

Former New Cut Canal

The Heritage and Ecology Trail is a peaceful area for wildlife and informal recreation. The Trail is far removed from the canal's working past. Old industrial land has been restored and the former towpath is part of Warrington's greenway network.



Running from Paddington Lock to Woolston Lock, the New Cut canal was opened in 1821 to further improve the Mersey and Irwell Navigation

by shortening the route for barges carrying goods between Liverpool and Manchester.

Horsepower was needed, both on wharves and for towing barges. The oldest horse to have ever lived, affectionately known as 'Old Billy', was employed by the Navigation Company. Born in 1760 at Wildgrave Farm in Woolston, Billy was pensioned off at 59 and stabled at Latchford near to Old Warps House (now Victoria Park), until he died in 1822, aged 62.



The creation of the Manchester Ship Canal meant decline and eventual dereliction for the New Cut. Canal silting and pollution from sustained industrial activities, from the early gunpowder mills to the later glue works, prompted moves for a clean-up.

Site Restoration

In 2002, the long clean-up process started with a three-year bioremediation research project by Liverpool John Moores University for the land-owners, Warrington Borough Council and Peel Holdings. This concluded that the land contamination issues could be safely dealt with on-site, whilst improving the area for nature



conservation and public access.

With significant funds brought into the Council from the public and private sectors, restoration work

began. A new water body was created within the 'imprint' of a section of the canal, while other improvements included a reed bed, grassland meadows and, to open up a previously inaccessible area, a board-walk.

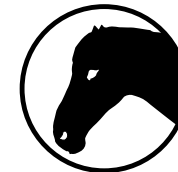
The project used new and innovative ways to make safe contaminated material using a range of recycled and sustainable materials. This accessible wildlife haven is managed for conservation.



New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail



For more information or to get involved contact:
The New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail Group by email: newcuthandetrailgroup@gmail.com or visit the Warrington Borough Council web site www.warrington.gov.uk To report a problem contact Warrington Borough Council by phone on 01925 443322, email: contact@warrington.gov.uk or visit the Contact Centre on Horse Market Street Warrington Town Centre. www.facebook.com/groups/1020909604598155

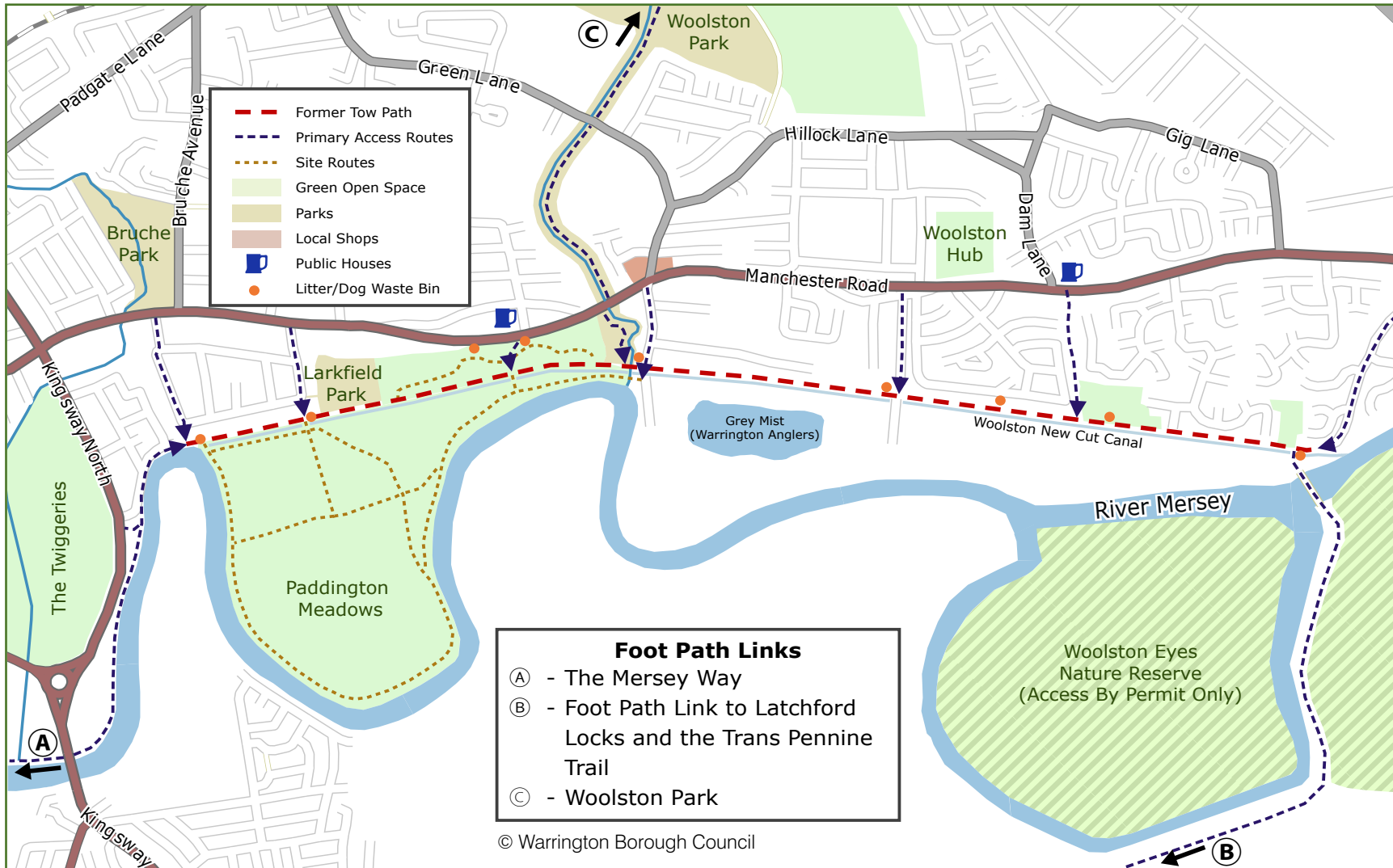


Leaflet supported by:

Poulton with Fearnhead Parish Council
Woolston Parish Council

WARRINGTON
Borough Council 

New Cut Heritage and Ecology Trail



Code of Conduct

The trail and surrounding green spaces are quiet natural areas, managed for wildlife. Please enjoy these areas respectfully and with consideration for other users. Take your litter home or use the bins provided. Please keep dogs under close control at all times. Cyclists exercise caution on the narrow towpath track, slow down and alert others to your presence, others may not be aware of your approach.

Responsible Dog Ownership

Dog walking is one of the most popular activities outdoors and irresponsible dog owners give all dog walkers a bad name. Not picking up after your dog is antisocial, can cause ill health and is illegal. It is an offence to allow your dog to foul and not dispose of the waste and can incur a fine of up to £1000. **Pick up the mess, take it home and bin it.**

Please keep your dog under control and remember that lively dogs may be frightening to others. Remember, you are responsible for your dog and its actions.