

DVSA Driving Test Routes Atherton — 6 Representative Practice Routes

■ **TRAINING GUIDE DISCLAIMER:** These routes are representative practice routes based on known roads and verified road types used at this test centre. They are NOT confirmed DVSA examiner sequences. Road sequences, junctions and directions should be verified locally with an ADI before use with learners. The DVSA does not publish official test routes.

Test Centre: Atherton DVSA Test Centre — 1 Gibfield Park Avenue, Atherton, M46 0SU

Atherton averages 5.6 roundabouts per route — the most roundabout-intensive centre in the area. All routes begin on Gibfield Park Avenue. Verified roads include the Gibfield Park Way multi-lane roundabout, A579 Bolton Road (50 mph dual sections), Derby Street mini-roundabouts, A577, Schofield Lane/Lower Leigh Road and Howe Bridge estates. Pass rate ~43%.

Route	Title	Manoeuvre	Independent Driving
Route 1	Gibfield Park & Bolton Road	Bay park — Market Street retail car park	Follow sat nav: Atherton Library
Route 2	Howe Bridge & Lower Leigh Road	Parallel park — residential street, Lovers Lane	Follow road signs: Leigh town centre
Route 3	Schofield Lane & Lower Leigh Road	Parallel park — residential street, Lower Leigh Road	Follow sat nav: Leigh Bus Station
Route 4	Atherton Town & Wigan Road	Bay park — test centre car park on return	Follow road signs: Wigan
Route 5	A579 & Pull Up Right	Pull up on the right — reverse back, re-join	Follow sat nav: Leigh Bus Station
Route 6	Emergency Stop & Derby Street	Emergency stop (1 in 7 tests)	Follow road signs: Bolton

■ **Test Format (2025):** Eyesight check → Show Me/Tell Me → ~40 min drive → 1 manoeuvre → Independent driving (up to full test). Emergency stop: 1 in 7 tests. Max 3 normal stops.

■■ **Manoeuvres (current):** Parallel park | Bay park (forward or reverse) | Pull up on the right & reverse. Turn in the road is NOT a current test manoeuvre.

ROUTE 1 — Gibfield Park & Bolton Road

Manoeuvre: Bay park — Market Street retail car park

Independent Driving: Follow sat nav: Atherton Library

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Gibfield Park Ave	20 mph business park — settle, check mirrors
2	Gibfield Park Ave roundabout	Take 2nd exit — STRAIGHT ON	Signal, lane, smooth speed
3	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take 3rd exit — RIGHT	Multi-lane — choose lane early, signal
4	Bolton Road (A579)	Turn LEFT — 40/50 mph	Build speed, lane discipline, bus stops
5	Howe Bridge / Bag Lane	Turn RIGHT — 30 mph	Residential — parked vehicles, driveways
6	Bag Lane	Continue STRAIGHT	Variable width — give space to oncoming
7	Market Street	Turn RIGHT	Town approach — 30 mph, shops
8	Market Street car park	BAY PARK	Reverse: slow, check all mirrors, straight
9	Market Street	Exit LEFT — 30 mph	Re-establish road position
10	Derby Street	Turn LEFT — mini-roundabout	Give way right, signal correctly
11	Bolton Road (A579)	Turn RIGHT — 40 mph	Return A-road — lane discipline
12	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take LEFT exit	Signal, correct lane, smooth
13	Test Centre	Turn RIGHT	Controlled stop — handbrake, neutral

Key Hazards: ■ Multi-lane Gibfield Park Way roundabout | ■ Derby Street mini-roundabout | ■ Bag Lane width restriction | ■ Retail car park entry/exit

ROUTE 2 — Howe Bridge & Lower Leigh Road

Manoeuvre: Parallel park — residential street, Lovers Lane

Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Leigh town centre

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn RIGHT — North Road roundabout	1st exit LEFT — smooth acceleration
2	Bolton Road (A579)	Turn LEFT — dual carriageway 50 mph	Mirror-signal-accelerate, lane discipline
3	Howe Bridge Leisure Centre roundabout	Take 2nd exit — STRAIGHT ON	Large roundabout — left lane for straight on
4	Lovers Lane	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Residential — quiet approach for manoeuvre
5	Lovers Lane — MANOEUVRE	PARALLEL PARK	Check mirrors, signal, smooth reverse into space
6	Lovers Lane	Continue STRAIGHT	Re-establish 30 mph, MSM
7	Chanters Road	Turn RIGHT	Estate — 20 mph zone, speed humps
8	A577 Tyldesley Road	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	Busier A-road — anticipate junctions
9	Gibfield Park Avenue	Turn RIGHT	Return to business park area — 20/30 mph
10	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take 2nd exit	Signal, lane choice, smooth exit
11	Test Centre	Turn LEFT into car park	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ 50 mph dual carriageway on A579 | ■ Howe Bridge large roundabout | ■ 20 mph speed hump estate on Chanters Road | ■ Parallel park judgment

ROUTE 3 — Schofield Lane & Lower Leigh Road

Manoeuvre: Parallel park — residential street, Lower Leigh Road area

Independent Driving: Follow sat nav: Leigh Bus Station

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Gibfield Park Ave	20 mph — quiet departure

2	Gibfield Park Ave roundabout	Take 3rd exit — RIGHT	Signal right, mirrors
3	North Road roundabout	Take 1st exit — LEFT	Smooth acceleration, 30 mph
4	A577 Atherton Road south	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	A-road — build speed, lane position
5	Schofield Lane	Turn RIGHT — 40 mph	Semi-rural — bends, limited sightlines
6	Lower Leigh Road	Continue STRAIGHT — 40 mph	Rural character — unmarked junctions, hedges
7	Residential road — MANOEUVRE	PARALLEL PARK	Signal, check, smooth reverse into space
8	Lower Leigh Road	Re-join LEFT — 40 mph	MSM, pull away smoothly
9	Leigh Road roundabout	Take 2nd exit — STRAIGHT ON	Give way, smooth, signal correctly
10	A572 King Street Leigh	Turn RIGHT at lights — 30 mph	Town approach — anticipate signals
11	A579 Atherleigh Way	Turn LEFT — dual carriageway 50 mph	Build speed, hold lane, mirrors
12	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take LEFT exit	Reduce speed early for roundabout
13	Test Centre	Turn LEFT	Controlled stop to finish

Key Hazards: ■ Schofield Lane rural bends | ■ Unmarked junctions on Lower Leigh Road | ■ A572 Leigh town centre signals | ■ Atherleigh Way 50 mph return

ROUTE 4 — Atherton Town & Wigan Road

Manoeuvre: Bay park — test centre car park on return

Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Wigan

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Gibfield Park Ave	Smooth departure, 20 mph
2	Gibfield Park Ave roundabout	Take 2nd exit — STRAIGHT ON	Signal, smooth
3	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take 1st exit — LEFT onto Wigan Road	Multi-lane — left lane for left exit
4	Wigan Road (A577) — 40 mph	Continue STRAIGHT	Long A-road — speed control, following distance
5	Leigh Road junction	Turn LEFT at lights — 30 mph	Signal, correct lane, clear turn
6	Leigh Road	Continue STRAIGHT — 30 mph	Suburban — crossings, bus stops
7	Market Street / Derby Street	Continue through town — mini-roundabout	Give way right, pedestrian awareness
8	Bolton Road (A579)	Turn RIGHT — 40 mph	A-road return — mirror checks
9	Gibfield Park Avenue	Turn RIGHT — 20 mph	Business park return
10	Test Centre	BAY PARK on return	Reverse bay: check mirrors, slow, neat

Key Hazards: ■ Multi-lane left-exit at Gibfield Park Way | ■ 40 mph Wigan Road speed management | ■ Derby Street mini-roundabout | ■ Reverse bay park on return

ROUTE 5 — A579 & Pull Up Right

Manoeuvre: Pull up on the right — reverse back, re-join

Independent Driving: Follow sat nav: Leigh Bus Station

Approx: 8–11 miles | ~40 mins

#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn RIGHT — North Road	Immediate roundabout — signal left
2	North Road roundabout	Take 1st exit — LEFT	Smooth acceleration
3	A577 south / Atherton Road	Turn LEFT — 40 mph	A-road — consistent speed, position
4	Bolton Road (A579)	Turn RIGHT — dual carriageway 50 mph	Build speed, lane discipline
5	Howe Bridge roundabout	Take 2nd exit — STRAIGHT ON	Hold correct lane
6	Lovers Lane	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Residential — quiet for manoeuvre

7	Lovers Lane — MANOEUVRE	PULL UP ON RIGHT	Signal, observe, reverse 2 car lengths, re-join left
8	Lovers Lane	Continue STRAIGHT	Re-establish 30 mph
9	Bolton Road (A579)	Turn RIGHT — 50 mph	Dual carriageway — build speed
10	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take LEFT exit	Signal, reduce speed, correct lane
11	Test Centre	Turn LEFT	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ 50 mph dual carriageway discipline | ■ Pull-up-on-right safe re-joining | ■ Howe Bridge large roundabout | ■ A577 speed management

ROUTE 6 — Emergency Stop & Derby Street

Manoeuvre: Emergency stop (1 in 7 tests)	Independent Driving: Follow road signs: Bolton	Approx: 8–11 miles ~40 mins
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#	Road / Location	Direction / Action	Examiner Notes
1	Test Centre	Turn LEFT — Gibfield Park Ave	20 mph — settle
2	Gibfield Park Ave roundabout	Take 2nd exit	Signal, smooth
3	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take 3rd exit — RIGHT	Multi-lane — commit to right lane
4	A579 Bolton Road	Turn LEFT — 40/50 mph	EMERGENCY STOP section
5	EMERGENCY STOP if required	Examiner signal	Firm, straight — handbrake, neutral, await instruction
6	A579 continued	Re-establish 40/50 mph	Compose — MSM routine
7	Howe Bridge / Chanters Road	Turn RIGHT — 20 mph	Estate — speed humps
8	Chanters Road	Continue STRAIGHT	30 mph — parked cars
9	Market Street	Turn LEFT — 30 mph	Town — pedestrians, bus stops
10	Derby Street	Mini-roundabout — AHEAD	Give way right, signal, smooth exit
11	Gibfield Park Way roundabout	Take LEFT exit	Signal, decelerate, correct lane
12	Test Centre	Turn RIGHT	Controlled finish

Key Hazards: ■ Emergency stop — composure critical | ■ 20 mph estate speed humps | ■ Chanters Road parked vehicles | ■ Derby Street mini-roundabout