

Driver Training Areas — Atherton

This guide outlines recommended training areas in Atherton, structured by skill level. Each zone is selected to progressively build confidence, road awareness, and test readiness.

■ BEGINNER AREAS — Low Traffic, Build Confidence

Area	Key Features	Skills Practised
Hindsford / Hag Fold	Quiet residential cul-de-sacs and wide side streets	Basic car control, clutch, steering, stopping & starting
Leigh Road (south end) near Atherton Park	Low-traffic suburban road, parking bays on-street	Bay parking practice, MSM routine introduction
Chanters / Gibfield Residential Estate	Calm estate roads, simple T-junctions	Emerging, giving way, pedestrian awareness

■ INTERMEDIATE AREAS — Build Road Skills

Area	Key Features	Skills Practised
Bolton Road (A579) through Atherton	Busy A-road with bus lanes, traffic lights & crossings	Lane discipline, speed awareness, signal timing
Market Street / Mealhouse Lane	Town centre streets, parking & pedestrians	Town centre driving, anticipation & observation
Tyldesley Road (A577)	Connecting route with mini-roundabouts	Roundabout procedure, priority rules
Bag Lane / Atherton Common	Mix of semi-rural and residential roads	Varying speed limits, hazard perception

■ ADVANCED / TEST-READY AREAS

Area	Key Features	Skills Practised
Gibfield Park Avenue & Surrounds	Direct test centre approach route, roundabouts on entry	Test route practice, roundabout confidence
A580 East Lancs Road (nearby)	High-speed dual carriageway	National speed limit, lane discipline, merging
Atherton to Wigan (A577/A578)	Full test-standard route with varied hazards	End-to-end test route readiness

■ MANOEUVRE PRACTICE LOCATIONS

Manoeuvre	Recommended Location
Bay Parking	Gibfield Park Avenue car park / Tesco Atherton

Parallel Parking	Market Street residential side roads
Turn in the Road	Hag Fold / Hindsford estate roads
Emergency Stop	Quiet industrial roads off Bag Lane

■ RECOMMENDED LESSON PROGRESSION

Lessons	Focus Area	Goal
1 – 5	Hindsford / Hag Fold quiet estates	Basic control & confidence
6 – 12	Bolton Road, Market Street, town centre	Road awareness & MSM routine
13 – 20	A580, Gibfield test routes, Wigan corridor	Test route familiarity
Final lessons	Full mock tests on Atherton test routes	Test readiness & consistency

Nearest Test Centre(s): Atherton Test Centre — Gibfield Park Avenue, Atherton, M46 0SU | Wigan Test Centre — approx. 4 miles