



VISIT  
HALTON

HALTON HIGHLIGHTS

*Issue 4*

# RE:WILD YOUR EXPERIENCE IN HALTON

DISCOVER WILDLIFE, EMBRACE  
SUSTAINABLE DAYS OUT AND CONNECT  
WITH THE GREAT OUTDOORS

# DISCOVER INSIDE

Images used throughout this guide are courtesy of Emily Cadwell-Ley, taken on behalf of the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust.

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**SPREAD THE JOY**  
PLANT THIS SEED PAPER, SCAN BELOW AND TAG ITS LOCATION. THEN PASS THE REST ON TO FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME!



## SPREAD THE JOY!

Once you've cut out your seed paper part, pick a special place, with permission, plant it, then tell us where by scanning the QR code. Find where friends have planted theirs, and **Spread the Joy!** Together we can all see Halton grow greener together!

## THIS DIGITAL VERSION SADLY CONTAINS NO SEEDS

But please head to a Halton local library, attraction, community or information centre to pick up a seed square or ask a friend if they have a copy.

# WELCOME TO HALTON'S GREEN ADVENTURE



**DR ANDREA DREWITT**  
CEO, Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust

See pages 8 & 9 for day in the life with Andrea and her team at the Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust.

Looking for a breath of fresh air? Halton is bursting with green spaces, free from crowds, just teeming with wildlife and packed with adventures all waiting to be explored!

Whether you're a nature enthusiast, a weekend wanderer or a family seeking a fun-filled day outdoors, Halton's parks, wetlands and trails offer something for everyone. Go wild and discover breathtaking landscapes, rich biodiversity and uncover the joy of sustainable outdoor experiences.

## OUR GREEN AREAS



# DISCOVER HALTON'S WILD SIDE

You may know us as a pioneering and thriving industrial giant, but if you explore the Borough further, you'll find a whole world of wildlife and nature nearby...



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Nearly a **THIRD** of Halton's land is designated Green Belt!

Liverpool City Region's rural hinterland unites the Borough's twin towns of Runcorn and Widnes and includes the charming 'Cheshire set' villages of Moore, Daresbury, Preston-on-the-Hill and Hale Village.

Once a haven for industry the Borough is now pioneering protected natural areas, boasting one Ramsar Site, one Special Protection Area (SPA), three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), ten Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), 47 Local Wildlife Sites, and three Green Flag award-winning open spaces. Halton has a network of pathways, waterways, and bridleways - including the Trans Pennine Trail, which winds through Hale Village, Halebank, and West Bank before leading to Spike Island. Halton offers endless opportunities to explore its fascinating landscapes which are home to as many stories as they are wildlife. So, whether you're on foot, horseback or two wheels, there are plenty of really wild times just waiting for you!

Step into nature and uncover the Borough's wild side, from the internationally important nature sites to lush woodlands and peaceful riverside hideaways, the whole Borough is a haven for wildlife and adventure. Look out for migrating birds, spot delicate wildflowers or simply take a mindful moment to soak up the beauty of nature. Whether you're walking, cycling or enjoying a picnic, Halton's green spaces are here to inspire. Just as they have for decades before, inspiring the world renowned writer, Lewis Carroll with his enchanting Centenary Wood. Also the scenic Spike Island Nature Reserve, which was the backdrop to one of music's most famous gigs.

## OUR NATURE & WILDLIFE SITES

- 1 RAMSAR SITE
- 1 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA ON THE MERSEY ESTUARY
- 3 SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (SSSI)
- 3 GREEN FLAG AWARD WINNING PARKS
- 10 TEN LOCAL NATURE RESERVES (LNRs)
- 47 LOCAL WILDLIFE SITES

## WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Our Mersey Estuary and River Mersey both play a crucial role in the protection of rare bird species and provide vital habitats for diverse wildlife. These intertidal flats and saltmarshes create a natural spectacle, especially in winter when thousands of waders and waterfowl gather here. Bring your binoculars and witness nature at its most spectacular!

TURN OVER  
TO SEE THE **REALLY**  
WILD BUNCH OF HALTON



# WILDLIFE YOU MIGHT SPOT ACROSS THE BOROUGH

Halton's diverse landscapes provide a sanctuary for a rich variety of wildlife. Whether you're a dedicated wildlife enthusiast or simply enjoy spotting animals on a country walk, there's always something to see.

## FISH

Beneath the surface of the River Mersey, you'll find Bream, Minnow, and even Atlantic Salmon making their incredible migration upstream. These fish play a crucial role in the river's ecosystem.



SALMON



BREAM



EUROPEAN  
EEL



NEWT

## BIRDS

Look out for the vibrant Goldfinch flitting between trees, its bright yellow flashes catching the light. The saltmarshes are home to Skylark, Lapwing and other ground breeding birds such as Oystercatchers or Common Terns.

## WATER BIRDS

Spot elegant Kingfishers along the riverbanks, watch Mallards glide across the water, or admire flocks of wading birds like the Graceful Redshank foraging on the mudflats. The Mersey is a prime spot for birdwatchers!



MALLARD



KINGFISHER



GOLDFINCH



AVOCET



RIVER  
MERSEY

## AMPHIBIANS

The waterways are ribbitingly riveting. Keep an eye out for Common Frogs and Smooth Newts hiding amongst the reeds. Listen for their calls in the evening as they hop to life.



FROG

## BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies such as the Peacock, Red Admiral and Comma can be seen drifting through wildflower meadows and pastures, for more exotic species flutter down to the Butterfly House in Victoria Park.



PEACOCK  
BUTTERFLY



RED ADMIRAL



SPECKLED  
WOOD

## WILDFLOWERS

From the delicate petals of the Corncockle to the deep purples of the Foxglove, Halton's meadows and hedgerows are bursting with colour throughout the seasons. Spot Water Lilies floating serenely on still waters.



BEE ORCHID



CORNCOCKLE



FOXGLOVE

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 3,800 species recorded in the river Mersey upper estuary, with over 137,000 sightings.

## HOW TO ENJOY THESE AREAS RESPONSIBLY

Nature is for everyone, and we all have a role to play in protecting it. When exploring our green spaces remember to leave only footprints and take only memories.

Stick to designated paths, keep your furry friends on leads, dog poo - bag it and bin it, do not light fires, close all gates and stiles, take

your litter home - leave no trace of your visit, give way to horse riders on bridleways, respect wildlife and care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance and support conservation efforts by getting involved in local eco-projects. Small actions make a big difference - let's keep Halton wild and wonderful for generations to come!

# A DAY IN THE LIFE, WITH...

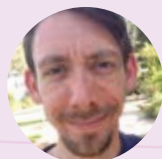
MERSEY GATEWAY  
ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

The Mersey Gateway Environmental Trust (MGET) was formed in 2010 to look after, improve and protect the environment within the Mersey Estuary, as a result of the Mersey Gateway Bridge being built. Since then MGET have been enhancing and protecting the estuary as well as carrying out research to highlight the importance of this environment.

The Team at the Trust look after 1600 hectares of an internationally renowned living laboratory, one half of which is located in Halton and the other in Warrington, it's a positive place that's been a catalyst for nature's recovery and biodiversity. The Trust wasn't just set up to conserve and protect the landscape, it also promotes educational opportunities in the area and has become a place to visit, enjoy and be proud of, benefitting not just the environment, but our local people and wildlife.

## GO WITH THE FLOW

The River Mersey has been described as **"the greatest river recovery in Europe"** after the **60 species of fish** were found, the highest recorded levels to date!



DR ANDREW WOLFENDEN  
BIODIVERSITY MANAGER  
OF THE TRUST, TELLS US  
ABOUT A TYPICAL DAY...

I will go out on the estuary to carry out surveys that helps us to record and monitor the species that live in the river, this might be to count fish, birds or even porpoises. The Trust also works with students from local universities on a wide range of topics and interests which helps us to learn more about the river and its habitats. It is our natural playground and through our studies we can discover the hidden secrets that the river holds and help to increase the biodiversity and keep learning about the estuary.

People who grew up in the area often tell us how the river used to be different colours and now it is 'brown'. This was due to the amount of chemicals in the river that created a very dangerous environment for the rivers residents. Fortunately, after years of work to help clean the river, it is now just 'brown', and this brown colouration is due to the mud that makes up much of the river bed. But brown is good, as it is the natural colour of the water and when it was different colours, it was an impact of the chemical industry in the area and not a safe and natural environment for any of the rivers residents. This mud is very important and is home to thousands of shrimps, crabs and worms that are a really important food source for the birds and fish that we find in the river. This means that without the mud the river wouldn't be able to support the numbers of birds and fish that make the area so diverse.



## CHECK OUT DR ANDREA DREWITT'S FAVOURITE THINGS TO DO AND DISCOVER ON THE MERSEY ESTUARY...



Even with all the research, the Mersey still has secrets it's holding and I love how diverse this environment is and here is the list of my favourite things to see and do throughout the year...

- ✿ Soaking up the views on Spike Island, seeing flocks of birds, like lapwing or pink-footed geese in winter around the saltmarsh and mudflats right next to Spike Island.
- ✿ Taking one of our Wellbeing Walks along the Salt Marshes and Local Nature Reserves. We joined forces with Runcorn's Hazlehurst Studios to deliver a series of Wellbeing Walks to the public, a hit of mindfulness whilst exploring the habitats of our wild residents.
- ✿ Watching the rush of the tide, as the water comes over the marsh, which happens only around ten times a year – also, the Mersey has the second highest tidal range in the UK (only the Severn has a higher one)!
- ✿ In breeding season between March – September, I enjoy cycling from Wigg Island to Moore Nature Reserve. Try and spot the native bluebells and cowslips in Spring and the wildflower meadow in Summer!
- ✿ Listening to the morning chorus in Spring is such a joy and the best way to start a day. If unsure about the bird song, using the Merlin App is a great help.

One of the most fascinating things about the estuary is its dynamic and that it never stands still. At the Trust, we are proud to play our part in finding new and innovative ways to work in the estuary and with its communities.





## READY FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY ADVENTURE?

Plan a day out that's kind to nature - travel sustainably, bring reusable water bottles, and support local green initiatives. Whether you're exploring Halton's heritage sites, enjoying a nature trail, or simply unwinding in the fresh air, there are countless ways to make your visit meaningful. Let's celebrate and protect the incredible landscapes that make Halton so special!

Our Borough has already seen plenty of Transformative Green Projects grow, with **17,000m<sup>2</sup>** of Public Space, **20,712m<sup>2</sup>** of Green Space improved and **over 100 seed bombs** planted! **Over £18,000 awarded** to 10 community groups supporting projects like the **creation of raised beds, greenhouses, and wildlife habitats** which are all waiting for you to visit and get involved with.



# PLAY SUSTAINABLY IN HALTON

## FIND YOUR INNER PEACE

You can find enlightenment amongst the flowers at the **Wat Phra Singh UK Peace Garden** in Runcorn part of the regeneration that's been happening in the area, the centrepiece of the garden is the 19-foot-tall golden Buddhist statue hand crafted by monks in Thailand, the statue comprises of four main faces, all of which tell a story key to the teachings within Buddhism.

The Chedi also features the 'naga', a mythical serpent that protected the Buddha whilst he was meditating to gain enlightenment, so where better to relax and revive.



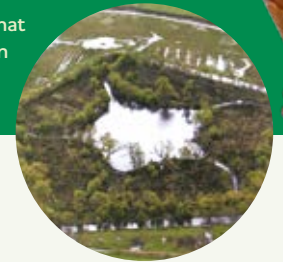
## DUCK DECOY

A perfect and peaceful place for quiet walks, picnics and wildlife is Pickering's Pasture, a former land fill site which has been reclaimed and is now an excellent wildlife area. You'll also discover the famous Duck Decoy, which is an ancient way of catching ducks. The decoy is also part of the Mersey Estuary designated for its nature covering 3,000 hectares, an International Ramsar site and SSSI for its safe feeding and roosting area for large numbers of wading birds and ducks. So, bring the binoculars as you'll have plenty to spot!

You can find out more by visiting: **Pickering's Pasture, Mersey View Road, Halebank, Widnes, WA8 8LP**



ACCESSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE GARDENING



## THE WONKY GARDEN

The **Wonky Garden in Widnes**, is one of the fabulous community gardens within the Borough.

The focus of the garden is horticultural/flower therapy and nature-based activities, with its large herbaceous borders, trees and shrubs, and planting focussing on the senses and wildlife. They grow masses of edibles and cut flowers in the allotment garden and greenhouses. Their children's 'explorify' garden nestles between the two and is used to support young families. Their aim is to welcome all, support social isolation, mental and physical wellbeing, have fun with all ages within the community through year-round learning events.



Groups such as **St. John and St. Paul's Transform Widnes** and **Clifton Road Allotment Association** have transformed local areas into thriving hubs for social interaction, accessible and sustainable gardening.

At **Halton Village Millennium Green** maintaining the much-loved community green space has been key for the whole community to enjoy.

Meanwhile **Friends of Hale Village** and **Grangeway Community Forum** launched projects that will enhance local green spaces and bring people together.

All of these projects exemplify the power of local action in creating a greener, more sustainable future.

They have strengthened community bonds, improved access to nature, and delivered real environmental benefits with our Borough.

For information on funding for your green project contact **Steph Davies, Programmes Manager** at Halton Borough Council by emailing [funding@halton.gov.uk](mailto:funding@halton.gov.uk)



# NORTON PRIORY

AN OASIS OF  
TRANQUIL  
WOODLAND AND  
WILDFLOWER  
MEADOWS...

This holy sanctuary is the perfect haven for wildlife because of the mosaic of habitats, including the canal, several ponds, the stream glade, the wildflower meadow, five orchards, woodland and the 2.5 acres Georgian walled garden.

Norton Priory's **42 acres** are home to at least six species of bats, foxes, squirrels, jays, tawny and little owls, amongst many others.

Buzzards and sparrow hawks can often be seen circling overhead, so keep your eyes peeled when you visit.

It's not only the Priory's surroundings that have eco accreditations, but their buildings also meet Sustainable standards with LED Lighting throughout, biomass fuel heating and they recycle as much waste as they can promoting a true Eco Tourism experience.

## TOP TIP FOR YOUR VISIT

Bat Walks run throughout the summer months with the Priory Ranger, but book ahead as they usually sell out!



The Walled Garden is the Priory's best kept secret with fruit trees, herb garden and stunning rose walk to enjoy.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Some of the hedgehogs in the Walled Garden have come here from local wildlife rescues.



A new orchard is being planted at Norton Priory, which features heritage varieties of Cheshire and Lancashire apples. It's unusual for a new orchard to be planted, and it is named Oldfield's Orchard. It is dedicated to the memory of Paul Oldfield who was the Nature Conservation Officer for Halton Borough Council.

Orchards are vital to biodiversity supporting a wide range wildlife and pollinators as well as providing a source food. The Priory is also home to the National Collection of Tree Quince and is in the process of planting a new quince orchard.



YOU CAN  
FIND EVEN MORE OF  
OUR GREEN SPACES AT  
[VISITHALTON.CO.UK](http://VISITHALTON.CO.UK)

Halton is home to three award-winning Green Flag parks, offering everything from serene lakeside walks to thrilling outdoor play areas.

Don't miss seasonal events, wildlife spotting opportunities, picnic spots and cultural highlights waiting to be discovered!

# HALTON'S GREEN FLAG SPACES

Whether you're visiting for a peaceful potter or an active day out these well-maintained green spaces are perfect for all ages.

## RUNCORN HILL PARK & NATURE RESERVE

A haven for wildflowers, birds, and butterflies, with well-maintained paths and a café.

**Highlands Rd, Runcorn WA7 4PT**



WILD  
HAVENS



## VICTORIA PARK

A beautifully landscaped park with ornamental gardens, a lake, and a sensory garden.

**Birchfield Rd, Widnes  
WA8 7SU**

GREAT  
GARDENS

## HALE PARK

A charming green space in the historic village of Hale, with views towards the Mersey Estuary.

**High St, Hale,  
Liverpool L24**



MERSEY  
HERITAGE

## TOP TIP FOR YOUR VISIT

Grab your lunch from local sustainable café, **Esposito's**. Best known for their authentic Italian gelato!

**They're located in both  
Runcorn Hill Park and  
Victoria Park!**





# OUR GREEN AREAS



- BIG WOOD**  
Windmill Hill, Runcorn, WA7 1SR
- CLINTON WOOD LOCAL WOOD RESERVE**  
Widnes, WA8 8RQ
- DARESBURY FIRS**  
Keckwick Ln, Warrington, WA4 4AB
- DORCHESTER PARK**  
Rudheath Ln, Runcorn, WA7 1QA
- HALE PARK**  
High St, Hale, Liverpool, L24
- HALE ROAD WOODLAND**  
Hale Rd, Widnes, WA8 0TL
- HOUGH GREEN PARK**  
95 Mayfield Ave, Widnes, WA8 8PW
- LEWIS CARROLL CENTENARY WOOD**  
Higher Ln, Daresbury, Runcorn, 4JG
- MURDISHAW VALLEY**  
Murdishaw Ave, Runcorn, WA7 6DN
- NORTON PRIORY MUSEUM & GARDENS**  
Tudor Rd, Windmill Hill, Runcorn, WA7 1SX
- OXMOOR WOOD & PONDS**  
Runcorn, WA7 1RS
- PHOENIX PARK**  
Castlefields Ave E, Windmill Hill, Runcorn, WA7 2PT
- PICKERING'S PASTURE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**  
Mersey View Rd, Widnes, WA8 8LP
- ROCK PARK**  
Sewell St, Runcorn, WA7 5SY
- RUNCORN TOWN PARK**  
Stockham Ln, Palacefields, Runcorn, WA7 6PT
- RUNCORN TOWN HALL PARK**  
Heath Rd, Runcorn, WA7 5TD
- RUNCORN HILL PARK**  
Highlands Rd, Runcorn, WA7 4PT
- SANDYMOOR WOOD**  
Runcorn, WA7 1XA
- SPIKE ISLAND**  
Upper Mersey Rd, Widnes, WA8 0DG
- VICTORIA PARK**  
Birchfield Rd, Widnes, WA8 7SU
- VICTORIA PROMENADE**  
Widnes, WA8 0EZ
- WIGGS ISLAND COMMUNITY PARK**  
Runcorn, WA7 1LU



## VICTORIA PARK BUTTERFLY HOUSE

NESTLED IN A CORNER OF VICTORIA PARK IN WIDNES, THE BUTTERFLY HOUSE AND GARDEN IS A LOCAL OASIS RUN BY A TEAM OF DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS. OPERATED FROM A BUILDING OWNED BY HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL, IT IS ONE OF THE VERY FEW BUTTERFLY HOUSES IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND AND IT'S FREE!

The site includes a wildlife garden where plants are grown to support native species of butterfly many of which are now in decline due to climate change and loss of habitat. The volunteer team also hosts education and creative events and activities to help residents learn more about local wildlife, the effects of climate change and how to live an eco-friendlier lifestyle. These have included climate cafés, eco-marketplaces and eco-crafts.

**The group welcomes new volunteers to help maintain the facility and deliver activities.**



### DID YOU KNOW?

The Butterfly House showcases exotic species from around the world, as well as the full life cycle of the butterfly from egg and pupae to fully emerged beauties.

You can support them by following and liking their social media accounts:



Victoria Park Butterfly House and Garden



vpbutterflyhouseandgarden

This annual celebration of green activities in the Borough is as an opportunity to learn more about the environment and sustainable practices. The event was first run in 2023 as part of a wider Liverpool City Region themed day Imagine Bamboo is Everywhere. The event showcased bamboo as a versatile and sustainable material of the future with a bamboo parade, craft tent and expert panel. The Butterfly House and Garden opened the glasshouse for a marketplace of environmental stalls with local creatives and voluntary organisations demonstrating their skills and practices.

A mini winter Eco Fest was held the same year including natural wreath making and a marketplace of eco-gifts. In 2024 the group held a successful week-long celebration of the environment with a meditation on mother earth, yoga classes, artist-led workshops, poetry masterclasses celebrating the planet and our local green spaces. The week finished off with an outdoor cook off led by local scouts, who cooked up delicious dishes from locally grown food.



## ECO FEST

*In September 2025 the event is back and bigger than ever, with another full week of festivities and green goings on!*

The annual celebration of all things green is **BACK** for 2025!







## WELL ECO-NNECTED

Halton's green spaces are well-connected by public transport and cycling paths offer easy access for our residents and visitors alike, so travelling sustainably around our Borough is a cinch.



# ACTIVE ADVENTURES IN HALTON

Unlock a wealth of waterways stories along our famous canals and rivers, witness life sciences and innovative, humans and nature working hand in hand, with our Borough council spearheading various environmental initiatives, such as tree planting and community clean-up events, to promote sustainability and civic pride.



We've nearly 80 km<sup>2</sup> of space for you to roam wild in, think of our great outdoors as your very own outdoor gym, literally you can find Fresh Air Fitness and active training for the whole community and enjoy outdoor fitness for free across the Borough.

Get your heart pumping as you cycle through scenic trails, paddle along the waterways or challenge yourself with a woodland hike. There are plenty of ways to stay active while soaking in the natural beauty of the area.

The Region's Green Sustainable Travel Corridors Project along with the public rights of way within the Borough, will deliver a 600km network to support the existing 106 cycle routes, encouraging even more cycling and walking.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Travel direct from London by train in just over 2 hours!

Our strategic location between urban Liverpool and rural Cheshire, makes us more than just an attractive option for outdoor activities. Halton is the North West's natural playground where nature meets nurture, heritage and culture can be found around every corner with Far Eastern peace gardens to monasteries and ancients castles.

Test yourself and take the Trans Pennine Trail on your bike or walk it along the Mersey on the 6 mile stretch, past some of Halton's best loved nature reserves and green spaces including, Hale Village, Pickering's Pasture, Spike Island and Moore Nature Reserve.



### DID YOU KNOW?

The TPT is mostly off-road, but not all is surfaced. A mountain bike or sturdy tourer is recommended.



Check out more scenic and exciting pathways at:  
[activehalton.co.uk/walking](http://activehalton.co.uk/walking)

# JOIN THE GREEN CHALLENGES

There's never been a better time to get involved in Halton's green spaces. Volunteer for local conservation projects, take part in eco-festivals or simply spread the word about the nature on our doorstep.

Every small action contributes to a bigger, greener future. So, lace up your walking boots, grab your camera and set off on a journey through Halton's wilder wonders, you won't be disappointed!

How can you Join the Green Challenge? If you make a few small changes, they could have a big difference on our Borough and the planet. From travelling greener to reducing waste and caring for wildlife.

GET INVOLVED

## CHECK OUT... FIELD 28

This family-run urban farm has been sowing, growing and serving the local community and beyond for years! They specialise in pesticide and biocide-free specialty leaf and heritage produce. Their deli and farm shop are well worth a visit, plus you could also take away a veg box full of fresh grown goodness!

## 10 SMART WAYS TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE IN 2025 AND BEYOND!

### ✖ SWAP THE CAR AND TAKE A WALK

Walk, bike, or use public transport instead of driving.

### ✖ REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE!

Before you buy anything ask yourself, do I really need this?

### ✖ SWAP LIQUID SOAP FOR A BAR!

Save on water, plastic, carbon and energy!  
They're cheaper – so save in more ways than one!

### ✖ PLANT TREES AND FLOWERS AT HOME!

Not only will it brighten your place up but also add balance to the local eco system, or help the Halton's Big Forest team and plant with them. Scan the QR code to find out how you can help!

### ✖ GROW YOUR OWN!

Harvest from your backyard and enjoy homegrown goodness, with fresh herbs, fruits and veg.

### ✖ SWAP PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES FOR REUSABLE BOTTLES!

If you haven't already make the change to a sustainable glass or stainless steel bottles!

### ✖ REFILL INSTEAD OF RE-BUYING!

Buy products in refillable or concentrated forms to cut down on packaging.

### ✖ SWAP YOUR LIGHT BULBS FOR LED

Be more energy efficient with energy saving light bulbs.

### FANCY DOING SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE OUT THERE?

Why not try pond dipping, forest bathing or a leisurely nature walk – it's all about finding your own green groove and adventure at your own pace.

FIND OUT HOW ON THE NEXT PAGE!

visithalton.co.uk



## EXPERIENCE THE HEALING POWER OF A WALK

Taking time to notice nature all around, you can boost your mood and general wellbeing. Go one step further and try grounding, walking barefoot to connect with the earth.

NATURE TRAILS

## FOREST BATHING

Immerse yourself in the peaceful surroundings of Halton's woodlands. A mindful walk through the trees, breathing in the fresh, earthy scents can work wonders for your wellbeing.

## PRESS FLOWERS & TAKE TREE RUBBINGS

Master these two natural craft techniques then you can create your own eco masterpieces

# OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FOR ALL AGES

Halton is a natural playground waiting to be explored, with family-friendly trails, wildlife-rich reserves and hands-on activities that bring the wonders of nature to life.

## LISTEN TO NATURE'S SOUNDS

Take a break and tune into the natural orchestra around you. Hear the rustling leaves, the distant call of a curlew, and the gentle trickle of water - nature's way of reminding us to slow down and soak in the moment.

## POND DIPPING

Grab a net and take a peek beneath the water's surface! Our ponds, waterways and lakes are teeming with life, from tiny water boatmen skimming across the surface to wriggling tadpoles growing into frogs. It's a fascinating hands-on experience for all ages.

## GO BAT HUNTING!

Head out for the night and see if you can spot one of the most overlooked and misunderstood of our fellow mammals.

## WILDLIFE TRACKING

Become a nature detective! Look out for footprints, nibbled leaves, or bird feathers along your journey - clues left behind by the creatures that call Halton home.

If you see a rare sighting share it with **RECORD** [record-lrc.co.uk](http://record-lrc.co.uk)

## WILDLIFE AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Capture images of landscapes, wildlife, and plants of all shapes and sizes.



# STOP THE BLOCK!

## We want to work together to avoid blockages and flooding in your home and garden

Flushing the wrong things down the loo and pouring the wrong things down the sink can create blockages in pipes and drains. This can lead to sewer flooding in your home and garden.

Here are our tips to avoid blockages at home:

- After cooking, allow fats, oils and grease to cool and then scrape into the bin
- Only flush the 3Ps down the loo: Pee, Poo and (toilet) Paper
- Always put wet wipes into the bin



Visit [unitedutilities.com/stop-the-block](https://unitedutilities.com/stop-the-block) to find out more.

# We want to support your community



As part of our **Better Rivers: Better North West** commitment to make rivers beautiful and support others to care for them, we have launched a **Community Fund**.

Do you have a community project or grassroots organisation that could benefit from this fund? We're offering up to **£2,500** worth of equipment for groups that:

- have a focus or objective to improve local watercourses and riverside environments
- act as catalysts for improved community and environmental wellbeing
- seek to reconnect communities with riverside environments
- promote sustainable drainage through their work

If you or someone you know is a force of nature and champions environmental change in your area - especially when it comes to local waterways, then send your contact details to [stakeholderrelations@uuplc.co.uk](mailto:stakeholderrelations@uuplc.co.uk) detailing:

- a brief outline of the organisation/group you represent
- the amount of funding you require and what equipment you require to support your work

If your application is successful, we will look at purchasing the equipment for you using our existing suppliers. Previously, we have accepted requests for litter picking equipment and water quality testing kits etc.



Visit [unitedutilities.com/better-rivers](https://unitedutilities.com/better-rivers) to find out more.

Applications are not limited to registered charities – this fund is designed to support a range of organisations operating at the heart of communities across the North West, including volunteer groups, schools, and parish councils. Please note that there will be no monetary donations.



# FOR THE GREEN AND THE GOOD

Halton Borough Council's Environmental Services team are crucial in keeping our Borough green and delightful.



Boasting three scenic Green Flag winning parks and naturally diverse landscapes and estuaries, Halton is the place to be for a green day out, in large part due to the outstanding work of the Environmental Services team. Recently, in partnership with INEOS as part of their Energy from Waste Initiative, Environmental Services have been busy improving landscapes and public realm across Halton.

## TOWN PARK PALACE FIELDS AVENUE

**£330,735 - COMPLETED JUNE 2023**

The project is part the overall strategy agreed at Executive Board to improve Town Park in phases. This is the second major phase towards delivering the agreed master plan and continues work to improve infrastructure, preserve the landscape character and provide a setting for leisure and recreation for Halton residents.

Work includes opening up the pond near Palacefields Avenue, boundary protection along Palacefields Ave, creation of a maintenance and events access route to the 'stadium' area, further footpath resurfacing, widening, seating and improved drainage, including the problem area at Stockham Lane.



Other INEOS Energy from Waste projects – why not try and spot them on your adventure around Halton...

- ✕ Wood Lane Pond, Beechwood, Runcorn
- ✕ Runcorn Hill Bowling Greens
- ✕ Runcorn COVID Memorial
- ✕ Runcorn Seafarers Memorial
- ✕ Arley Drive
- ✕ War Memorials Conservation
- ✕ Upton Rocks Access Works
- ✕ Town Park



## UPTON ROCKS ACCESS WORKS

**£91,904 PROJECT COMPLETED JULY 2024**

This project comprised the improvement of existing entrances and boundary treatment at Falkirk Ave, Wallsend Court and Cornforth Way and the construction of a new entrance in the southern part of the park.

In addition, existing tarmac and gravel pathways have been refurbished and upgraded and furniture installed to encourage further use of the site, particularly by less mobile visitors. A wetland scrape has also been installed at the Galway Ave entrance to improve surface water drainage and improve biodiversity of the site through the development of seasonal wetland habitat.



## BIRCHFIELD GARDENS, WIDNES

Birchfield Gardens in Widnes are what remains of the gardens to Birchfield House originally owned by Edward Young a prominent merchant of the town in the mid-1800s.

As well as being a popular public park nowadays, the gardens are also a charming example of the private garden style that was popular back in the Victorian period with serpentine paths laid out between tree planting on mounds and around an ornamental pond. Since 2024 refurbishment works have been undertaken to improve access, drainage, boundary structures, site furniture and water quality in the pond and these are now nearing completion.

New paths through the site and new edgings to the pond are complete, and a surface water drainage system has also been installed along with the infrastructure works for the pond's fountain and aeration system which will significantly improve water quality. Although the park is now fully open there will be ongoing works over the coming weeks – we hope that visitors will enjoy the refurbished park when works are fully complete in spring 2025.

The Business Investment and Growth Team host a successful free to attend Green Growth Network which offers businesses an opportunity to engage with leaders in the sector and attracts around 50 Green sector specific businesses on a regular basis.

The guest speakers provide valuable insights and information about services across the Liverpool City Region and local businesses are encouraged to get involved, updating the network about their services.

Any business who would like to attend can email the team at [business@halton.gov.uk](mailto:business@halton.gov.uk)





# NATURE NEEDS US ALL

**Green Tourism is a world-leading sustainability certification which has been at the forefront of championing sustainable tourism for more than 28 years.**

Internationally recognised as a certification body, Green Tourism provide the opportunity for travel, tourism, and hospitality businesses to gain credible certification to publicise their responsible, sustainable, and green practices. Green Tourism's aim is to help embed responsible, sustainable and environmentally friendly practices across businesses.

To achieve this goal, as well as having expert assessors to scrutinise sustainability considerations to industry benchmark level, Green Tourism has tools and resources created by sustainability experts specifically to enable tourism and hospitality businesses to build on their green practices.

Becoming a member of Green Tourism enables businesses to advance their sustainability goals. The certifications offered serve as valuable management tools, assisting businesses in developing credible sustainability policies, enhancing energy efficiencies, and demonstrating progress. Businesses can empower their teams, support their learning, and assure guests and customers that they prioritise sustainability and ethics.

Utilising tools and resources developed by sustainability experts specifically for the tourism and hospitality industries allows businesses to progress faster and save time. Green Tourism's expertise, honed over nearly three decades, helps businesses empower their teams and develop career-enhancing skills in sustainability, the circular economy, carbon footprint reduction, and ESG solutions. Collecting and submitting evidence of sustainability efforts provides businesses with a means to measure, track, and demonstrate their progress. This accumulated evidence is valuable and accessible even if team members move on, ensuring continuity in sustainability practices. By adopting sustainable practices, businesses can reduce their environmental impact while also realising significant cost savings through reduced waste and increased efficiency.

To get certified businesses or venues must provide evidence of actions taken in accordance with Green Tourism's 15 sustainability goals – categorised into People, Place and Planet. You can view the criteria in more detail on the Green Tourism website, and Green Tourism assessors will aid in tailoring the sustainability goals to your business or venue.

**We don't currently have any Green Tourism accredited venues in Halton - why not consider getting yours?**

**Join now at [green-tourism.com](https://green-tourism.com) and receive free registration thanks to our partnership with Green Tourism by using the Campaign Code "Visit Halton".**

**This will save the usual registration fee of £75 +VAT. Annual membership fees are payable, full rates can be found at [green-tourism.com/join-us/fees](https://green-tourism.com/join-us/fees).**



# Climate Action in Halton

Halton Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019, developed a Climate Action Plan and set a target to be Net Zero by 2040.

## BY 2040 THE COUNCIL'S OWN OPERATIONS AIM TO BE:

*Climate friendly* - having transformed the way we deliver services, work with businesses and other partners, use buildings, land, and energy to de-carbonise & encourage sequestration (Removing carbon from the air).

*Climate ready* - with plans and projects having increased the resilience of our operations in the communities and the economy we serve to help minimise the impacts from unavoidable climate change.

*Climate just* - ensuring that all of Halton and its environment has benefited from this transition, so that Halton is a resilient, fair and prosperous place to live and work and puts fairness and social justice at the heart of achieving climate goals. To be successful, all of Halton needs to benefit from the transition to a de-carbonised economy and no sections of the population can be left behind.

## A NUMBER OF INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY TO HELP REACH THE TARGET:

- ✖ Reduction of CO2 emissions from 26338 tonnes (2007) to 8740.
- ✖ Provided Green Grants to local community groups funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- ✖ Secured funding to improve the energy efficiency of around 570 homes in the Borough.
- ✖ Developed the Big Halton Forest project with the aim of planting one tree for every resident.
- ✖ Built a solar farm on derelict brownfield land to power the DCBL stadium and added solar panels to a number of Council buildings. The solar farm also has rangers on site supporting biodiversity and hosting school visits.
- ✖ Installed EV charging points at several sites and purchased two electric vehicles for the fleet.
- ✖ Climate Change Focus groups were held across the Borough in 2024 giving residents the opportunity to discuss specific environmental topics, including energy efficiency and transport. Some of the suggestions that came out of the sessions included: more events and pop up shops on climate matters; making recycling easier; advice on green home grants; support for community groups running green initiatives; improved public transport.
- ✖ An online training course has been developed for all staff to learn more about climate matters.

For further information on the Climate Action Plan and how to introduce climate friendly measures to your home and lifestyle, please visit [halton.gov.uk](https://www.halton.gov.uk) and click on Planning, Housing and Environment, then the Climate Change tab.