

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.

(BLUE AND GREEN WALK)

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 will see the entrance to the Walled Gardens on your left **(4)**. Walking through them you will see a sensory garden, opened in 1993, and in the lower garden a collection of trees that form part of the Arboretum **(5)**. To return to the main route, turn right at the exit of the Walled Gardens and follow the small footpath, then turn left.

Cross the miniature railway line and continue past Swan Pond **(6)** on your left. The name comes from the swan mussels bred for the dinner table.

The path heads deep into the Plantations. If you are following the Blue Walk turn right at the junction with the fingerpost and follow the sign for the Hall. For the Green Walk turn left following the sign for the Plantation Gates.

(BLUE WALK)

You will pass the Wigan & District Model Engineering Society **(7)** on your right. The society was founded in 1937 and the track at Haigh was built ten years later. It is currently a third of a mile long. Continuing past the tracks you'll rejoin the Main Drive, but for now we'll continue with the Green Walk and meet up with you later!

(GREEN WALK)

Having turned left at the fingerpost follow the path through woodland until you arrive at 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 **(8)**. Farther along, you can pass through two stone pillars on your right and, lost in the undergrowth, are circular remains, possibly of the Estate's dog kennels. Park cottages once stood close by **(9)**.

Follow the route on the map until a clearing on the left indicates an informal path heading towards the canal. At the kissing gate follow a better path alongside the canal. Just before the bridge you will pass the location of a coal washing station **(10)**.

Continue along the path, turn right across the bridge and join the towpath on the other side.

The canal **(11)** was originally part of the Lancaster Canal, but when a viaduct across the River Ribble failed to materialise, the canal at Haigh became part of the Leeds Liverpool Canal, connecting at Wigan via the lock flight at Top Locks. Rejoin the main drive and turn right over the bridge.

From the bridge you will get a glimpse of the Balcarres 18-hole golf course. After the bridge follow a waymarker and bear left along a path that detours slightly off the Main Drive.

(BLUE AND GREEN WALK)

The two routes join up again and head for Haigh Hall **(12)**. The current Hall was built between 1827 and 1840 in the Georgian style.

The stone came from Parbold and the timber from the Earl of Crawford's estates in Jamaica.

Continuing past the Hall brings you back to the Stables Courtyard with its clocktower built in 1865. Catch your breath and have a drink in the Stables Cafe.

On your way out, take a moment to go to the main entrance to see the stocks next to the entrance gate **(13)**.

A brief history of Haigh Country Park

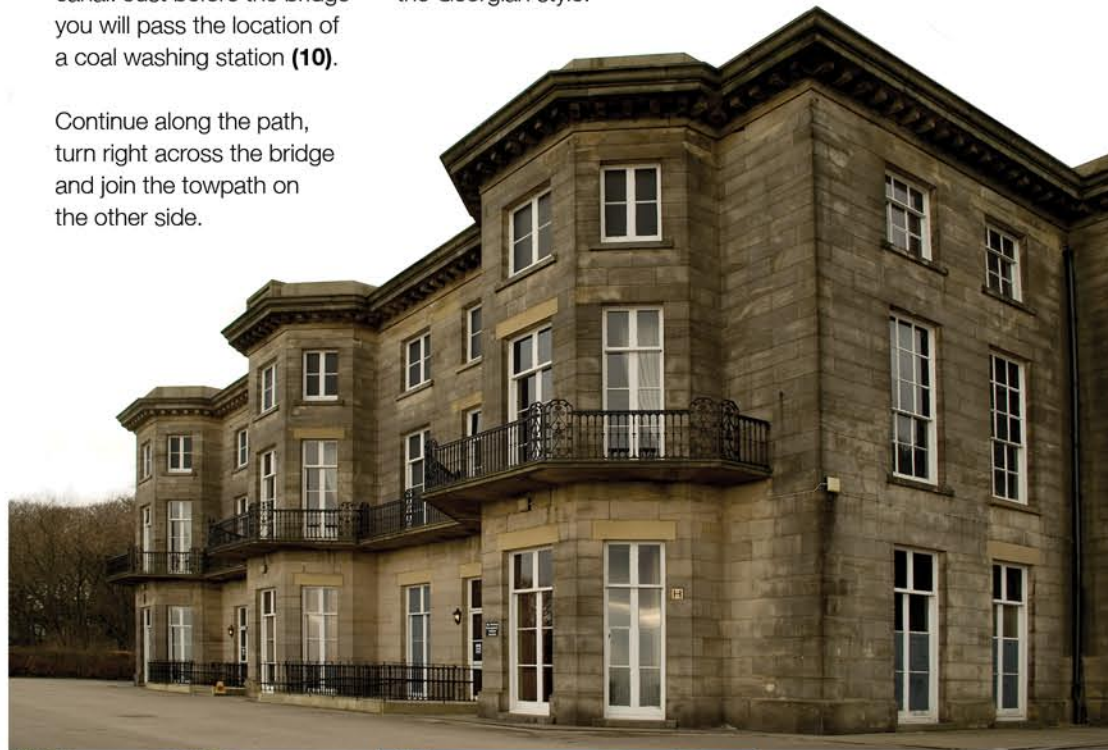
The name Haigh comes from the Anglo Saxon word Haga meaning an enclosure or a secure area to house livestock.

The earliest recorded inhabitants of the Hall were the Norreys family who lived there at least as early as 1193.

The Bradshaghnes arrived at Haigh when Sir William married Lady Mabel Norreys (from the story of Mab's Cross) around 1295.

Sir Roger Bradshaigh died in 1770 without leaving an heir and the Estate passed to the Lindsays through his great niece Lady Elizabeth Dalrymple who married Alexander Lyndsay, 6th Earl of Balcarres.

Their son James built the current Hall between 1827 and 1840. It was eventually given over to Wigan Council in 1947.



WALKS 2 and 3 - Green and Blue Routes Haigh Country Park

north

GREEN ROUTE ●●●●

Approximate distance: 3 kilometres (approx. 1.8 miles)
Allow 1 hour

BLUE ROUTE ●●●●

Approximate distance: 1.5 kilometres (approx. 1 mile)
Allow 30 minutes



Haigh Country Park is full of historic features and woodland habitats. These walks follow two circuits around the Park. Both of the routes are on hard surfaces.

The Stables Cafe serves a selection of meals, snacks and drinks and is open throughout the year except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

1 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

The Stables Cafe serves a selection of meals, snacks and drinks and is open throughout the year except Christmas Day and Boxing Day.



A detour to see the Walled Gardens and Arboretum is worthwhile.

This is the Leeds Liverpool canal and connects to Wigan via Top Locks, just south of the Estate.

Stone gate posts are visible at the side of the path. You can see the remains of the Estate kennels which are laid out in a circle.

Remains of coal washing station
Little remains of the coal washing station other than a large retaining wall next to the canal and fencing around the top.

Plantation Gates and gate houses

The southern part of the plantations contains Bottling Wood, an ancient woodland. The area close to the River Douglas was once home to a small community of houses, an inn, shops and corn mill.

The Plantation Gates form the southern entry point to the Estate. The two lodges were once occupied.