



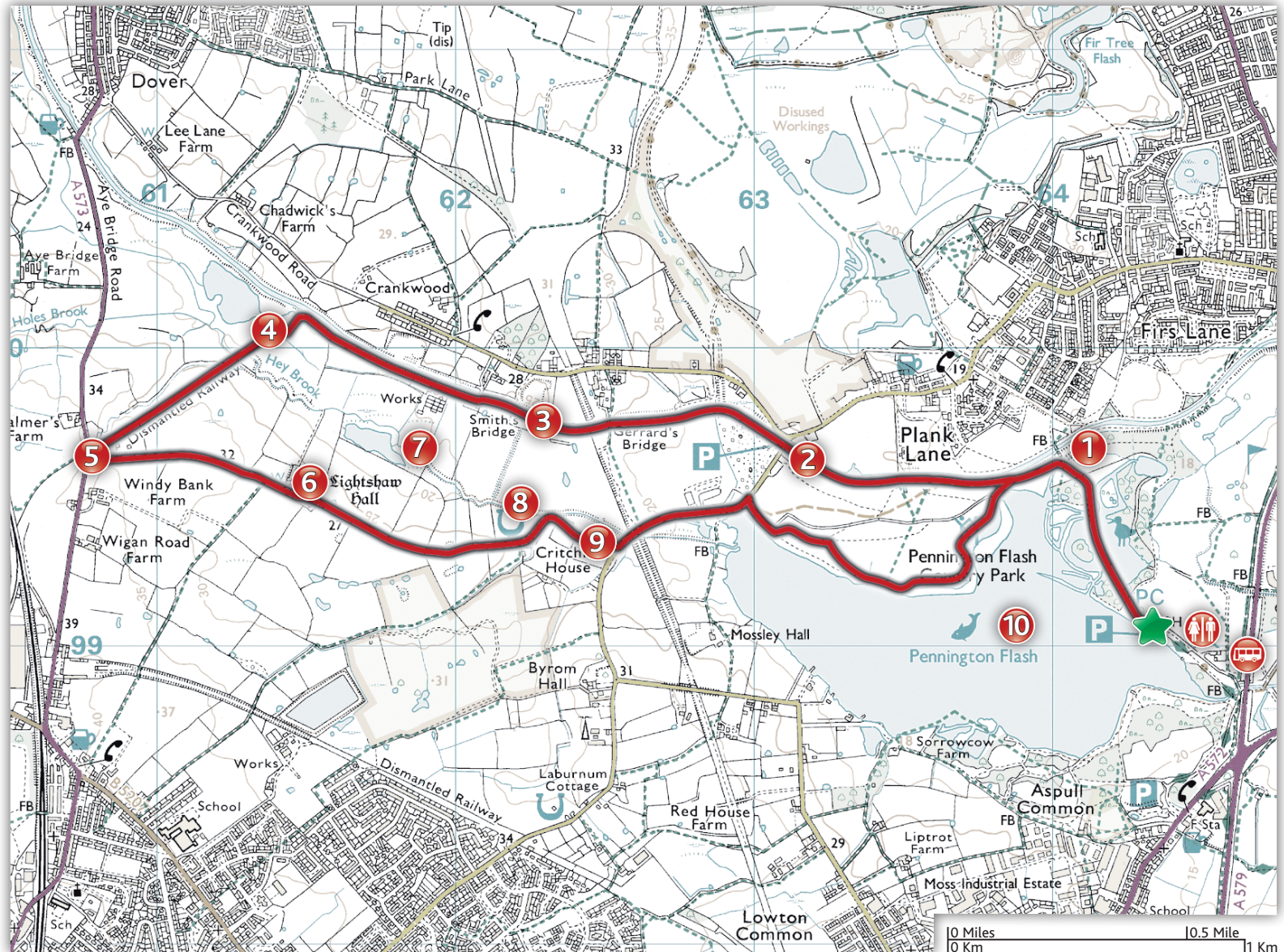


# PENNINGTON FLASH & LIGHTSHAW MEADOW

## Jubilee Legacy Walks

 Approximate distance: 5.5 miles / 8.5 km  Allow 2.5 to 3 hours

This walk is one of a series of fifteen Jubilee Legacy Walks designed to celebrate the richness and diversity of Wigan Borough's green space, and provide a lasting reminder of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations of 2012. Walking is a great way to improve your physical health and mental wellbeing - aim for 150 minutes per week and you'll soon notice the difference!





# PENNINGTON FLASH & LIGHTSHAW MEADOW

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### WALK DESCRIPTION

Flashes are lakes formed over time from mining subsidence; Pennington Flash, a legacy of the Borough's industrial heritage, is an excellent example of this phenomenon. Pennington Flash is one of a number of flashes and wetlands that run through Greenheart. Lightshaw Meadows and Abram Flashes continue a wetland corridor that extends as far as Wigan Flashes.

### ACCESSIBILITY

Most parts of the walk are on hard surfaced paths and pavements, however the route is unsuitable for wheelchair, pram or cycle access.

### TOILETS

Toilet facilities are available at Pennington Flash Country Park.

### START POINTS

The route begins and ends at Pennington Flash Country Park. Car park available at Pennington Flash, St Helens Road, Leigh WN7 3PA (small charge).

### BUS STOPS

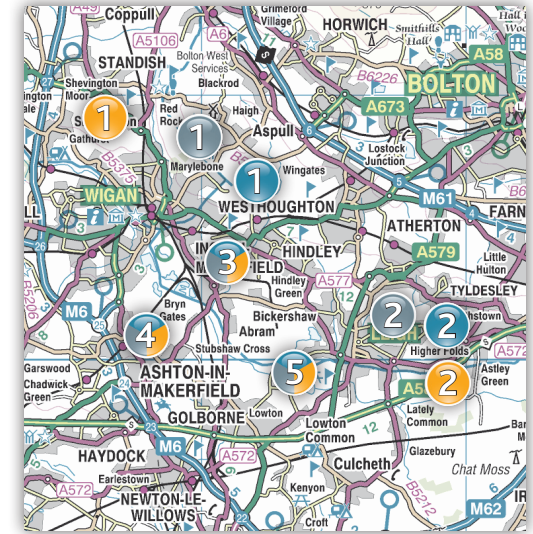
Bus services operate from Leigh bus station to St Helens Road stop.

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 The Leigh branch of the Leeds Liverpool Canal joins up with the Bridgewater Canal in the centre of Leigh. Canals and towpaths are administered by the Canal and River Trust. Visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).
- 2 The marina is on the site of the former Bickershaw Colliery and Britannia Pub.
- 3 The clay pit, on the opposite side of the canal, is a storage depot for materials used to repair the canal.

- 4 Leave the canal at this point and follow the path of the disused mineral railway line.
- 5 On reaching Wigan Road, turn back almost immediately along the public footpath towards Lightshaw Hall (Private Road signs only apply to vehicles).
- 6 Lightshaw Hall dates from the 16th century and was formally moated. It is now a private residence so please respect the owner's privacy at all times.
- 7 Lightshaw Meadows, a Site of Specific Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserve is an important area of wetland – look out for longhorn cattle grazing there, who help to maintain the vegetation to give maximum benefit to plants, insects and birds.
- 8 A looping footpath goes off to the left which offers the chance to get closer to the nature reserve.
- 9 At Critchley House, follow the public right of way straight through the farmyard or take the diversion to the left which avoids the farmyard.
- 10 By 1905 the Flash had formed; it is 20 feet deep in some places.

### OTHER ROUTES



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#### Walk Locations

- 1 Borsdane, Standish and Haigh
- 2 Gin Pit, Tyldesley and Astley
- 3 Amberswood, Bickershaw and Abram
- 4 Ashton, Viridor and Bryn
- 5 Pennington Flash and Lightshaw

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