THE ORIGINAL SUGAR WORKERS WALK

Begin the sugar walk at the Highbury corner roundabout.

The Nell Fisher Reserve sits on the corner here along with the War Memorial and the award winning Birkenhead Library. Take a look inside to see the original Chelsea Archives and majestic views from the Mezzanine floor.

As you travel down Rawene Road you can see several sugar workers cottages spanning from 1880 to 1915. Examples include numbers 55, 30 and 44 Rawene Road.

The site was over 82 hectares of flat land. It had fresh water from Duck Creek to use in the refining process and deep water in the Waitemata Harbour to let boats come right up to the refinery door. It was the perfect spot for a sugar refinery.

Four brick dams were constructed 1884-1920 to provide water for the refinery. These picturesque lakes are now home to ducks, black swans, and shags. Today NZ’s only sugar refinery can proudly lay claim to creating 130 years of unique NZ history.

For details on any of the four heritage walks with a view visit: www.birkenhead.net.nz

Many thanks to the following:

Chelsea Sugar Refinery

Well done! You have completed the sugar walk. We suggest rewarding yourself with a coffee and a bite to eat at one of the many award winning local cafés. Check out www.birkenhead.net.nz for great café options.

You might also like these walks: Birkenhead’s Oldest Street, Leroy’s Bush and Highbury Heritage Walks. For details on any of the four heritage walks with a view visit: www.birkenhead.net.nz

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THE SUGAR CUBE MAP

A SLICE OF HISTORY

In 1886 Birkenhead township boasted 334 inhabitants. The company built its own village of thirty five identical wooden cottages [see photo - far left] up a spur at the bottom of Colonial road [yellow highlighted location - left].

The original 35 cottages were sold for 5 pounds each, dismantled, and moved up into the surrounding roads on summer sites. Most of the families in Hutton Rd (now Huka) Seddon Rd (now Colonial) Rawene, Palmerston and Rugby Roads around this time were associated with the sugar works. The hillsides became interlaced with shortcuts to Chelsea. Today these are popular bush walks with locals and visitors alike. Enjoy the great history and views!

The Art Deco 1927 War Memorial is still located here on the corner of the roundabout.

The Nell Fisher Reserve, with views of the large picturesque lakes, is still located here on the corner of the roundabout.

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The Original Sugar Workers Walk
New Zealand’s only sugar refinery was built in 1884 and at one point employed nearly all of the Village. The first walks were ‘etched’ out by sugar workers walking home to their cottages after the days work.

The walk takes around 35-40 mins to complete and has well maintained tracks throughout. Starting from the roundabout (1) wander down Rawene Road. Use the information on the reverse to discover the local history and points of interest.

FREE SUGAR CUBE MAP