

Haigh Country Park

(Numbers in the text refer to the map overleaf)

Start at the Stables Courtyard

(1). Pass through the archway with the clocktower and turn left. From the south side of the building, outside the Stables Cafe you can just see the Lily Pond with its central fountain. Follow any of the paths that lead towards it.

The oval Lily Pond **(2)** was overlooked by a long glasshouse, little of which now remains. Following the main path farther into the Estate you will pass the Stone Lion **(3)**. The lion was once part of a bridge on the estate of Atherton Hall in Leigh. The bridge collapsed in the early 1900s.

Continuing past the Stone Lion you come to the entrance to the Walled Gardens **(4)**. In the middle of the first garden is a central feature, a sensory garden, opened in 1993.

The lower Walled Garden contains a collection of trees which would have been part of the estates Arboretum **(5)**, outside of this part of the Walled Gardens.

On exiting the Walled Garden at the southern gate, and turn right to follow a small path that rejoins the main route. Turn left, cross the miniature railway line and continue past Swan Pond on your left **(6)**.

The path heads deep into the Plantations. The section of the route from the Hall to the canal is the Upper Plantation. The trees were planted in the 19th Century and now cover a lot of historical remnants which are difficult to see.

Where the path meets a junction follow the signpost left (Plantation Gates) to Mowpin Lodge, now a private residence. The main path from the Lodge goes past a field on the right that was once used as a cricket pitch **(7)**.

Farther along, lost in the undergrowth, are stone and brick remains of former buildings. These features appear on maps from the 1840s as 'kennels' and 'Laundry House' **(8)**.

Follow the route on the map until a clearing on the left indicates an informal path heading towards the canal. At the stile follow a better path alongside the canal. Just before the bridge you will pass the location of a coal washing station **(9)**.

If you have come this far, either retrace your steps to the footpath, turn left and eventually rejoin the main drive to cross the Leeds Liverpool Canal, or continue, turn right across the bridge and join the towpath on the other side.

Rejoin the main drive where it crosses the canal and turn left. To the right is Hall Lane Lodge, another private residence; the path is now in the Middle Plantation heading towards the disused railway line: the old Whelley Loop Line **(10)**. Cross the line and enter the Lower Plantations.

The walk now travels clockwise around a large geological outcrop called Monks Hill **(11)**, at the centre of which are several industrial remnants with varying degrees of accessibility. On your left, on the other side of Yellow Brook, is the outflow of the Great Sough **(12)**, a scheduled ancient monument, where a tunnel drained water from the mines into the brook and then into the River Douglas.

The woodland on the south side of the brook is Bottling Wood **(13)**, semi-ancient woodland which predates the establishment of the Plantations. At one time the area close to the River Douglas was home to a small community, with houses, an inn, shops and a corn mill.

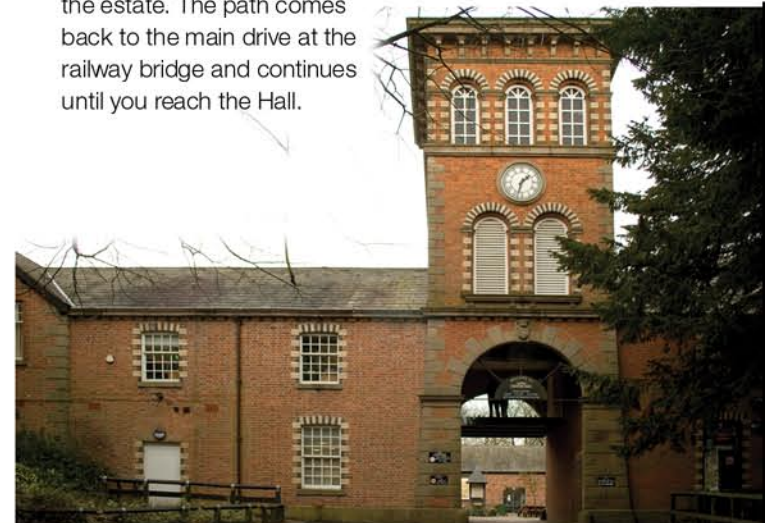
Continuing along the path will take you over the River Douglas and up the hill towards the Plantation Gates **(14)**. The side lodges are now uninhabited, but were once private homes. The lodges and arch form one of Wigan's most well known landmarks.

Follow the drive back to the bridge and turn left to continue anti-clockwise around Monks Hill. On top of the hill are the remains of a pond which fed an 18th century canal, now dried up **(15)**. To the left of the path is the quarry, Devil's Canyon **(16)**, that provided stone for the estate. The path comes back to the main drive at the railway bridge and continues until you reach the Hall.

The walk brings you to the main entrance of Haigh Hall **(17)**, a Georgian building built between 1827 and 1840. Stone for the Hall came from Parbold and the timber from the Earl of Crawford's estates in Jamaica.

Several buildings have stood here before the present Hall. The earliest known Lord of Haigh was Hugh le Norreys. The Estate passed to the Bradshaigh family when William de Bradshaigh married the heiress of the Estate Mabel le Norreys.

Continuing past the Hall brings you back to the Stables Courtyard and a chance to catch your breath and enjoy refreshments in the Stables Cafe. On your way out, take a moment to go to the main gates to see the stocks next to the entrance **(18)**.



WALK 4 - The History Route












Haigh Country Park

north

ROUTE

Approximate distance: 3 kilometres (approx. 1.8 miles)
Allow 2-3 hours



-  **Alternative route for wheelchair access**
-  **Alternative route for prams**
-  **Route unsuitable for wheelchairs and prams**
-  **Features described on the reverse of this leaflet**
-  **Car parking (pay and display)**
-  **Stables Cafe**
-  **Public toilets**
-  **First aid point**
-  **Cycle route**
-  **Bus stop**
-  **Viewpoint**



GUIDE TO THE STABLES COURTYARD

- A Lift tower and main entrance
- B Toilets
- C Stables Cafe
- D Education room
- E Craft shop
- F Art gallery
- G Bar (first floor)
-  Access to courtyard

