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Why are peat bogs important?

Healthy peat bogs trap carbon and water from the atmosphere mostly through sphagnum and other mosses, which also acidify the water. These very simple rootless plants can spread and dominate large areas creating wetlands where insects such as dragonflies, birds such as snipe, woodcock and hobbies, mammals such as water voles, can thrive. As Lindow Moss is restored there are increasing numbers of sphagnum species, insect eating sundews, sparrowhawks, kestrels and buzzards. Watch as it becomes wetter and more biodiverse.

Conserving Lindow Moss

One of the largest lowland peatlands in Cheshire, in 1984 Lindow Moss came to international prominence with the discovery of an almost intact Iron Age bog body – Lindow Man, who now resides in the British Museum.

The Lindow Moss Partnership is a collective of community organisations, councils, academics and charities, which aims to conserve and improve the ecology of the wider Lindow Moss area. They will help to interpret the landscape, ecology, archaeology and history for the local community and visitors, so that everyone can enjoy it.

Find out more about the work that is being done and join the Friends of Lindow Moss at www.discoverlindow.org

If you are interested in helping to fight climate change you could join Transition Wilmslow. We are a charity working on climate change, biodiversity and health & wellbeing initiatives in Wilmslow and the surrounding area. Visit www.transitionwilmslow.co.uk to find out more.



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Lindow Moss Heritage Trail

A 3.5 mile (5.6km) walk around Lindow Moss. Discover more about this extraordinary landscape and how it has been shaped by nature and humankind.

www.discoverlindow.org

Lindow Moss Heritage Trail

Start your walk on Lindow Common at the **Memorial Stone 1**. (what3words ref taker.term.colleague)

This marks the acquisition of the Common for the residents of Wilmslow in 1897. Racecourse Road, surrounding Lindow Common, was once a mile length racecourse created by the gypsies who were regular visitors to Lindow.

Follow the wide path (leaving the stone on your left) until you meet the junction at the end of the **Black Lake 2** This (Llyn-Dhu in Welsh) is described in T.A. Coward’s Picturesque Cheshire as “a breezy, desirable spot”. When the lake regularly froze over in earlier winters, it was a very popular site for skating.

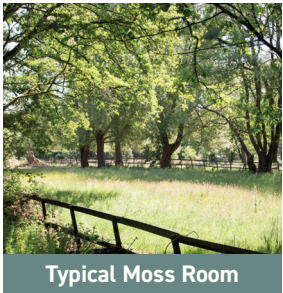
Follow lake edge path to the right and then take the second right hand path (after approx. 30m). A **Glacial Erratic 3** is located just off this path. This large, half buried, boulder was carried here by ice from the Lake District some 18,000 years ago when the last glaciation reached its maximum extent. Continue straight ahead across the **heathland 4** until you exit the common onto Racecourse Road. Cross the road and continue down **Lindow Lane 5**.

When you reach Racecourse Farm ahead, turn left and then take the next left through a gate. Keep ahead until you meet a main track at a T-junction. On the left



Memorial Stone

you can see a **coppiced alder carr 6**; an area of wet woodland. Alder wood is easily coppiced and does not rot in water - Venice is built on piles made of Alder trunks. To the left you can also see an example of a **typical Moss Room 7**; an oblong piece of land which was individually owned and worked for peat for fuel before reclamation for agriculture. Turn right.



Typical Moss Room

8 A **historic rifle range** was sited in this area, crossing the path. After the Crimean War (1854-56) and lasting at least until 1893. It had a double range of 500 yards and 1000 yds with facing butts (a large sand bank), bullet proof shelters and a tower.

Keep ahead until you meet a main track at a T-junction. Turn left and follow the short distance where you reach another T-Junction of paths. On the right are remnants of **historic peat workings 9** (not currently accessible). Turn right and then follow the track for approx 30m until you reach a wide track on your left, marked with a large sleeper.

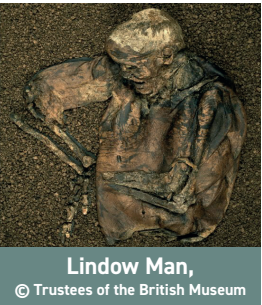


Cut Over Peat Bog

Take this left hand track across the **Cut Over Peat Bog 10** Historically, peat was dug here by hand, sliced by a hay knife and dug out with a spade.

Each piece was turned on its side and then stacked up to dry to form long banks of peat blocks. Mechanised peat cutting began in the 1960s and intensified after 1997, causing considerable environmental damage. The **restoration of the moss** is now underway **11**. Keep along this broad track, ignoring any paths until you reach one with bridges to the right and left.

Turn left across wooden bridge and follow path for approx. 100m to see the area where **Lindow Man 12** was found, on your left. On 1 August 1984, one of the peat cutters pulled a long object off the elevator at the peat depot and realised it was a well preserved human foot. Rick Turner, the Cheshire County Archaeologist, was called to undertake the excavation. Once the body had been removed and examined it was discovered to date from the Iron Age and had been preserved in the peat. Lindow Man is now in the British Museum, London.



Lindow Man,
© Trustees of the British Museum

Retrace your steps and then cross back over bridge to carry on with the route. You are now crossing the **sand island 13**. Evidence of Mesolithic communities has been found here.



Saltersley Hall

Keep on the main path as it winds through the wooded area and over another larger wooden bridge. Keep ahead until you reach **Saltersley Hall 14**.

This is a 16thC building, although it is generally considered to have earlier origins with a mediaeval room plan.

Turn right along the wide track here. On your left is **Rossmere Lake 15** formerly a sand pit. Follow the track straight ahead through the metal gate until you reach a junction of paths and a tarmacked road, Newgate.

Turn left here walking past the **Animal Sanctuary 16** until you reach a junction of paths. Take the right hand path marked with a large square boulder.

Keep straight ahead on this path as it takes you through **Newgate Nature Reserve 17**. Formed from the now closed landfill site, Newgate nature reserve is a fine example of how industrial land can be returned to nature.

At the end of this path turn right. Follow this path (past a seasonal wildflower meadow on your right) until it joins a road – Newgate. Turn left along the road for approximately 100m until you see a path on your right, past Springfield Cottage.

Take this path and follow across the moss until you rejoin the junction of Battery Lane and Lindow Lane. Turn left up Lindow Lane until you rejoin Racecourse Road. From here you can turn left to return to Lindow Common Car Park or turn right which will take you back towards Wilmslow Town Centre (and past the Little Red Bus at the Ivy Cottage Tree Farm, which serves drinks and snacks).

You can find out more details on all of the points of interest at www.discoverlindow.org.

