

**Forty three:       EDGE HILL – SEFTON PARK.**

This is a trip through some urban decay to a grand Victorian Park that is undergoing major restoration. You will see the damage done by long neglect and the improvements made by recent social investment. This makes a long walk but is an ideal length for a cycle ride.

Board a Liverpool train at Eccles station and alight at Edge Hill station. *Edge Hill station was built in 1836 when the L&M railway built the diversion down to Lime Street. The original line went off to the left of the station. Notice the classical buildings. Can you spot where the big lantern was mounted? Yellow and black are the L&M Railway's colours. The buildings on platform one house an experimental art project to bring them back into use. Underneath the ramps are gated tunnels..*

Ascend the approach ramp to the main road and go left along Tunnel Road.

Cross Earle Road and Smithdown Road (*fine bank and pub buildings here*) and continue ahead. *Notice the Edgehill Library and Electricity Service building on the right.*

You are now on Sefton Park Road. *There is some regeneration occurring in this run down area. Notice further along how the immigrant community has recycled the old area with its own business activity.*

Eventually at a complex crossroads cross to go between the large stone columns *that presumably supported the grand entrance gates.*

Cross into the park and go along the tree lined avenue through the expanse of the park. You will come to the Aviary Café and the Eros Statue (*a la Piccadilly, London*)

To visit the magnificent restored Palm House go left as you face the statue and proceed up hill. Afterwards retrace your steps to the statue.

Now go down the right hand side of the Eros Statue as you face it and walk along with the stream on your left. Cross it the left and go immediately right up to the Albert Statue. Past this cross the small stream and go right to follow the edge of the lake. (*Did the ring of very large houses surrounding it part finance this park?*)

At the end of the lake go up to cross the road and between the gateposts. (*Notice the ornate entrance lodge on your left.*)

Follow the pavement to the busy cross roads (*again a fine bank and a fine pub bldg*).

Go left up Ashfield Road. Fork right onto Elmswood Road and follow this as it becomes Rose Lane towards Garston Station (*just before this there is a nice café on the right.*

At Garston you can catch a train back to Edge Hill to catch a train to Eccles or you can catch a train going to Manchester Oxford Road or Piccadilly.

CLASSIFICATION:                   EASY BUT A LONG WALK.  
GOOD CYCLE TRIP. ARCHITECTURE,  
GARDENS, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, CAFES.  
RAIL FARE: category three.

Maps: OS 1:50 000 SHEET 108. LIVERPOOL A-Z