

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.

New Cut Heritage Trail is an ongoing project to enhance a valuable group of local open spaces. It follows the once tow path of the New Cut Canal completed in 1821 to bypass a large bend in the River Mersey. The creation of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1894 meant decline and eventual dereliction for the New Cut.

The New Cut Canal underwent an experimental clean-up and restructure creating the Ecology Park and re profiled stream. In 2002, a 3 year bio-remediation research project by Liverpool John Moores University was undertaken. There is a new water body, within the 'imprint' of a section of the canal, other improvements include a reed bed, wildflowers and a board walk.

Paddington Meadows Water meadows are a rare national habitat and Paddington Meadows has 30 hectares of grassland. It also contains some of the oldest examples of hawthorn hedge boundaries in Cheshire.

Paddington Meadows provides a clear green stepping stone link between Woolston Eyes, across the Mersey and the northern areas of Warrington. The fields were gifted to Warrington Council in 1995 on the condition that they were managed for nature and they are designated as a Local Nature Reserve.

Explore the beautiful variety of wildlife, from birds such as skylark, meadow pipit, cetti's warbler, kestrel, stonechat, sedge warble, redwing, buzzard and sparrowhawk to mammals such as foxes, bats and even the occasional grey seal is spotted in the River Mersey. Bioblitzes in 2018 and 2019 have revealed a broad diversity of insects including bees, butterflies and dragonflies.



Walk: Woolston Park to Paddington Meadows including walk around the meadows (Linear)

↔ **6km / 3.5 miles** including return

🕒 Allow up to **1.5 hours**

👟 Pathways are in good order although parts of Paddington Meadows can become boggy under foot. This is the flood plain for the River Mersey. Boots or strong footwear are recommended.

🚫 Cycling is not permitted on Paddington Meadows itself

🐕 Keep dogs on lead at all times

🚫 Insect repellent recommended in Summer



WOOLSTON
Parish Council

A pleasant stroll around Paddington Meadows starting at the public parking point of Woolston Park.

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

Food & drink: On route there are picnic tables at Woolston Park South near Manchester Road SJ 63770 89041. Close to Woolston Park, there is www.cafe-ocho.com (64 Dam Lane, WA1 4EP). Close to Paddington Meadows is the dogandpartridge.net (Manchester Rd, Paddington, Warrington WA1 3TZ – take care crossing Manchester Road).

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
newcuttrail.com

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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 left in a southerly direction for 400m and then cross **Green Lane**.

Continue in a southerly direction following **Spittle Brook** for 500m then cross the **A57 Manchester Road** at the traffic lights.

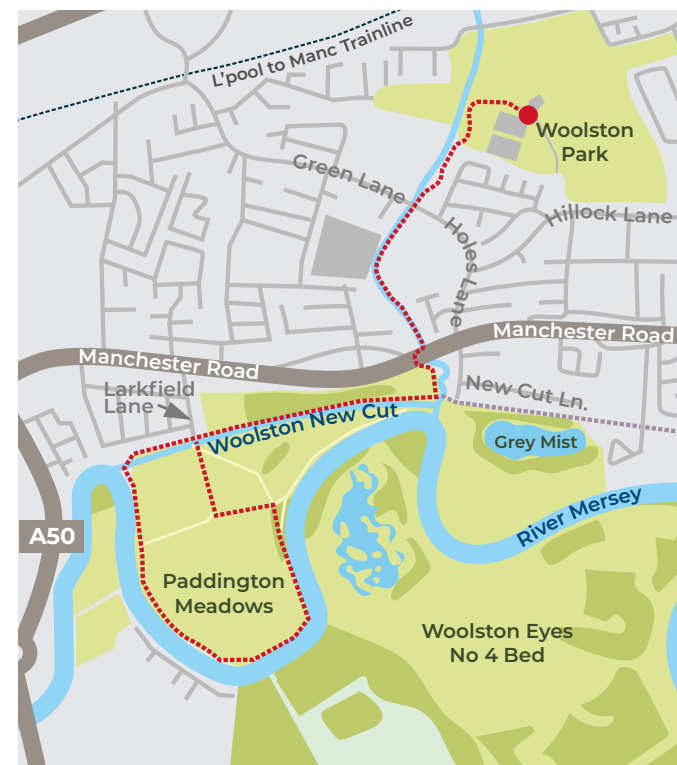
In front of you should see a Red Route Sign and a mown area with picnic benches in the left hand corner. This is **Woolston Park South** SJ 63770 89041.

Take a right alongside the rewetted part of the **New Cut Canal**. Walk for 760m until you reach the entrance to **Paddington Meadows** SJ 63025 88873 (at the end of **Larkfield Avenue**).

Once on the meadows walk in a southerly direction for 240m then turn left for 170m and then left again to hug the perimeter of the Meadows where it meets the **River Mersey**. Walk in a clockwise direction for 1.6km / 1 mile and this will return you to the Larkfield Avenue entrance of Paddington Meadows.

Retrace your steps by walking up the New Cut in an easterly direction for 760m, taking particular care to find the picnic benches at Woolston Park South (off the New Cut Trail as your landmark).

Turn right and north back towards Woolston Park.



Please note there is only residential parking near the meadows. An excellent chance to do a bit of bird watching or observe the rich wildlife of the area.