

# Accessible Places to visit

In Wigan Borough



## Accessible Places



1. Haigh Hall
2. Pennington Flash
3. Three Sisters
4. Orrell Water Park
5. People's Place
6. Ashfield Park
7. Wigan Roller Rink

Wigan Council received significant capital funding as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme (2009 to 2011).

In consultation with parents and carers, a need was identified for appropriate toileting facilities and disability specific play equipment across the boroughs parks. In response, Wigan Council commissioned the construction of a number of hygiene suites. Hygiene suites go beyond DDA and offer facilities for those who need support from one or two carers. They provide changing benches and hoists and are large enough to accommodate more than one person. The following parks now have hygiene suites: Haigh Hall, Pennington Flash, Three Sisters and Orrell Water Park. A hygiene suite is also available at Robin Park Arena which can be accessed via reception Monday to Thursday 10am – 9.30pm Friday 4pm – 8.30pm and Saturday 9am – 5pm. Please note that the hygiene suites

will require a Radar Key which can be purchased from Wigan Life Centre and Leigh Life Centre for £3 (March 2012).

Wigan Council has also invested in a number of pieces of disability friendly play equipment for the boroughs parks. The pieces of equipment include: an inclusive basket swing which has a large nest seat enabling children to swing independently or with a parent or friend; a wheelchair accessible roundabout made to accommodate all wheelchair users and also to provide seating inside the curved side shells for friends or parents; picnic tables which can accommodate wheelchair users and a number of play panels with mirrors, turning cogs, abacus etc for children with sensory needs. Play equipment has been installed at the following parks: Haigh Hall, Pennington Flash, Three Sisters, Orrell Water Park, People's Place and Ashfield Park.

## Haigh Hall

Haigh Hall is surrounded by 250 acres of park and woodland, with magnificent views across the Douglas Valley to the Welsh Hills. Facilities include:

### Information & Gift Shop

The gift shop is stacked with interesting toys, gifts and souvenirs. Details are available on walks, groups bookings, discounts and other local attractions. The café is open every day for most of the year (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day), serving a selection of meals, snacks and drinks. Note: During winter months, the café is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. However, the Stables Golf Bar is open every day serving a selection of hot drinks and snacks between 10.30am and 4.00pm.

### Craft Gallery

Lively and creative craft classes are held in the Gallery, where the resident artists encourage people of all ages to join in. The children can make something to take home and the adults are welcome to try their hand at something new or just admire other people's works of art.

### Nature Trails

Follow the nature trails on guided routes through the park. Three routes are available ranging from an easy 1.5km (suitable for pushchairs and wheelchair access), a moderate 3km (on uneven paths), and a hard 9km (uneven routes with steep hills).



### Playground

The playground caters for children of all ages. There are a number of inclusive pieces of play equipment, a bouncy castle and a slide in the summer months- surrounded by seats for parents and guardians.

### Halls & Gardens

Formerly the home of the Earl of Crawford & Balcarres, the Grade II listed hall dates back to 1840. Used mainly for private functions, but the hall is also open to the public for events, such as craft fairs. The walled gardens formerly used for growing fruits and vegetables for the Hall are breathtaking in Summer and throughout the year, radiating a riot of colour that can be admired by all the family.

### Contact us

Haigh Country Park, Haigh, Wigan, WN2 1PE  
Tel: 01942 832895 Fax: 01942 831081  
E-Mail: [hhgen@wlct.org](mailto:hhgen@wlct.org)





### Satellite Navigation Co-ordinates

Lat = 53 34 18.2n  
Lon = 2 36 34.0w

## Woodlands

Venture into the picturesque woodlands and examine the trees, ground flora, birds, squirrels and other wildlife. The Plantations stretch right down to the town centre of Wigan. Various routes are mapped through the woodlands and guides are available at the Information Centre.

## Adventure Activities

Action adventure days for groups can be arranged through our Wardens including: guided walks, orienteering (graded to suit all abilities), rock climbing in Devil's Canyon (AALA Licensed) and archery (minimum age 8 years).

## Miniature Railway

The 15" Gauge Railway takes you on an interesting and scenic ride around the woodlands past the walled gardens and Swan Pond. Open every weekend (weather permitting) 12noon - 4.00pm between Easter-September and school holidays, 12noon - 3.30pm between September-Easter. The miniature railway will not run in wet weather. Please note, the miniature railway does not accommodate wheelchair users.

## Directions

Haigh Country Park is within easy reach of both the M6 (Junction 27) and the M61 (Junction 6). If approaching from the M6, take the A49 towards Standish, then the B5239 to Haigh. Look out for the B5239 and Aspull, then Haigh, when leaving the M61. Alternatively, Haigh Country Park can easily be found close to the two main A roads, the A6 and the A49. The B roads to look for are the B5238 and the B5239.

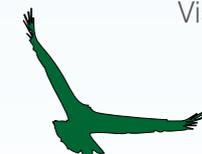


## Conservation

Conservation Task Days are run at various times throughout the year and with the help of volunteers and community groups, the woodlands are managed in a sustainable way while still encouraging public access.

## P Car Parking

There are two large car parks with room for over 1,000 cars within easy distance of all the facilities. Haigh Hall has disabled parking facilities and a drop-off point. Coaches are welcome. Maps of the Park are available from Stables Visitor Centre.



## Pennington Flash

Flashes are lakes formed over time from mining subsidence. Pennington Flash, a legacy of Wigan's industrial heritage, is a stunning example of this phenomenon.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century the land now under the Flash was farmland, crossed by railways and the meandering Hey Brook. On maps of the day the area was marked as 'liable to floods'. The vast amounts of coal extracted by local collieries (all now closed) eventually caused the land to sink and by 1905 a large lake had formed. Two farms were submerged and some of the railway lines were flooded. Today the routes of the railway lines can still be traced along the main footpath leading to the canal, the Leigh bypass and the shingle spit in front of Horrock's Hide. Originally, the Flash was larger than it is today. It was partially filled with colliery waste creating the spoil heap that was known as Ramsdale's Ruck and the southern part of the Flash was filled with domestic waste to prevent the regular flooding of St. Helens Road. During the 1960's and 1970's ideas for developing the site for recreation and conservation began to emerge and in 1981 Pennington Flash Country Park was officially opened.

 St Helens Road, Leigh, WN7 3PA



### Useful numbers

Park Ranger office: 01942 605253 (24hr)  
 Pennington Golf Shop: 01942 682852  
 Out of Hours emergencies: 01942 404040  
 Email: [pfc@wlct.org.uk](mailto:pfc@wlct.org.uk)  
[www.wlct.org/parks](http://www.wlct.org/parks)



Facilities today include: Information point and toilets including disabled toilet and hygiene suite, picnic and recreation areas, a network of tracks and paths, offering a range of short to medium length walks and access to the wider countryside, a 9 hole pay and play golf course and golf shop. The course is 2895 yards and has a course record of 63 for 18 holes, an extensive nature reserve areas with 8 bird hides (all with wheelchair access), car and coach parking adjacent to the Flash (pay and display), children's play area including specialist inclusive equipment for children with disabilities, horse riding on designated paths, angling from designated banks, hot and cold light refreshments and snacks including vending machines in the golf shop, sailing via membership of Leigh and Lowton Sailing Club: Contact 01942 673169 and a ranger service. There is ample parking space for a small daily charge.



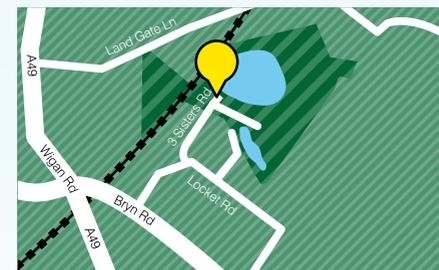
## Three Sisters

The site of Three Sisters Recreation Area was previously the Garswood Hall Colliery which closed in 1958. The legacy of the colliery included three huge slag heaps, known locally as the Three Sisters. Today Three Sisters is somewhere people can enjoy long walks through woodlands, past ponds, over fields and down to the Wigan Flashes. The bird feeding station, built with the help of Green Spaces Conservation Volunteers, allows you to sit in the woods and watch birds close up. There are various routes for differing levels of ability and these can be found on the information board on the car park or at [www.walk4life.info](http://www.walk4life.info).

Three Sisters Recreation Area is the gateway to Wigan Flashes. For those that like to walk longer distances, the footpaths from the park lead onto public footpaths that lead onto Wigan Flashes. The newly built play area caters for children of all ages and abilities.



 Three Sisters Road, Bryn,  
Ashton-in-Makerfield WN4 8DD



The park is open from 8:30am through to sunset (closing times are displayed at the entrance) and toilets are available during these times, including use of the hygiene suite. There are 3 small car parks available with disabled parking.

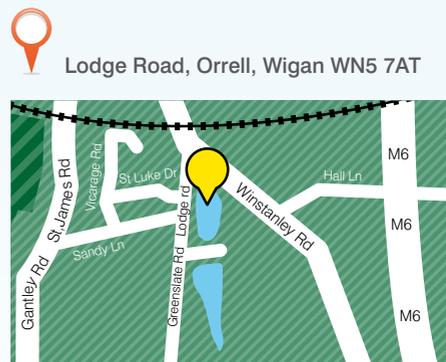


## Orrell Water Park

The main features of Orrell Water Park are two former drinking water reservoirs that were landscaped in the early 1980s'. These lakes are stocked with fish and are very popular with anglers. The southern part of the site has recently been developed into a Local Nature Reserve known as Greenslate Water Meadows. The park covers an area of 9.6 hectares and has a good network of footpaths that link with the wider countryside to the south and east of the park. Facilities include a large car park, public toilets, play areas and picnic areas. The higher of the two lakes has 4 large fishing pegs that are designed to accommodate disabled anglers. The nature reserve has a bird feeding station that attracts a good variety of woodland birds and can be watched from a viewing screen.

There is a charge for angling with day tickets available on the bank starting at £3 for children and £5 for adults (2012). Season tickets are also available, prices on request.

The rangers can be contacted on **01695 625338** (24 hour answering machine checked daily).



## People's Place

Peoples Place is situated off Formby Avenue, Hag Fold, Atherton, there are three access points to the site, the access point best suited to wheelchair access is off Devonshire Road.

The site consists of a large floodlit Multi-use games area with two adjacent dug out type shelters. There is a large circular area of macadam at the centre of the site that has been painted to create a foot maze leading to a central mosaic created by local children, there are several benches and picnic tables installed around the edge of the maze. The site also provides inclusive play equipment suitable for children aged 18 months to teenagers. All of the equipment is installed into rubber surfacing.

There are open grass areas within the park with trees on the perimeter helping to create a pleasant environment. There is ample on street parking, but there are no toilet or changing facilities.



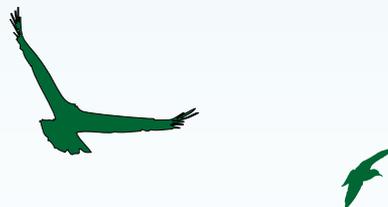
## Ashfield Park

Ashfield Park occupies the former grounds and wooded landscape of Ashfield House, a large historic house in Standish, and covers an area of 9 hectares. The park comprises of mature broadleaf woodlands, open spaces and offers several sport and recreational facilities and opportunities. Though it is set within the residential area of Standish, Ashfield Park offers extensive views towards Haigh Hall and the Pennines. A series of paths and tracks within and from the park offer opportunities for visitors to enjoy woodland walks around the park or to extend the visit by accessing the public footpath network, greenbelt and open countryside which surround Standish.

The Park facilities include a large free car park which is approached and accessed along a wooded driveway from Ashfield Park Drive; 4 full sized and 1 mini football pitches; a basketball court; toilets including a radar keyed toilet facility; 2 formal play areas, one offering toddler play opportunities and the other adventurous play opportunities for 7-14 year olds; a teen meeting area with shelters and picnic benches.



Ashfield Park Drive, Standish, Wigan



The Ashfield Park play facilities are being improved in 2012. The play area for the 7-14yr olds will be refurbished with a new design that was voted for and selected by the local community from a range of 6 options, the winning scheme attracted 60% of the votes. New accessible play equipment will be provided, comprising a bespoke wheelchair accessible roundabout, basket swing, play panels and accessible picnic bench.

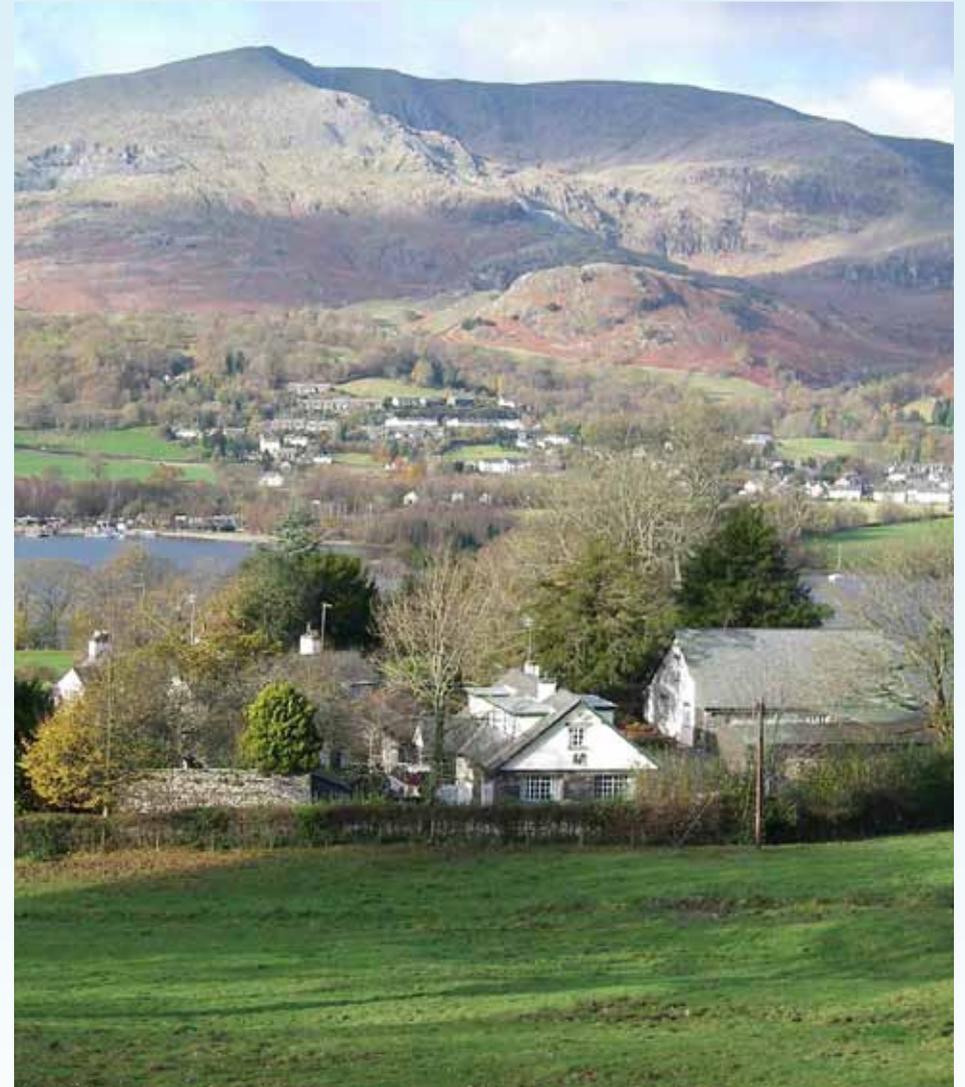
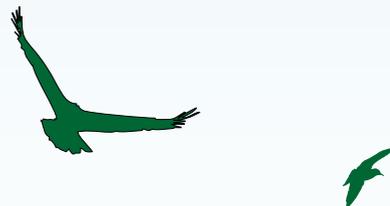


## Low Bank Ground

Low Bank Ground is an Outdoor Education Centre based on the shores of Coniston Water in the Lake District. It accommodates up to thirty six children for weekly residential courses with an emphasis on outdoor learning. Wigan Council has greatly increased access at Low Bank Ground. There is a new hygiene suite adjoining one of the bedrooms, which has been equipped with two large profile beds. A pathway with soft lighting to the outside recreation area has been rebuilt to allow easy wheelchair access. A new door has been built into the common room which adjoins this well-used area. A specially designed hoist has also been fitted to the lakeside jetty which will greatly aid the lifting of children and young people into boats and canoes, and a toilet facility on the lakeside has also been refurbished.

The Centre is available for members of the public to use as part of an organised group. Please contact the Centre on **015394 41314**, or email: **[admin@lowbankground.com](mailto:admin@lowbankground.com)**

For more details about the Centre, please visit the website **[www.lowbankground.com](http://www.lowbankground.com)**



## Wigan Roller Rink



Unit 2 Eckersley Mill,  
Wigan, WN3 5BD

Some slight adaptations have been made at Wigan Roller Rink including the purchase of a hoist, changing bed and ramp to ensure full access to the rink. Please note this is not a council facility and as such Wigan Council cannot accept any responsibility for persons accessing Wigan Roller Rink. Please call **01942 375675** for more information.

## Friends of Families



Olympic House, Platt Street,  
Platt Bridge, Wigan WN2 5DA

Friends of Families are a local charity that provides short breaks opportunities at Ribby Hall Holiday Village, near Blackpool. The charity has two lodges and a caravan that can be rented by families who have a child or a young person with a disability. Wigan Council has contributed funds to enable families to access the provision at a reduced rate Monday to Friday or Friday to Monday. The accommodation is available from 1st March until the 31st October each year. There is also 16 seater adapted mini bus available for hire with or without a driver. The mini bus is fully adapted to support two wheel chair users (but with less capacity). Please note this is not a council facility and as such Wigan Council cannot accept any responsibility for persons accessing Ribby Hall Holiday Village. For more information please call **01942 863274** or email: [info@friendsoffamilies.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsoffamilies.org.uk)

[www.friendsoffamilies.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffamilies.org.uk)

[www.wigan.gov.uk/shortbreaks](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/shortbreaks)

