



Walk The Wigan Way

 Transport for
Greater Manchester



Wigan[♥]
Council







Waymarkers



Main Wigan Way Walk



Haigh walk



Whelley walk



Town walk



Busy road



Steep hill



Whelley Loop Line

An 8.5-mile (14 km) adventure through the scenery of post-industrial Wigan! This circular walk takes you through woodlands, along canal towpaths and past historic sites, including the magnificent Haigh Woodland Park.

Originally published in 1997, the Wigan Way route has been updated as of 2025.

You can either start your walk at:

Trencherfield Mill: Parking available (charges may apply). Toilets and refreshments are available in Wigan Town Centre.

Haigh Woodland Park Visitor Centre: Car park (charges apply) with refreshments and toilets.

Notes for walkers:

Dress for the weather and wear good walking footwear. Wigan Council accepts no responsibility for any errors, loss, accidents, or injuries during the walk.

Let's walk!

1. **Trencherfield Mill** – Built in 1907.
Cross to Wigan No 1 Pier. Proceed to the entrance of the canal turn **sharp left down the cobbled slope.**
2. **Leeds and Liverpool Canal** – Opened in 1774.
3. **Henhurst Bridge** – The stone cottages are a fine example of original lock-keeper houses.
4. **Three Forms of Transport** – Road, canal and railway.
Caution! Busy road, proceed slowly.
5. **William Foster Playing Fields** – At Lock 81 look to your right and you'll see a multi-million-pound sport redevelopment.

6. **Rose Bridge** – Ancient route from Wigan to Ince and Hindley
Caution! Busy road, proceed slowly.
7. **Rabbit Rocks** – Local name for slag tips from the former Kirkless Iron and Steel Works.
Turn left before Lock 73 onto Whelley Loop Line.
8. **Whelley Loop Line** – The Loop has had a second lease of life as a multi-user track, joining communities in Hindley, Scholes, and Wigan. It's now easier than ever to get to Haigh and beyond by walking, wheeling or cycling.
9. **Whelley Station** – Former Whelley passenger station (now demolished) opened on 1st January 1872.
Proceed under the bridge.
10. **Old Collieries** – Once the site of Lindsay and Alexandra Collieries until 1955.
WAYMARKER 1: Turn left at WAYMARKER 1 and continue down the hill to the right.
11. **The Yellow Brook/ Whelley Loop Line** – The route joins the main path.
WAYMARKER 2: Upon reaching WAYMARKER 2, turn right and continue up the hill.
12. **Lower Plantations** – Planted in the 1800s by Lord Crawford.
13. **Railway Cutting** – The iron bridge carries the main drive to Haigh Hall over the up-graded Whelley Loop Line.
14. **Bridge over the canal** – The Lancaster Canal reached Haigh in 1799. **After crossing the canal follow the main path until a track intersects the path. At this point keep right.**
WAYMARKER 3: Take the right opening off the main path through the woodland and proceed up the path crossing the miniature railway lines. The distance from the canal bridge to the waymarker is 0.57km
15. **Upper Plantations** – The paths were laid out by unemployed workers during the Cotton Famine.
WAYMARKER 4: Cross the tarmac path towards the Visitor Centre.
16. **Haigh Hall** – Built in the 1830/40s. The hall is at the centre of Haigh Woodland Park.
17. **The Stables** – Pass the lion statue on the right, walk around the Courtyard and proceed uphill to the junction of School Lane with the car park on your left.
18. **The Stocks** – Located at the entrance at School Lane.
Turn left along School Lane and proceed until you reach a single track.
WAYMARKER 5: Turn left at WAYMARKER 5, this is Sennicar Lane.
19. **Sennicar (formerly Gibson's) Bridge** – Go over the canal bridge. Turn left after the bridge to join the canal then turn immediate right along the tow path. Do not follow the GM Ringway sign - it is a different walk.

20. **View of Haigh Hall** – Lady Mabel Bradshaigh is said to have once walked barefoot to Mab's Cross in Wigan Lane as a punishment.
21. **Basin Quay** – Built as a wharf for limestone and ore.
WAYMARKER 6: Directly after Basin Quay stone bridge, turn right around the water's edge then follow the woodland path to reach Hall Lane Lodge.
22. **Hall Lane Lodge** – Victorian lodges restored as a private house. **At Hall Lodge Lane turn right down Hall Lane crossing over the bridge. You can see the recently restored part of the Whelley Loop, with an accessible ramp running down to the track bed. Continue along Hall Lane.**
WAYMARKER 7: Turn left off Hall Lane. You can find the waymarker next to the public footpath sign
23. **The Receptacle/Alms Houses** – Built by Lady Bradshaigh c. 1775. **At the Receptacle continue onto the narrow path leading into the woodland, descending the stepped slope.**
WAYMARKER 8: Turn right down the hill. The Devil's Canyon is on the right. The original Wigan Way route takes you downhill to the right and curves around and alongside the River Douglas and is regularly impassable.
- The New Wigan Way recommended route – at the T-junction turn left and proceed along the track through the woodland, looking down to the right you may see the River Douglas. As this track bears left you will reach an old fallen tree. Turn right carefully down the steep slope and take the steps to the right. You will emerge on to the main drive with the green bridge over the river in front of you.
- Turn left past the bench and then immediately right over the footbridge, crossing the Yellow Brook. Once across the bridge take the right fork up the stepped hill proceeding along the track. Turn right at the top and follow the path keeping to the right.
24. **Bottling Wood** – **WAYMARKER 9: Ancient woodland which marks the Wigan/ Haigh boundary.**
25. **Bottling Wood Village** – Once home to a thriving community of around 65 homes. **Turn right across the dam. Go up the steps and keep left. Turn immediately left towards the bridge then turn right along the track before the bridge going under Central Park Way. You will see Tesco on your right further down the path.**
26. **Wigan Rugby League FC Central Park(Tesco)** – Opened September 6th, 1902. **When you emerge at the main road, bear right and proceed to Whitesmith's Public House. Cross at the crossing before ambling up through Wigan town centre.**
27. **Standishgate** – One of the principal medieval streets.
28. **Makinson Arcade** – A Victorian Arcade built in 1898 and refurbished in 1985.
29. **Market Place** – The centre of Wigan's economic and political life.

30. **Wallgate Station** – Rebuilt in 1896.

31. **North Western Station** – Opened in 1831, rebuilt in the 1970s.

Pass the railway stations on either side of the road and join the walkway alongside the fully segregated cycle lane back towards Trencherfield Mill/Wigan Pier.

32. **Wigan Pier** – The original ‘pier’ was a coal loading point on the canal bank. **The walk concludes at Trencherfield Mill.**

Congratulations, you’ve completed The Wigan Way!



**Want to learn more about this historic walk?
Scan the QR code.**

<https://bewellwigan.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/The-Wigan-Way.pdf>