

Blackley Forest

Planted to commemorate local soldiers who died during the Second World War, Blackley Forest is one of the country's first community woodlands.

While most of the woodland was planted in 1953, there are older areas of alder and rowan that may be part of ancient woodland.

The river Irk flows through the Forest and can be seen in its most natural state, fringed by birch trees.



A variety of habitats are present in the Forest. Planted and semi-natural woodland, grassland and wetland make up the site.

Beech woodland dominates the south of the site, with birch, oak and ash developing in the north. There are also reservoirs that can be fished.

Currently work is being undertaken to reinstate the riverbank, as well as to improve on and add to the paths and walkways that cross the Forest.

How to Get to Blackley Forest

Bus: Many buses service Blackley and provide access to Blackley Forest. Ask for the Blackley New Road/Middleton Road junction. Contact GMPTE for further information on 0161 228 7811 or www.gmppte.com

Tram: Bowker Vale Metrolink station, on the Bury line, is close to Blackley Forest. Exit onto Middleton Road, turn left and go down to the intersection. Turn right here and the Forest entrance is a short distance away on the left hand side.

Activities

Walking: While much work is being done to improve the facilities, Blackley Forest is as yet relatively undeveloped. This means that the Forest remains a peaceful and safe haven in a densely urban area. A well maintained network of paths crosses the site and provides for many interesting walks.



For further information contact:

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