

Image courtesy of Arthur M Proctor



MIDDLEWOOD WAY TO MARPLE LOCKS

Manchester's Countryside

There's another side to Manchester

MIDDLEWOOD WAY - NELSON'S PIT VISITOR CENTRE -
MACCLESFIELD CANAL - MARPLE FLIGHT OF LOCKS -
MARPLE MEMORIAL PARK - MARPLE AQUEDUCT



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9

Follow the canal for another mile through countryside until you arrive in Marple. (The Ring O'Bells Pub is situated by Bridge 2).

10

Continue along the canal to Bridge 1. Cross over the bridge to join the Peak Forest Canal at Lock 16, at the top of the Marple Flight of Locks.

The sixteen locks raise the canal by 209 feet (64 m) over the course of about a mile (1.6 km). Whilst the rest of the canal was opened to navigation by 1796, insufficient money was available to complete the necessary flight of locks to connect the two halves, and a temporary tramway was installed until such time as the locks could be completed, which finally happened in 1804. With the end of commercial carrying the locks became dilapidated and by the early 1960s the flight had become impassible. Pressure in the late 1960s from the Inland Waterways Association, who wanted to save the Cheshire Ring, resulted in the restoration and re-opening of the flight in 1974.)

11

At lock 13, pass through the Horse Tunnel and rejoin the canal towpath.

12

Continue for a short distance until you reach lock 10. At this point take the path left into Marple Memorial Park.

Detour Alternatively, follow the canal for another mile to Lock 1 and then further along to the Marple Aqueduct for excellent view over the Goyt Valley. Then retrace your steps back to Lock 10 and resume the walk.

13

Follow the path through the park, enjoying views of the hills towards Mellor.

14

Continue until you reach the main road through Marple. Turn right and follow road through Marple and back to the start. There are a variety of restaurants, cafes and shops in Marple centre.

This walk forms part of a series of walks and trails developed by Manchester's Countryside. For more information on Manchester's Countryside, including downloads of the walks visit:
www.manchesterscountryside.com
Telephone: 0161 253 5111
email: info@manchesterscountryside.com

Other Contact Details

Red Lion, High Lane, 01663 765227,
www.redlionhighlane.co.uk

Anson Museum, 01625 874426,
www.enginemuseum.org

For a history of the Marple Locks:
www.marplelocks.org.uk/marple_locks_guide.pdf

Go to www.marple-uk.com for more information about Marple and a list of places to eat.



Image courtesy of Arthur M Proctor



MIDDLEWOOD WAY, MACCLESFIELD CANAL

DISTANCE:

Approx 8.5 miles (or 10.5 miles including detour)

STARTING POINT:

Grid reference SJ 95021 88776

HOW TO GET THERE:

By Bus - Take the 383 service from Stockport bus station to Marple.

By Train - There are stations at Macclesfield, Middlewood, Rose Hill and Marple. For train times, call 08457 484950 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

Parking - A few spaces on Railway Road before you reach the Recycling Centre.

GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

0871 200 2233 www.tfgm.com

WALK SUMMARY

This is a flat and gentle walk along a reclaimed railway line surrounded by woodland and back alongside the Macclesfield Canal.

THE WALK

①

From Rose Hill Station, turn left onto Railway Road and the Middlewood Way starts next to the Recycling Centre.

Middlewood Way was originally created as a railway to carry cotton, silk, coal and passengers. In a last ditch attempt to save Bollington and Marple as they faced economic depression, the railway was opened in 1869. In 1970 it was closed, having always struggled to make a profit. In 1985 it was redeveloped as a recreational and wildlife trail and named the Middlewood Way.

②

Follow Middlewood Way; after ¼ mile, cross a small lane. After approximately 2 miles, come to the old station platforms for High Lane and pass through a tunnel under the A6. (If you leave the Middlewood Way at this point and walk along the A6 for ¼ mile, you will come to High Lane where there are various eating places including The Red Lion.)

③

Pass under bridge 20, there are wildlife ponds to the left. Continue along to cross the bridge passing above Middlewood station on the Stockport to New Mills railway line. Look out for a waterfall on the left just after the bridge.

④

Continue on for a further mile, immediately passing a cottage on the right. Jackson's Brickworks is on the left.

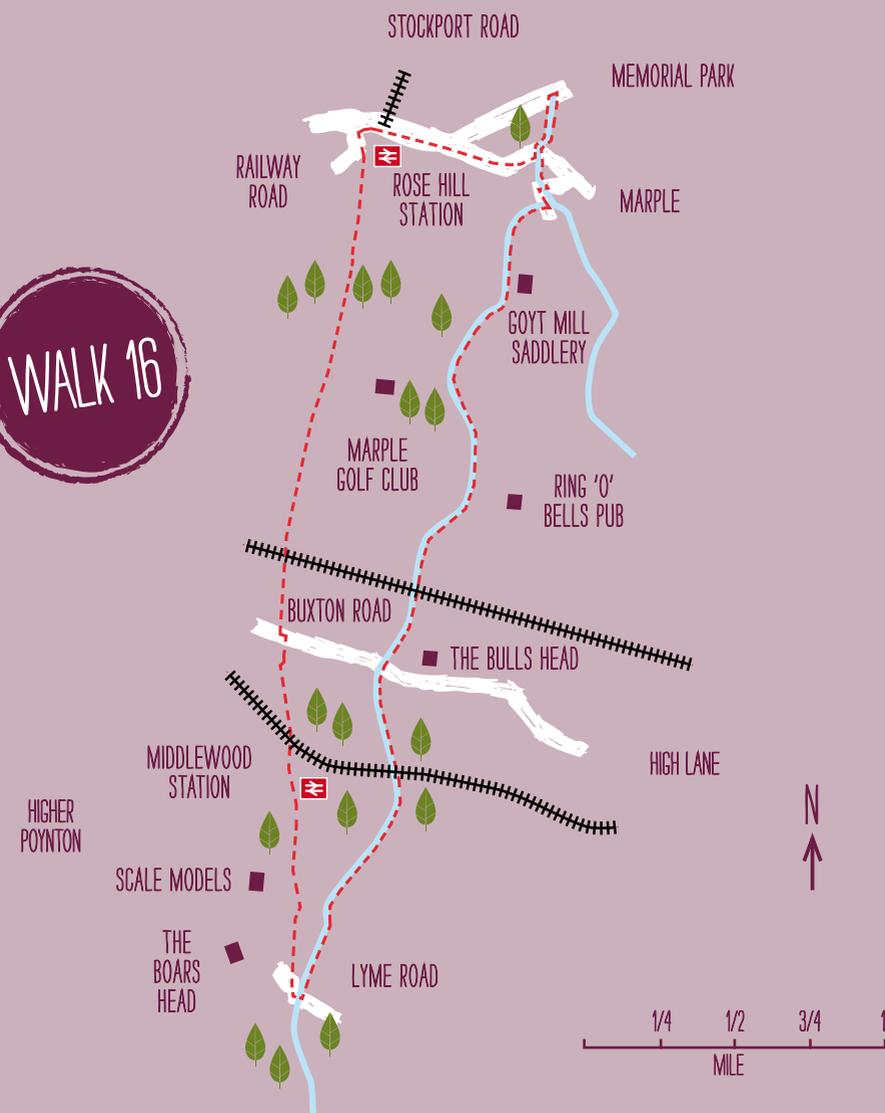
⑤

After bridge 15, you will reach the old station platforms at Higher Poynton; walk up onto the right hand platform and then take the sloping path on the right to Lyme Road. Turn right and cross over the bridge and road to Nelson Pit Visitor Centre.

⑥

From Nelson Pit Visitor Centre, follow the road at the back of the car park signed 'Middlewood

WALK 16



Way Canal Side'. Join Macclesfield Canal through the second car park. Turn left on the Macclesfield Canal, which you then follow for approximately 3 miles to Marple.

The Macclesfield Canal was completed in 1831, very late for a canal - so late that it was almost a railway! Coal from Poynton, stone from Kerridge and hats from Stockport were some of the cargoes carried. The canal was threatened with closure in the 1950s. A campaign by pleasure boaters saved it and today the canal is a popular leisure destination.

⑦

Pass under bridges 14 and 13. The path will become slightly uneven; after a short distance, the path forks; follow the canal towpath at this point.

⑧

Cross over the humped bridge at the canal junction; carry on past the Bulls Head public house on the left, then under bridge 12 and past High Lane Park.

