alive with contemporary arts and culture. You can visit Salford Museum and Art Gallery or Islington Mill, where you will find artists’ studios and exciting contemporary exhibitions. There are live performances at Studio Salford, and The Kings Arms, a bohemian backstreet pub with a studio theatre.

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**MONUMENT TO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM**
*Artisit Adrian Moakes*  
*Date 2000*  
*Postcode Nearest, M5 4WU*  
Inspired by the history of the River Irwell which regularly flooded the park in the past. The five-metre high steel sculpture depicts a swirling shoal of fish swimming through a vortex of water and features a seating area at the base, from which to view Peel Park. The artist worked with Salford University students to produce his sculpture.

**THE WHOLE WORLD IS A GARDEN**
*Artisit The Salford M3 Community, Date 2011*  
*Postcode Nearest, M3 5EN*  
The Friends of Islington Park embarked on a project to restore a weather-damaged mosaic artwork in the park. Originally created in 1992, the mosaic was designed by pupils from nearby St Phillips School. For the restoration project the Friends of Islington Park worked with the original pupils who created the mosaic and they in turn involved their own children.

**SEED**
*Artisit Andrew McKeown*  
*Date 2002*  
*Postcode Nearest, M3 6FS*  
Andrew McKeown’s sculpture is a sycamore seed, which has been enlarged one hundred times. The sculpture represents new life and growth emerging from the decline of the traditional engineering and manufacturing industries of the area.

**FABRIC OF NATURE**
*Artisit Julia Hilton, Date 2000*  
*Postcode Nearest, M5 4WU*  
This earthwork sculpture takes nature’s pattern as its inspiration. It is loosely the shape of a bud and leaf unfurling into a spiral mound, taking the view up to a curved brick seating area. The seating area houses a series of panels etched with images of the leaves of the tree species found in the park. The flower beds are planted with aromatic herbs.

**RISE**
*Artisit Liam Curtin, Date 2005*  
*Postcode Nearest, M5 4JN*  
On the site of the former TGWU Headquarters, the artwork is a tribute to the strong trade unionist tradition in Salford. It is inspired by ‘Rise like Lions’, a line from Percy Shelley’s ‘The Masque of Anarchy’ written in 1819 in response to the Peterloo Massacre. The artwork honours all those who have defended just causes and who have taken collective action to achieve their aims.
Ordsall Hall is a gem in the heart of Salford, a manor house over 820 years old with its very own ghost. For a day out you can visit the hall experiencing it beautiful gardens and restored building and go on to Salford Quays where you will find Unlocking Salford Quays which tells the history of the Docks and brings the dockers stories to life.

**Ordsall Cluster**

- **Ordsall Hall** is a manor house over 820 years old with its very own ghost.
- **Unlocking Salford Quays** tells the history of the Docks and brings the dockers stories to life.
- **Ordsall Cluster** includes sculptures such as:
  - **Four Corners** by Noah Rose (1997)
  - **The Moat** by John Kennedy (2011)
  - **Timeline** by Lesley Fallais (2011)

**Timeline at Ordsall Hall**

- **Artist**: Lesley Fallais
- **Date**: 2011
- **Postcode**: Nearest, M5 3AN

Timeline at Ordsall Hall illustrates significant aspects of the hall’s history, the site and the history of the neighbourhood in which it has stood for over 700 years. It is a record of shared memories and stories about local characters and events. Words, images and objects relating to the history of the hall are cast in bronze carved into stone paving in the landscaped grounds.

**The Moat**

- **Artist**: John Kennedy
- **Date**: 2011
- **Postcode**: Nearest, M5 3AN

For this new work in the grounds of Tudor house Ordsall Hall in Salford John Kennedy took his inspiration from the moat that would have once encircled the hall. The original moat would have provided protection for the hall. Beautifully set in the landscaped gardens of the hall, the moat is complete with wooden swans suggesting the water that once would have flowed through it.

**Four Corners**

- **Artist**: Noah Rose
- **Date**: 1997
- **Postcode**: Nearest, M50 3SQ

Four Corners was commissioned for the site of the old Salford Docks as part of the Quays development as a reminder of the previous use of the site and the people who worked there. The artist worked with a group of ten former dockworkers at Salford Quays Heritage Centre to draw scenes from the stories the dockworkers told of working life in Salford Docks.
Unlocking Salford Quays

**Postcode** Nearest, M50 3AZ

Unlocking Salford Quays is a community engagement project delivered by The Lowry in 2010 in celebration of its 10th anniversary. The project brought together local communities, artists, performers, writers and historians to explore the rich heritage of the former Salford Docks.

Visitors can browse the project website for art, photos, performances, stories and a trail map.

www.thelowryusq.com

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**WHERE THE WILD THINGS WERE**

*Artist* Unusual

*Date* 2010

This sculpture celebrates the impact of the Manchester Ship Canal, a man-made waterway connecting Salford to the sea, and the rest of the world.

The giant blades of elephant grass suggest places beyond the Canal, where ships sailed to and from. Each steel base is engraved with drawings by local children, who imagined the landscape and wildlife of far-off lands.

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**FACTORY GIRLS**

*Artist* David Appleyard

*Date* 2010

David worked with young people from Salford College, Salford Foundation, Eccles Youth Club and Ordsall Community Arts. The sculpture celebrates the women workers of Metropolitan Vickers, once the largest factory in Western Europe. The forms are inspired by products made at the electrical engineering firm in Trafford Park. Each enamelled figure is named after a former employee.

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**ERIE’S REST**

*Artist* Ingrid Hu

*Date* 2010

Made with local families from Weaste and Ordsall and Salford based ceramicist Beverley Gee.

The shape of this sculpture echoes the ebb and flow of the Canal. The artist was inspired by stories of an ancestor who claimed to have walked on both the Canal floor during its construction, and the Canal surface when it froze to ice.

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**NINE DOCK**

*Artist* Mor

*Date* 2010

Nine Dock was once the largest and most important on Salford Docks. It was home to the passenger and shipping company, Manchester Liners. At over half a mile in length Nine Dock was big enough to hold ten large container ships.

The surface is engraved with quotes by local people, who also helped to make decisions about the final shape, materials and colour.

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**CASUALS**

*Artist* Broadbent

*Date* 2010

Created with former Salford Dock workers and their families, each metal structure in this installation represents a dock workers union card. They are arranged in separate groups emphasising the divide between those in and out of work.

A number of former dockers and their families gave interviews for this project. Some of their names and photographs feature on the cards.
Countryside code The countryside provides every opportunity for enjoyment and relaxation. Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs; Leave gates and property as you find them; Protect plants and animals; take your litter home; Keep dogs under close control; Consider other people.

Walking safety Irwell Sculpture Trail is often in open countryside so you will feel more comfortable if you use strong shoes or walking boots for the rougher ground. The weather can change so take waterproof and warm clothing. Some sections of the Trail have been improved, especially where they coincide with National Cycle Way 6, with easy to open gates. Other sections may have more uneven surfaces and gradients, be close to the river bank, or be prone to puddles and have tall vegetation (in season). Styles and narrow accessing gates may be encountered. Users with limited mobility may find parts of the trail a challenge. For further advice about safe walking visit: www.ramblers.org.uk/info/practical/safety

Cycle safety Ensure that your bike is in good working order, paying particular attention to brakes, tyres and the steering system; Wear bright clothing and a cycle helmet. At night, front and rear lights and a red reflector are legally required, and you get seen; When riding on roads always follow the Highway Code.