

Local Nature Reserve



www.halton.gov.uk

WHAT IS A GREEN FLAG PARK?

The Green Flag Award scheme is managed by the Civic Trust on behalf of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Green Flag Advisory Board. Members of the Board include CABI Space and the Big Lottery Fund. This national standard for parks and green spaces is a key component of the Government's commitment to create cleaner, safer and greener communities.



There are eight criteria which Green Flag Award judges assess - a welcoming place; healthy, safe and secure; well maintained and clean; sustainability; conservation and heritage; community involvement; marketing; and management. Award holders have to submit applications annually to retain the prestigious Green Flag.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

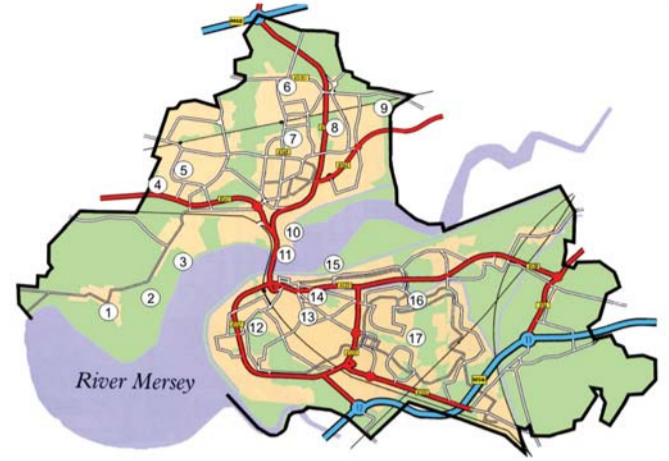
Inspiring or disappointing?
Lifts your heart or needs a face lift?
Something for everyone or nothing to do?

You can now have your say about Halton's Parks

greenSTAT™

GreenSTAT is a national online database that gives local residents the opportunity to comment on the quality of their local parks and green or open spaces and how well they feel they are being managed and maintained. GreenSTAT is owned and managed by GreenSpace, an independent national charity working with local authorities and their communities to conserve and improve their public parks and green or open spaces.

www.greenstat.org.uk



PARKS AND COUNTRYSIDE

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Hale Park | 10. Spike Island |
| 2. Hale Duck Decoy | 11. Victoria Promenade |
| 3. Pickerings Pasture LNR | 12. Runcorn Hill Park and LNR |
| 4. Clinton Wood | 13. Town Hall Park |
| 5. Hough Green Park | 14. Rock Park |
| 6. Birchfield Gardens | 15. Wigg Island Community Park |
| 7. Victoria Park | 16. Phoenix Park |
| 8. Crow Wood Park | 17. Town Park |
| 9. Sunnybank | |

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Telephone 01928 560793

Parks and Countryside Service
Tel 0303 333 4300 Fax 0151 907 8355
www.halton.gov.uk

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Things to see and do

Hill Park, by the Runcorn Hill Ranger Centre, has facilities for bowls, putting, basketball and tennis. The area around the bandstand hosts a variety of events and activities throughout the year. Look for the Parks and Countryside Events programme for more details.



Wildlife

You can walk in the quiet woodland or across the heathland, which is home to a variety of rare plants and animals, like, bilberry, common lizards and many insects, all found nowhere else in Halton. The woodlands are home to sparrowhawks and great spotted woodpeckers, while evening visitors may come face to face with a fox.

Orienteering

There is an orienteering course at Runcorn Hill. Maps and instructions are available from the Ranger Centre.

Picnics

Find a pleasant spot to sit down with a picnic or enjoy the spectacular views over the North West and North Wales from the viewpoint at the top of Runcorn Hill.

DOG OWNERS

'It's YOUR Business'

Parks are enjoyed by everyone. It's an offence to let your dog foul in parks. Clean up. Use dog bins or take it home. Keep a poop scoop in your pocket.

Infection from faeces damages health. Train your dog to go at home.

Uncontrolled dogs can be frightening. **Please be a responsible dog owner.**



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Parks and Countryside Service hold regular events for children and adults throughout the year. Please ask site staff for an events programme or check the notice boards for details. Group activities are also available on request. Ask the ranger for further details.



Runcorn Hill Park

Runcorn Hill has not always been the quite natural place that it is today. From 1734 it was a busy, noisy sandstone quarry producing the stone for building works as far apart as Liverpool Cathedral and New York Harbour.

The quarry was one of the largest employers in the area and you can still see the sandstone outcrops which the quarrymen worked. The sandstone here is over 200 million years old and many fossils remains and features of geological interest have been found. Runcorn Hill has its own valley of the dinosaurs: fossilised footprints of a dinosaur were found by quarrymen in 1848 and other exciting discoveries about prehistoric Runcorn have since been made here.

By the end of the 19th century, quarrying activities on the site were drawing to a close. In the 1920's an early job creation plan involved local people in the planting of the trees and heathers which could thrive in the acid soils found on the site. This planting forms some of the basis of the landscape of Runcorn Hill today, a relic of the heathland which was once common in Britain, but is now so rare.

Runcorn Hill has been designated a Local Nature Reserve because of this rare heathland and the creatures which can be found there. The main feature of this habitat is heather. This habitat is very fragile and is especially prone to damage from fire. Please keep to the footpaths and avoid all risk of fire during your visit to Runcorn Hill.



Runcorn Hill Park

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What to look for...

Spring

Plants: Wood Sorrel, Gorse flowers giving a waft of coconut scent in the air, Greater Stitchwort, Red Campion, Garlic Mustard, Bird's Foot Trefoil (namely because of its seed pods looking like a bird's foot) and Red Dead Nettle all add a splash of colour to the emerging greens of Spring. The air is filled with the "teacher teacher" calls of the Great Tit

Other species adding to the cacophony are the Wren and Song Thrush. Followed by first migrants including the melodic tunes of the Willow Warbler and Blackcap.

Summer

Summer plants add a riot of colour and lovers swoon when Gorse is in bloom. The woodlands hum with the sounds of countless hoverflies hanging static in the cool summer breeze. The late summer days are prominent with the purple hues of Ling and Bell Heathers. The still evening encourage the ghostly wanderings of Bats including Pippistrelle, Daubentons and Noctule. The East Quarry's pond has Dragonflies like the Common Darter, 4 Spotted Chaser and the Broad-bodied Chaser in the meadows the buzzing sounds of Common Field Grasshoppers fill the air. Beautiful Butterflies dance along the woodland rides or through the and over the scented flowers. Species like the Peacock, Small Copper, Common Blue and, Speckled Wood

Autumn

The autumn period sees a time of change with summer leaves replaced by the splash of colours within the woodlands. Check out the Silver Birch and Ash for their reds, yellows and browns making a visit here all the more interesting. Below the autumn colours and under the woodland floor emerge delightful Toadstools and Fungi and we are lucky to have one of our most charismatic the Fly Agarics with its bright red cap and white spotty marking evoking images from childhood fairy stories. Other species to look out for include Birch Polypore, Earth balls and Shaggy Ink Caps. Flowers are still evident with Foxgloves and Red Campion available for a glance or to.

Winter

As the seasons come to a close and we wrap up warm for the colder days ahead, keep an eye open for our feathered friends with roving tit flocks containing Long-tailed, Blue, Great and the occasional Coal. Great Spotted Woodpecker can and are often see or heard tapping away on overhead trees, listen out for their sharp call "keek keek". The woodland has Wood Mouse scampering around looking for autumn seeds over watch by Jays and the hunting Sparrowhawks who stealth like hunt the woodland glades in search for an unaware victim.

