**SALFORD WALKING VISIT**

**Thursday 22nd May 2025 17:30-19:30**

*\*Meet at MediaCityUK\**

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Introduce yourself (researcher interested in how people and place entwine, and how that connection/relationship is shaped by urban policy throughout people’s lives)

Introduce Salford

So the walk/talk will be coming from a lived experience and sociological perspective (in contrast to MCC walk yesterday) – and there will be 5 key places that we will visit:

1. Salford Quays / MediaCityUK Development
2. Ontario basin to think a little bit about industrial heritage
3. Ordsall – to show a contrast in areas and their development.
4. Salford Lads Club as an iconic cultural landmark, but a landmark that raises questions over who decides what culture gets preserved and what gets demolished

Happy to make this as interactive as possible so ask questions whenever you like

State that I am aware the major interest in the group is around mobility, which I am not an expert on. However hopefully throughout this walk you should be able to get an embodied sense of how people are able, or are not able, to move throughout the city and throughout different areas of Salford.

So whilst we are walking through the areas you pay attention to the different types of accommodation/buildings, the different types of materials, the different people, etc.

Photographs throughout are fine but once we get across to the more residential areas such as Ordsall it’s important we are respectful, and I would suggest we don’t take photos there. I will remind you of that.

**AREA 1 – MediaCityUK and Salford Quays REDEVELOPMENT**

has seen massive amounts of transformation in line with an entrepreneurial form of development and has been a major catalyst for transformation of Salford as a whole.

Salford as an area never been affluent, always suffered from poverty with industrial roots and rapid urban growth – Fredrich Engels worked/managed a factory in Salford not far from here and the ‘slum-like’ industrial streets of Salford in the 1800s were what his famous ‘Conditions of the Working Class’ book was based on.

Salford Docks was a key part of this industrial history, which was a major in-land port, forming one of the two docks making up the Manchester Docks, on the Manchester Ship Canal. CLOSED in 1982.

GIVE BACKSTORY OF THE REDEVELOPMENT – first and largest urban redevelopment in the UK, having different stages/time periods, still being developed today – each year it changes and morphs and expands – started with major reclamation and environmental works to clean up the water/area – then a later cultural offer of the Lowry Centre, named after Salford’s most famous painter LS Lowry – home to the BBC and ITV Studios – choice to decentralise BBC from London, Salford chose as the site – become known as one of the most successful, flagship regeneration projects in the UK, massively revitalising the economy. Drawing in new residents and a new community – young professionals etc. The achievements at Salford Quays created the confidence and impetus or the council to embark on further daring, flagship-style regeneration projects.

Increasing rents.

**AREA 2 – ONTARIO BASIN**

* No residential communities on the Docks – but tied to people’s lives and identities
* Redevelopment brought out many changes, employment, and other benefits but for w/c communities it’s often a space ‘not for them’ (something I will expand on more when we get to Ordsall) and doesn’t reflect the history – which some existing communities are critical of
* EXAMPLE: Blue Cargo Cranes that sat in Ontario Basin as a visual celebration to the area’s industrial heritage, which were given a listed but status – but were neglected by the Council and de-listed and pulled down in 2013 – delisting and demolishing buildings tied to Salford’s industrial past has happened in other neighbourhoods in Salford, for many this speaks to its deliberate erasure – local memories erased from the regen (can discuss more when we get to Ordsall and Salford Lads Club)
* Also it was argued that the benefits of this development would ‘trickle-out’ into neighbouring communities – but this hasn’t exactly been the case – which we can unpack at the next couple sites – so whilst walking you could maybe take note of how the buildings/areas start to change and in what ways.

**AREA 3 – ORDSALL**

So here we stand on the other side, in a neighbourhood called Ordsall – and is an area that has had a different regeneration story to that of Salford Quays, and is considered ‘worlds away’ both materially and symbolically from the Quays.

* Stigmatised reputation over the years, facing structural inequalities despite repeated efforts of redevelopment – but a solid community that people from here are proud of.
* Discuss impacts of this development on neighbouring communities – was argued benefits would ‘trickle-down’ to communities in Ordsall but was little social and economic integration,
* and is argued that gentrification from the Quays is rippling out into other areas like Weaste, where house soaring house prices are creating anxieties for those that live there, living with a constant insecurity that they will be pushed out.
* Reflect on Ordsall’s journey – area more residential.

An area that has experienced continued waves of redevelopment since the ‘slum’ clearance programme – a national policy aimed at demolishing deteriorated Victorian terraced housing stock and providing new ‘modern’ homes. Is the introduction of council housing in UK. Happened on mass in Salford – almost 46000 individuals displaced and 15,000 homes demolished from 1958-1973. Radically transformed the landscape, densely packed terraced streets into concrete high-rise flats and low density housing.

Clearance programme cleared the majority of Ordsall (apart from a few rows which we will see when we get to Salford Lads Club)

Housing that replaced it was argued to be cheap and shoddy, and many of the houses didn’t last and were demolished again – this speaks to wider issues around council housing not being properly maintained due to economic recessions, changes in welfare policies with Thatcher etc. and social issues that were concentrated in these estates (which was a structural issue, not an individual one!) – housing then been demolished a second, third and fourth time, with many areas left wasteland as we will see as we walk from here. But as you can see, there is a mix of different types of housing.

* Discuss research, participant experienced these different layerings of demolition, being uprooted and moved twice – areas and houses are meaningful to people, they connect to them as part of their identity, and for things to be *“decimated”* multiple times, there is little left in the neighbourhood for people to feel a sense of connection to. Many spoke about “*worlds being swept away”* with each demolition, it’s not just houses that are destroyed but communities are severed and ‘ways of life’ disappear – which many feel aggrieved at. Material destruction they had to live through.

Different losses or absences in the landscape layer up in the lives of working-class communities.

Redevelopment in areas ebbs and flows over time, some areas left to deteriorate, others are heavily invested in.

Walking to the next place, keep an eye out for the different types of housing, of landscape, compared to the Quays.

**AREA 4 – SALFORD LADS CLUB**

Community centre open since 1903 - purpose-built for boys, but now provides community activities for everyone and has held an annual camp holiday since its opening.

Interior and exterior is almost unchanged, and the centre has become an iconic cultural landmark (The Smiths etc.)

Reasons for coming – firstly to show an iconic site, secondly because the buildings/houses here offer an insight into Salford’s housing structure *before* the clearances, with the red brick and terraced houses.

competing discussions about what gets to stay and what doesn’t in redeveloping cities, what is valued and what is not, etc.

Cultural landmarks that have been able to stay put – other things condemned such as housing, which simultaneously is an attack on the communities and people that live there.

(interestingly Salford Lads Club was recently at threat of closure, but managed to do a campaign and raise enough finances to stay open)

[Leslie (SLC) to discuss how vital the club is to the community – as a long-standing institution that still offers social and community provision/activities, but also a familiar institution in the community that withstood demolition, and serves as a key site for them to anchor their memories – give the sheer amount of change happening.

**WALK TO CORNBROOK METROLINK**

**END**