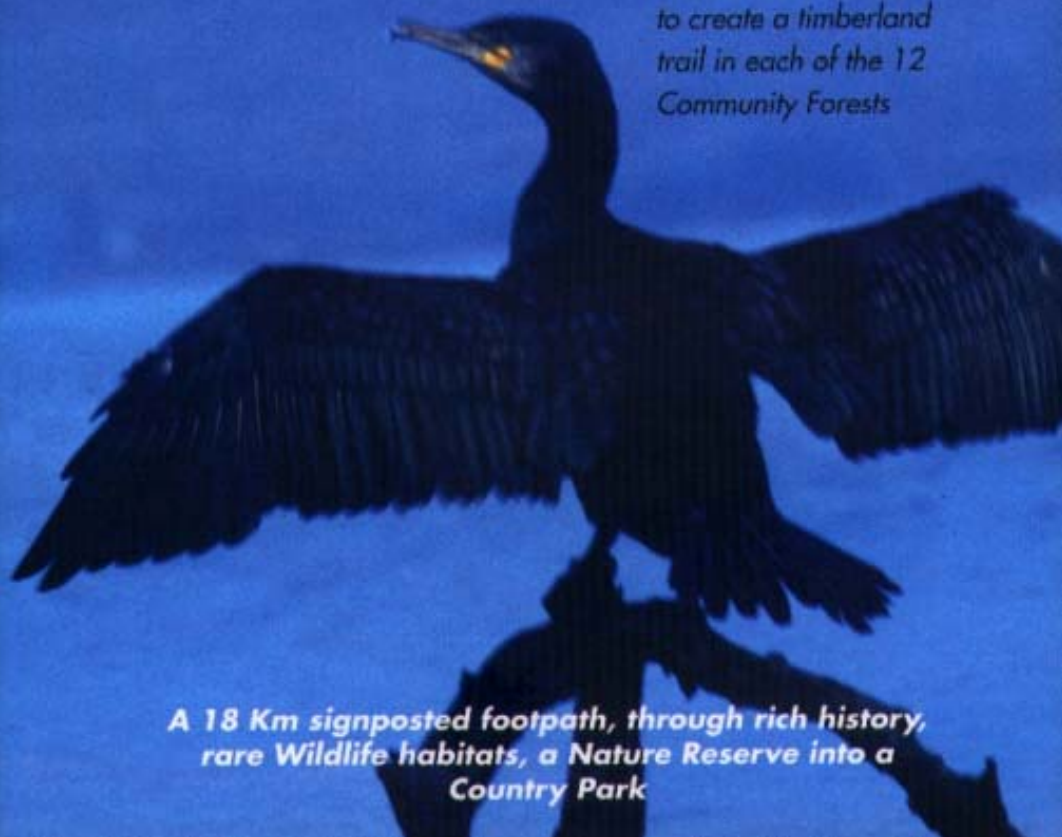


Glazebrook

Timberland®  Trail

Part of a
*national
initiative*

*to create a timberland
trail in each of the 12
Community Forests*



*A 18 Km signposted footpath, through rich history,
rare Wildlife habitats, a Nature Reserve into a
Country Park*

Pennington Flash Country Park

The lake at the heart of the Country Park was formed by mining subsidence in 1905 and is one of the regions most important bird watching wildlife sites. Ample parking is provided alternatively, it is only a short walk from Leigh town centre and Leigh Bus Station. Other features include a nature reserve, childrens play area, picnic and recreation areas, golf course and angling (Further information available from the Country Park visitor centre), a private sailing club, information point and lavatories and hot and cold light refreshments.



Tufted Duck (male)

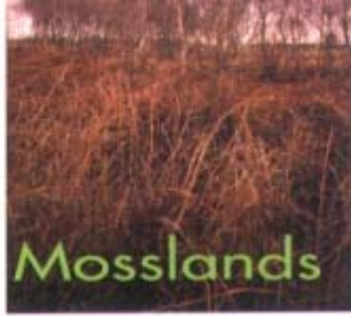
Hope Carr Nature Reserve & Education Centre

A United Utilities owned and managed 17 Hectare site that includes wetland and woodland habitats that attract an array of birdlife and waterfowl.

Two old barns, reminders of the previous farming use of the site have been converted to provide an environmental education and an arts and crafts centre.

Peacock Butterfly





Mosslands

Adjacent to the Trail are remnants of the mosslands that used to cover much of the lowland area of south Lancashire. Following the last Ice Age the hollows and basins of this wet region provided ideal growing conditions for sedges and mosses. However, because of the poor drainage which prevented air from getting at the vegetation and naturally rotting it. Layers of moss and sedge began to build up to create a rich organic ooze known as peat. Over the years many of these mosslands have been drained for farming and harvested for peat for horticultural use. Bedford Moss is a surviving remnant.

The Railways

There are two important and historical rail links across the Glaze Brook. The most famous is the Liverpool to Manchester railway, opened in September 1830, which was built to cope with the burgeoning transport needs of the early 19th century.

At Glazebury the line had to cross the still largely undrained Chat Moss, clearly a significant engineering obstacle. George Stephenson overcame the problem by 'floating' the railway on brushwood and cotton bales. George's son, Robert also provided one of the first locomotives to run on this line, the 'Rocket'.



*Floating the railway
Astley Green Colliery c.1912*

Great Woolden Hall & Promontory Fort



South Facade- Girt Woolden Hall

Overlooking the flood plain of the Glaze Brook, the hall has a history of steady development over at least four centuries, possibly originating as a timber framed building that was encased in brick. Today the building is Grade II Listed.

West of the hall on a promontory overlooking the Glaze Brook is the fort, a scheduled Medieval Monument, that was discovered in 1986. Excavations have revealed that the fort contained circular buildings and pens for livestock and was occupied during the period 500BC to AD200.

(Please note that when walking through the grounds of the Hall follow the waymarker arrows. Do not walk into the rear court yard area, this is private property.)

Manchester Ship Canal

The canal, a major engineering feat of its time was opened by Queen Victoria in 1894. The 35 mile long canalised river was largely constructed by hand to a specification that enabled ocean going ships to pass to the port of Manchester at Salford Quays. Finance for its construction came from a consortium of Manchester cotton traders tired of what they saw as extortionate import and export levies being charged by the port of Liverpool.



River Glaze

general information

Timberland Trails are a national initiative to create twelve trails in the Community Forests. The Trail has been funded by a partnership between Timberland (U.K.) Ltd and The Countryside Agency and is supported by City of Salford and Wigan Council, Red Rose Forest, The Mersey Basin Campaign and the Clear Glaze Partnership.

The Glaze Brook Timberland Trail is an 18 km linear recreation route following footpaths close to the Pennington and Glaze Brooks, from Pennington Flash Country Park in Leigh, to the Manchester Ship Canal at Cadishead. The route passes the remnant mosslands of Chat Moss, which provide some of the rarest wildlife habitats in the county and extends through areas rich in history including Little and Great Woollen Halls, the Liverpool to Manchester railway, Hope Carr Nature Reserve and Pennington Flash Country Park.

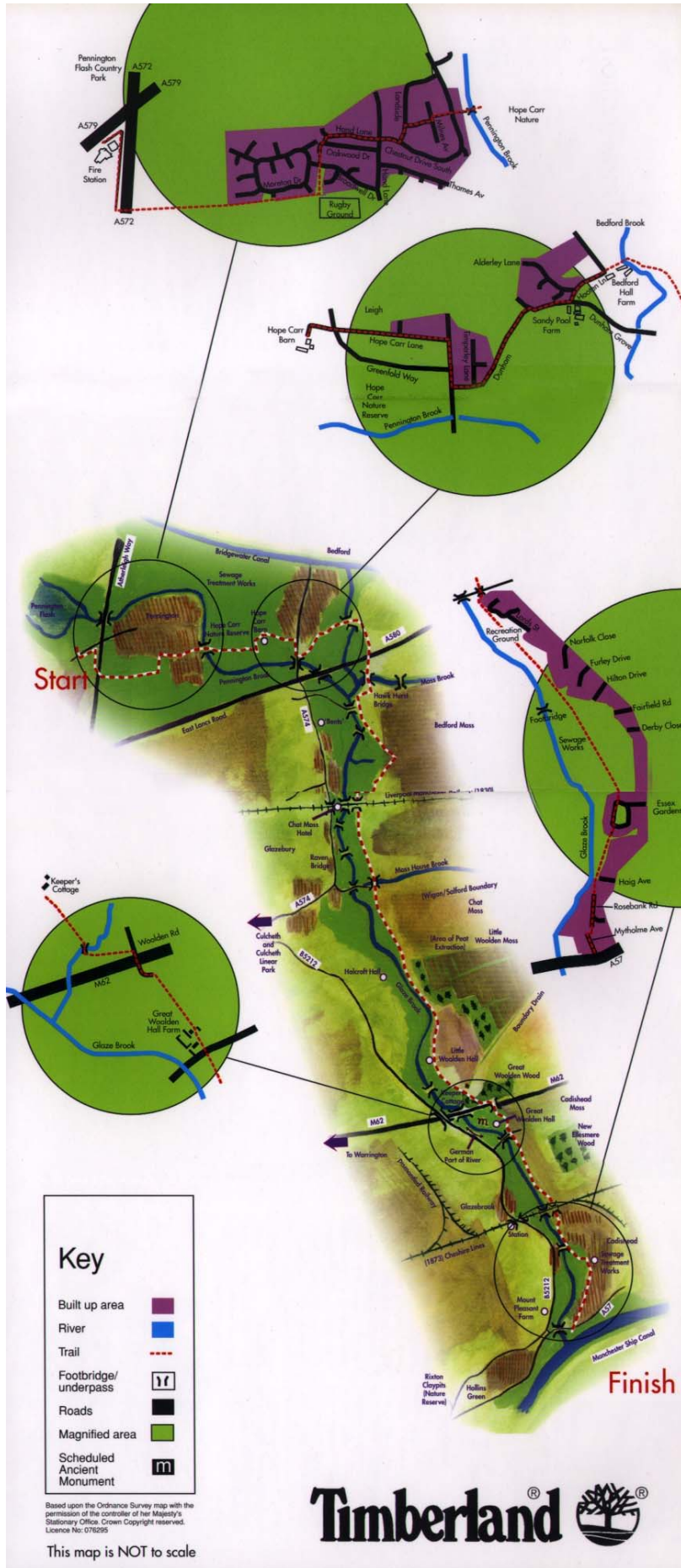
You can walk the trail by using the map and directions on the leaflet and following the Glazebrook Timberland Trail

waymarking signs. Please allow 3-5 hours to complete the trail or identify your own shorter loops.

Refreshments and facilities are available at Glazebrook, Glazebury, Leigh and Pennington Flash.

The trail itself is not suitable for disabled users, people with pushchairs or cyclists (Although Hope Carr Nature Reserve and Pennington Flash Country Park can accommodate disabled users and pushchairs). Parts of the trail can be muddy and slippery in poor weather so please wear appropriate footwear and clothing. The trail also crosses The Altherleigh Way (A572) and the East Lancashire Road (A580), both fast dual carriageways, so take particular care.





general information

Please follow the country code when walking on the trail;

- Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.
- Guard against all risk of fire.
- Fasten all gates.
- Keep your dogs under close control.
- Keep to rights of way across farmland.
- Use gates and stiles to cross fences hedges and walls.
- Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.
- Take your litter home.
- Help to keep all water clean.
- Protect wildlife, plants and trees.
- Take special care on country roads.
- Make no unnecessary noise.

Further countryside information can be obtained from

Salford City Council

tel 0161 793 3647

email forward.planning@salford.gov.uk

Wigan Council

tel 01942 404309

email g.chadwick@wiganmbc.gov.uk

Wigan Ranger Service at

Pennington Flash

tel 01942 605253.

Red Rose Forest Team

tel 0161 872 1660

email team@redroseforest.co.uk

Other countryside recreational facilities close to the Trail, include Culcheth Linear Park, Rixton Claypits Nature Reserve, for further information contact Warrington Ranger Service tel 0161 777 9726, and The Mersey Valley Timberland Trail, for further information contact Mersey Valley Partnership tel 01928 573346.

Transport Information

There is a railway station at Glazebrook on the Manchester to Warrington line. For further information telephone National Rail enquiries on 0845 7484950.

For bus information telephone Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPT) 0161 228 7811.

For bus and rail information you can view the GMPT website at www.gmpte.gov.uk

Parking is available at Pennington Flash Country Park and Hope Carr Barn. If you wish to park elsewhere along the trail, please park your vehicle responsibly. (Mytholme Ave at the southern end of the trail is a private road. Please do not park here)

