

Upper Bradshaw Valley LNR

Development of the Reserve

The reserve occupies 34ha of the Bradshaw Brook river valley between Jumbles Reservoir and Longsight Park, in the north of Bolton. This linear reserve was made possible when areas of land around the historic site of Bradshaw Hall came into council ownership and linked the mature woodlands to the north with the existing parkland at Bradshaw Brow. The site is a gateway to the West Pennine Moors to the north with links south through Bolton along the Kingfisher Trail, to Salford and Bury.

Upper Bradshaw Valley LNR provides a matrix of habitats within the native woodland and grassland landscape, with the river winding through the 2km of reserve. The rich biodiversity that the site supports provided the incentive for declaration of the site as Local Nature reserve in June 2012.



Bradshaw Brook – winter landscape

What Can be Seen

With Bradshaw Brook being the spine beside which the broadleaf woodlands and wildflower grasslands sit, marshland, hedgerows and ponds provide a matrix of habitats that support a good range of wildlife.

Elements of past land use are reflected in historical relicts including the porch of the now demolished Bradshaw Hall, remnants of the hall gardens, industrial heritage of quarry workings near the Jumbles dam and leats and weir associated with the textile mills which once populated the valley. The Kingfisher Trail provides a route through the reserve with access points along its length. Woodland walks with views of the river are interspaced with meadow areas providing opportunity for seeing bird life, trees and wildflowers. Off the main trail, various habitats support dragonflies, mayflies, butterflies and moths with bats seen foraging and dawn and dusk during the warmer, summer months.

When to Visit

All Year – Woodland walks with views of the river with links to other local sites of interest or further afield to the West Pennine Moors or along the Kingfisher Trail.

Spring - Woodlands support a range of birdlife and woodland flowers.

Summer – An array of wildflowers and plants in the woods and grasslands. The pond and marsh habitats provide a focus for wildlife with dragonflies, damselflies usually seen. Bird life can be seen across the site with Bradshaw Brook being a life line.

Autumn - Enjoy the autumn leaf colours and various plants and wildflowers setting seed.

Winter – more sheltered woodland walks with view of the river and industrial archaeology more visible through the bare trees.



Woodland walk in Bradshaw Bottoms to view industrial archaeology

How to Get There

Railway to Bromley Cross Station on the Bolton-Blackburn line. Exit the station on the eastern side and walk north up Grange Road to gated entrance ½ km (1/3 mile) from the station.

Bus Services –
273/274 Bolton to Rawtenstall, alighting on Bradshaw Road
480 Bolton to Bury, alighting on Bradshaw Brow
507 Bolton Harwood circular, alighting on Bradshaw Brow
533/538/539 Bolton – Egerton, alighting on Darwen Road and
541 Bolton to Toppings, alighting on Darwen Road

