



Haigh Hall



Haigh Plantations

WIGAN PIER TO ARLEY HALL

Manchester's Countryside

There's another side to Manchester

WIGAN PIER - WIGAN FLIGHT OF LOCKS - WHELLEY - TOP LOCK - HAIGH - RED ROCK AND ARLEY HALL



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7 HAIGH HALL AND COUNTRY PARK

A hall has been on this site since William de Bradshaigh had one built in 1295. Haigh was later to become the ancestral home of the Lindsay Family – Earls of Crawford and Balcarres who in 1947 gifted it to the then Wigan Corporation.

The Plantations around the hall cover some 250 acres and were laid out in the 1860s by local cotton workers who were put out of work because of the American cotton famine. Mile upon mile of trail, pathway and stream splinter the Plantations which are rich in wildlife, fauna and flora.

Up near the hall there are children's rides, a 15 inch gauge railway, miniature golf course as well as a full 18 and 9 hole course. There is the Stables Art and Craft Centre, a Café, a Lily Pond and Walled Gardens.

8 PLANTATION GATES

The gates sit at the western end of the park some 1.5 miles from the Hall and just 1 mile from Wigan Town Centre. The original gates were cast in the Haigh Foundry (which stood a few hundred metres away within the Lower Plantations) which lays claim to have forged the Laxey Wheel of the Isle of Man.

9 ARLEY HALL AND WOODS

2 miles past the Plantations Canal Bridge and still on the towpath, you will enter Arley Woods. This is a lovely area with footpaths cut and leading to Worthington Lakes. At the rear of the woods you will see Arley Hall, one of the best surviving moated homesteads built in the 18th century and now home to Wigan Golf Club.

There are various points around Arley where you can venture from the towpath and onto a bridleway which runs parallel to the canal. This is a lovely distraction and takes you from the Red Rock to Adlington.

10 WORTHINGTON LAKES

The lakes are two reservoirs surrounded by woodland, part of which is a nature reserve. The woods host one of the largest rookeries in the region.

Wigan Tourist Information

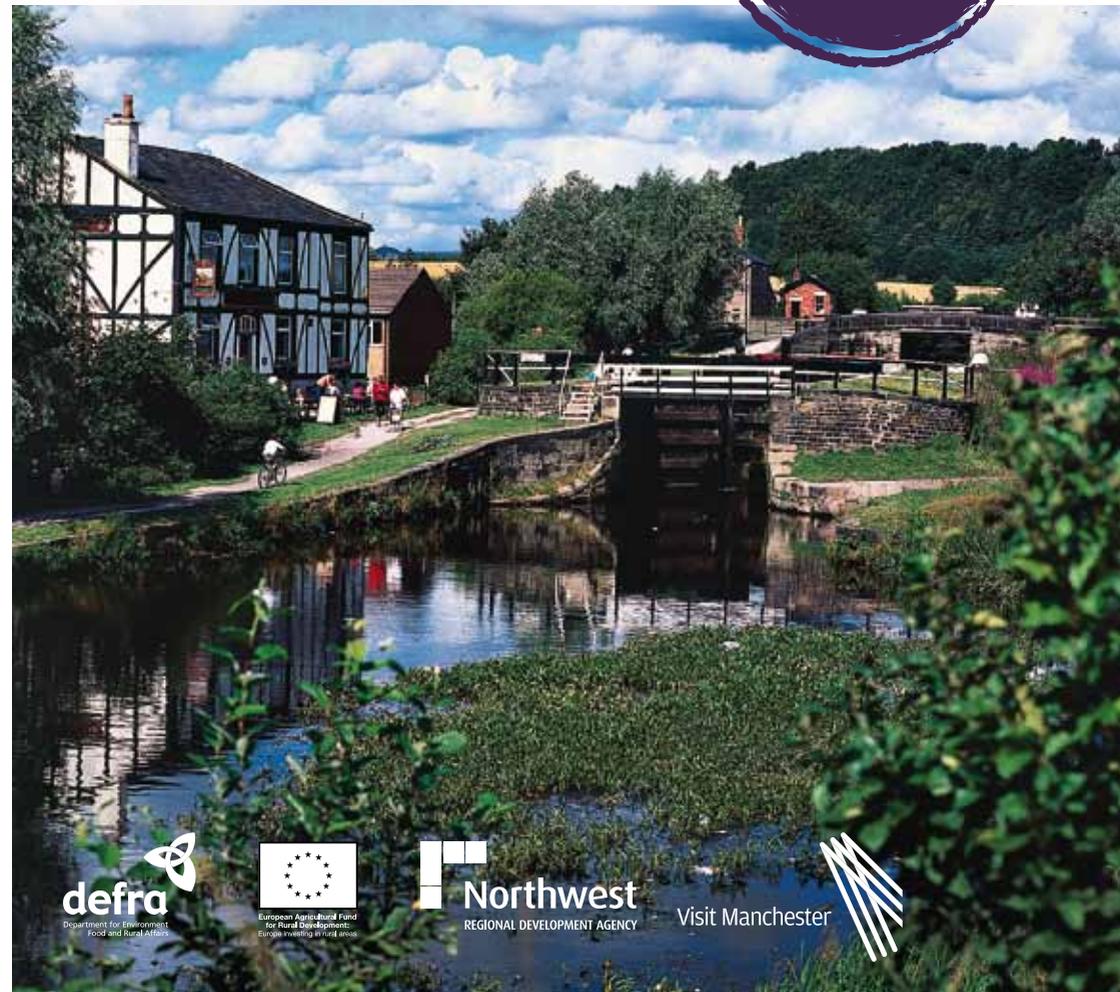
01942 827 619 www.visitwigan.co.uk

National Rail Enquiries

08457 48 49 50 www.nationalrail.com

This walk forms part of a series of walks and trails developed by Manchester's Countryside. For more information on Manchester's Countryside, including downloads of the walks visit www.manchesterscountryside.com Telephone: 0161 253 5111 email: info@manchesterscountryside.com

W I G A N
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WIGAN PIER TO ARLEY HALL

DISTANCE:

7 miles/11km

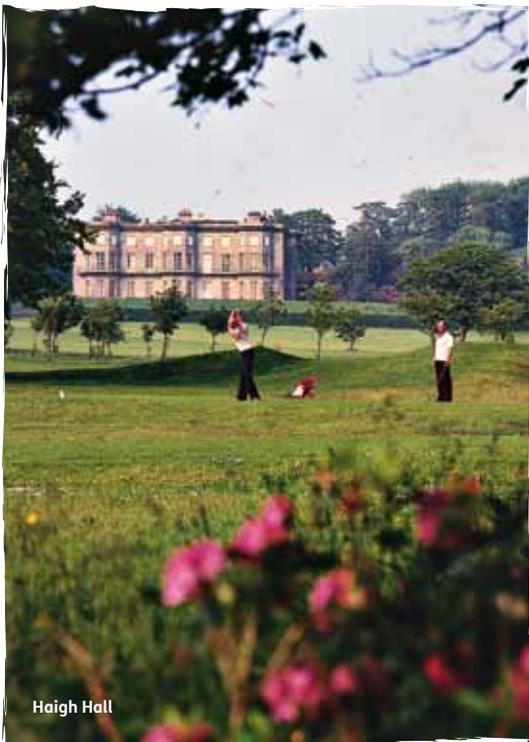
WALK SUMMARY

This is a canal-side trail rich in natural history and heritage. Starting at the iconic Wigan Pier, the trail takes you along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal and up Wigan's famous flight of 23 locks to Top Lock. Then on through the wonderful and picturesque Haigh Plantations on your way to historic Arley Hall.

HOW TO GET THERE:

This trail has a railway station near its start. There is an irregular bus service that runs through Haigh. There is car parking at Wigan Pier, Haigh Hall, Red Rock and Worthington Lakes.

GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION 0871 200 2233 www.tfgm.com



Haigh Hall

THE WALK

① WIGAN PIER

Begin your walk at the famous Wigan Pier that got its name from the canal side Coal Tippler which you will see opposite the main warehouse building. Wigan Pier was made famous by the two Georges. George Formby Snr who used the name as part of a Victorian music hall joke; and by George Orwell who in 1936 wrote *The Road to Wigan Pier*.

Head East on the Leeds-Liverpool Canal (towards Leeds). Walk alongside the impressive Trencherfield Mill (1907). Follow the towpath underneath the road bridge. Carry on as the canal bends left under the railway bridge. Here you will see the first of Wigan's famous flight of locks.

② THE WIGAN FLIGHT

This is the first of 23 locks which take boats up to the final lock known as Top Lock – some 70 metres above the town. The locks were built around 1816.

Continue up the towpath (1.25 mile) crossing the A573 and A577 roads. On the left you will come across a finger post sign next to a stile cut into the towpath fencing. This marks the start of a trail taking you along the abandoned railway through Whelley, Bottling Woods and on to Haigh Lower Plantations.

③ KIRKLEES HALL

A few minutes past the finger post is Kirklees Hall (1663). The area around the hall was once the site of the Kirklees Coal and Iron Company. The company managed two pits and a Cannel Works.

Cannel is a coal mined in this area. It is a unique mineral; so clean to touch that statues have been carved from it and even the ladies toilet seats in the nearby Haigh Hall were at one time made from it.

WALK 5



④ ALBION IRON WORKS

On the opposite side of the canal is the site of the Hales and Matthews Iron Works which opened in 1870. The land itself was owned by the Wigan Coal and Canal Company who were the largest landowners and employers in Wigan at this time.

⑤ TOP LOCK

Just past the second of the two canal-side pubs is Top Lock. The highest point of the canal in Wigan Borough. Some may wish to take a right over the lock bridge and journey down the paths through Withington Woods.



Albion Iron Works (c.1950)

⑥ HAIGH SAW MILL

Just past the road bridge and on the far side of the canal is the old saw mill with its highly unique bell tower. The building is today a listed building and marks the start of the Parklands of Haigh.