

# Go Wild in the Woods

## Where to go

It's time to Go Wild in the Woods! Check out some of the places you can go right across Greater Manchester...

### Bolton: Smithills Estate

**Barrow Bridge Road, Bolton, BL1 7NH**

The Smithills Estate, owned by the Woodland Trust, is a fabulous place to visit with a whole range of habitats including woodland, moorland and grassland.

Walk through Barrow Bridge Woodland and take one of the two flights of stairs leading up to the partial ancient woodland at High Shores Clough. There are various routes around the site including ones through the wood and along Dean Brook – keep your eyes peeled for all kinds of woodland wildlife.

**Top tip!**  
See if you can spy dippers in the stream, Southern Hawker Dragonflies in the trees and scurrying bank voles.

**Top tip!**  
See if you can identify the wild cherry, ash and oak trees.

### Bury: Waterdale, part of City Forest Park

**Buckley Lane, Whitefield, M45 7JZ**

Waterdale is one of the Forestry Commission's Community Woodlands. Restored at the turn of the century, it now hosts a fantastic mix of trails and developing native woodland. It's a great place to explore with a flat, wide forest track and easy stroll along the river.

### Manchester: Heaton Park

**Heaton Park, Middleton Road, Manchester, M25 2SW**

Manchester's largest park stretches over 600 acres and has plenty to see and do including the Treetop Trek and boating lake.

There's a fantastic circular walk through the park where you can discover treasures such as The Dell, Hazlitt Wood and the Temple.

**Top tip!**  
Visit the Dower House to see bees going about their business in a special demonstration hive – you can even buy some Heaton Park honey.

**Top tip!**  
This is a 'Site of Biological Importance' known for its fungi – see what marvellous mushrooms you can spot!

### Oldham: Tandle Hill Country Park

**Tandle Hill Country Park, Tandle Hill Road, Royton, OL2 5UX**

Oldham's oldest park covers 48 hectares of parkland and boasts a mixture of wonderful woodlands packed with wildlife.

From the car park, there's a whole network of winding paths running up to the viewpoint – and from here you can see excellent views across north Manchester and Bury.

### Rochdale: Hollingworth Lake Country Park

**Hollingworth Lake Visitor Centre, Rakewood Road, Littleborough, OL15 0AQ**

Spanning 118 acres and with Blackstone Edge as a dramatic backdrop, Hollingworth Lake is one of the most popular days out in the area.

Head for Whittaker Woods – a hidden gem just a short walk uphill from the visitor centre. On the way back down, head to the Pavilion on the south side of the lake.

**Top tip!**  
See if you can spot the orchard's owl sculpture.

**Top tip!**  
Keep an eye out for the woodland's woodpeckers.

### Salford: Worsley Woods

**Beesley Green, Greenleach Lane, Worsley, M28 2QW**

Close to the M60, these surprisingly tranquil woodlands stretch across 30 hectares and are well connected to the historical Bridgewater Canal.

Explore the site on numerous paths from Beesley Green and follow the wildflower trail through Kempnough Brook.

### Stockport: Bramhall Park

**Bramhall Park, Bramhall Park Road, Stockport, SK7 3NX**

The beautiful grounds surrounding the 14th Century Bramhall Hall are an ideal location for a family day out.

There are a number of accessible trails starting from the hall that take you through the magnificent woodlands.

**Top tip!**  
Feed the ducks on one of the park's many ponds.

**Top tip!**  
Keep an eye out for the woodland's woodpeckers.

### Tameside: Stamford Park

**Stamford Park, Stamford Street, Stalybridge, SK15 1QZ**

Stamford Park opened in 1873 and boasts an aviary, boating lake and fantastic woodland area, The Dingle, which sits on the side of a valley along the east of the park. The ornate Victorian rockwork and water features have recently been restored and an accessible path runs through the woodland.

### Trafford: Sale Water Park

**Sale Water Park, Rifle Road, M33 2LX**

Sale Water Park was created in the 1970s when the M60 motorway was being built and contains a lake, woodland and meadows.

Head to the woodlands immediately north of the visitor centre car park. From there you can follow the path alongside the River Mersey to Broad Ees Dole – the perfect place to spot the park's brilliant birds from the hide.

**Top tip!**  
Keep your eyes peeled for a kingfisher.

**Top tip!**  
See if you can spot the pigs that sometimes graze in the woodland.

### Wigan: Haigh Woodland Park

**Haigh Woodland Park, School Lane, Wigan, WN2 1PE**

A great family day out, Haigh Woodland Park has extensive woodland as well as mini golf, orienteering, a high ropes course and adventure playground.

You can reach the woodlands by heading down the main drive from the car park close to the hall. When you're there, explore the huge range of plants, fungi, birds, amphibians and mammals including the roe deer.