



Hummingbird House

hummingbirdhouselet.com

Middlewood Way & Macclesfield Canal (8½ miles: Easy)

A level cycling route or long walk to Higher Poynton and back via a rail trail and canal towpath.

Allow 1–2 hours (bike) or 4–5 hours (foot). Mountain bike or hybrid recommended, but surfaced throughout.

- 1** Turn right then left into Walton Road.
- 2** At the T-junction, turn right along Dale Road to the A626.
- 3** Turn right then left into Railway Road. Pass the station entrance and continue to the far left-hand corner of the car park ahead.
- 4** Join the Middlewood Way and shortly pass under a bridge. After a further 250m, pass a parking area and cross a road.
- 5** The surface changes from asphalt to cinder and after a further kilometre the trail passes under a road bridge.
- 6** After another kilometre, cross a farm track between two gates.
- 7** After a further 600m, the Way passes the platform of the former High Lane station, then leads under the A6.
- 8** After 300m, the trail passes under an accommodation bridge then, after a similar distance, crosses an active railway line above Middlewood Station (one of very few UK railway stations without vehicular access).
- 9** The trail divides; cyclists should use the left-hand track. After passing the site of Middlewood Higher Station, the trail continues under three overbridges.
- 10** After a fourth you reach the site of Higher Poynton station, where there is a picnic area between the old platforms.
- 11** Leave the Middlewood Way here, via the right-hand platform; double back sharply right up a stone-surfaced path to a gate opposite the Boars Head pub.
- 12** Turn right (Lyme Road) over the bridge over the Middlewood Way, then turn left into the Nelson Pit car park.
- 13** At the far end, beyond the visitor centre, a road with speed bumps ascends to a second car park, beyond which a path ahead leads through a gate to the Macclesfield Canal.
- 14** Turn left along the towpath, with a marina on the far bank and then pass under bridge 14.
- 15** After bridge 13, continue along the towpath for 400m; when a track leads off to the left, stay on the towpath.
- 16** Cross an arched bridge over a side arm of the canal, then continue ahead to pass under the A6 at bridge 11.
- 17** Bridge 10 follows shortly, and the canal continues with gardens on both sides to bridge 9. After a brief wooded section, the towpath enters open country.

- 18 After a pipeline bridge, pass under bridge 8 and then the similar bridges 7 and 6 in quick succession.
- 19 Shortly after a canal milestone pass under bridge 5 with views a couple of old stone houses on the outskirts of Hawk Green.
- 20 Passing a golf course on the left, pass under bridge 4 and past Goyt Mill on the far bank of the canal.
- 21 After bridge 3 the canal passes through the gardens of Marple until you reach bridge 2. Follow the spiral ramp to the left up to Church Lane below the Ring O' Bells pub.
- 22 Head downhill towards the centre of Marple.
- 23 At a mini-roundabout go straight on, past the Hatters Arms.
- 24 At the A626, turn left past a petrol station then right into Bowden Lane.
- 25 After 500m, cross the railway to Dale Road.
- 26 Turn right at the T-junction, then left into The Turnpike and back to Hummingbird House.

