



Walk: Woolston Park to Risley Moss including walk around the Nature Reserve (Linear)

Points of interest

Woolston Park has 54 acres of open meadow, woodland, hidden gardens, children's play parks and a linear pathway following Spittle Brook. It is maintained by the Friends of Woolston Park.

Birchwood Brook Park / Birchwood Forest Park

The walk is the southern perimeter of the World War II Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) covering nearly 4km². Risley ROF specialised in filling explosives into the various casings to produce the finished munitions. It was placed on the mossland and heathland because it was believed the mist would hide it. After the war it served a Cold War purpose, used by the Atomic Energy Authority. It may not have appeared on maps at the time but the USSR was aware of its existence and role.

Risley Moss Nature Reserve Risley Moss boasts woodland habitat and rare peat bog habitats including the Boardwalk over the "Minimoss".

The site has SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and SAC (Special Area of Conservation) status. It has bird hides, park art and family friendly trails. Important residents include protected species such as great crested newts, water voles, adders, slow worms and common lizards.

11 species of dragonfly are confirmed to breed at Risley Moss and notable plant species include common spotted orchids, cotton grasses, sphagnum mosses and round-leaved sundews.

↔ **10km / 6 miles** including return

🕒 Allow up to **3 hours**

👟 Pathways are in good order. Boots or strong footwear are recommended.

🚲 This route is not suitable for cycling

🐕 Keep dogs on lead at all times

🦟 Insect repellent recommended in Summer

A fantastic ramble between wetlands with an opportunity to immerse yourself in the unique flora and fauna of peatbogs once at Risley Moss, with interactive family-friendly trails.

Start & finish: Woolston Park, off Somerset Way WA1 4LN. Parking next to the green hut.

Food & drink: Close to Woolston Park, there is www.cafe-ocho.com (64 Dam Lane, WA1 4EP). Close to Risley Moss thepoacherbirchwood.co.uk (40 Gorse Covert Road, Birchwood, WA3 6UG).

Dog walking: Responsible dog walking is welcome but it is important to keep dogs on a lead at all times.

OS Explorer™: 276

Local transport:

Bus Service: Stop points for Holes Lane.

- Intercity bus service 100 from Go North West between Warrington Interchange and Manchester Shudehill Interchange.
- Local bus services 3 and 4 between Warrington Interchange and Woolston.

For more information

carbonlandscape.org.uk/explore
woolston-pc.gov.uk
warrington.gov.uk/risleymoss

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Route

From the green cabin in **Woolston Park** SJ 64063 89902 head in a westerly direction for 150m towards the main pond / children's play park.

At Spittle Brook **do not** cross the bridge and take a right and look for a blue waymarker next to the bandstand that signposts **Birchwood**. Walk for 600m in a broadly easterly direction until you reach the edge of the Park at **Kingsland Grange** SJ 64510 90126.

Head in a northerly direction for 200m alongside the industrial estate. Please be aware that you will need to cross the road for the pavement. Before the road right hand bends you should see a footpath on your left hand side with a blue waymarker SJ 64443 90343. Take this path and bear right to take you to **Birchwood station** which is 900m away and takes you under the M6 and alongside the railway tracks.

Go through **Birchwood Station** and then turn right on **Dewhurst Road** (there is a shopping centre in front of you.) Walk for just under 200m and you should see a path to take you onto **Birchwood Forest Park** which will involve you going through a metal barrier. This linear park follows **Birchwood Brook**.

Walk **Birchwood Brook** for 1.7km just over 1 mile. You will then come to a crosspath with a bin SJ 66130 91944. You can go either left to take you into Birchwood Forest Park main if you want a longer walk. However, this walk recommends the most direct route to **Risley Moss Nature Reserve**. Turn right and through the woodlands for 300m. This will bring you out onto **Ordinance Avenue**. You should see a small roundabout SJ 66437 92166 to your right and the entrance to **Risley Moss**.

Once on Risley Moss there is a 1.6km/1 mile circular route and the minimoss boardwalk to explore.