

contacts

Macclesfield Borough Council Ranger Service	
Middlewood Way enquiries	01625 573998
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	
Middlewood Way enquiries	0161 4744512
British Waterways	
Macclesfield Canal enquiries	01606 723800
Tourist Information	
Macclesfield	01625 504114
Stockport	0161 4744444

how to get there

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

By bus: for services from Manchester and Stockport call 0161 2287811 or visit www.gmpete.com. For buses within Cheshire, call 01625 534850.

By road: car parking is available at many points along the Way. Please refer to the map inside.



Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication.
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welcome

Welcome to the Middlewood Way. The Way offers a 10-mile (16-km) traffic-free route for walkers, cyclists and horseriders. It follows the line of the former Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway through picturesque Cheshire countryside and between historic mill towns. For much of its length, the Middlewood Way runs close to the Macclesfield Canal, and there are many options for easy circular walks.

For the more adventurous, the extensive public footpath network reaches into the Peak District Foothills to the east and the Cheshire Plain to the west.

Recommended map: OS Explorer 268
Circular walks are available, starting from Nelson Pit Visitor Centre in Higher Poynton and the Rangers' Office at Adlington Road in Bollington. Leaflets can be picked up at each starting point, 10am - 4pm daily except Christmas Day.

a brief history

In 1863, the towns of Marple, Bollington and Macclesfield were facing economic depression. Local dignitaries, in particular the cotton mill owners of Bollington, hoped that a new railway would improve their fortunes, and presented a scheme to Parliament. The Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway opened in 1869.

The line carried cotton, silk, coal and passengers, but always struggled to make a profit. It was closed in 1970 and redeveloped for recreation as the Middlewood Way in 1985.

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.

who's who?

The Middlewood Way runs between the boroughs of Macclesfield and Stockport. From Macclesfield to Middlewood Station, the Way is owned and managed by **Macclesfield Borough Council**, from Middlewood to Marple by **Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council**. The Macclesfield Canal is managed by **British Waterways**. You can find the appropriate contact details in the **Contacts** section.

horseriding

Horseriders can use the Middlewood Way from Bollington viaduct (Adlington Road) all the way to Rose Hill in Marple, a 7-mile ride. Recommended horsebox parking is at Jackson's Brickworks in Higher Poynton and Rose Hill in Marple. Riders can expect to meet pedestrians

and cyclists: please do not bring your horse if it is easily startled and do not ride faster than a trot. To find out about stables and riding schools, telephone **Tourist Information**.

cycling

The Middlewood Way offers easy and scenic cycling year-round, especially on Sundays. It forms part of Route 55 of the National Cycle Network: visit www.sustrans.org for more information.

We ask cyclists to respect the rights of other users. Be aware that pedestrians may not hear you: use your bell and approach slowly. Where the Way is separated into two paths, we recommend using the wider path, which is shared with horseriders. Please give way to horses, to avoid startling them. **Cycling is not allowed on the canal towpath.**

accessibility

The Middlewood Way is mostly level and wheelchair-accessible. To help you plan your visit, we have attempted to show on the map easy access points and areas of the Middlewood Way that may be difficult for wheelchairs. If you would like more detailed information, please telephone the **Ranger Service**. (To enquire about the canal towpath, telephone **British Waterways**.)

From Macclesfield to Bollington, the Way is hard-surfaced. North of Bollington, visitors will find various firm, compacted surfaces, the accessibility of which can be affected by weather.

At road bridges, access is via steps unless otherwise indicated. At car parks and crossings, our standard entrance is a kissing gate, or other arrangement, designed to admit conventional wheelchairs. If you use a larger mobility aid, you may wish to telephone for advice.

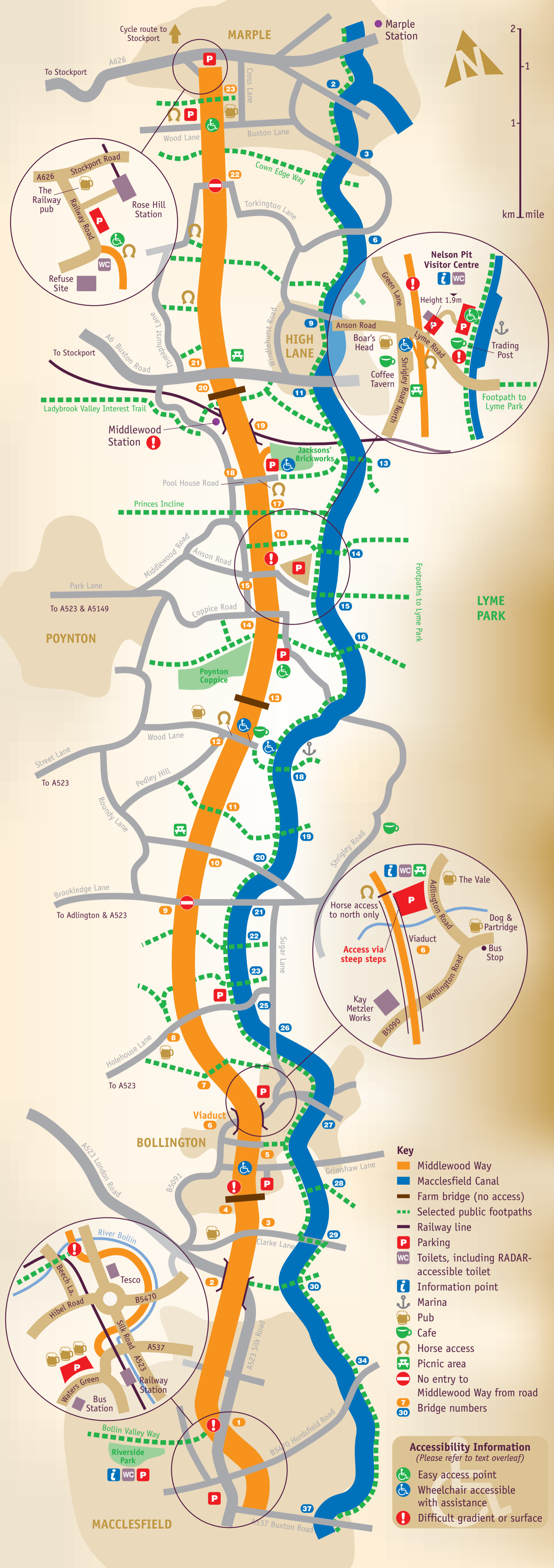
things to see and do

Wildlife enthusiasts will find plenty of interest at any time of year. The **Ranger Service** runs a programme of events to help you enjoy the outdoors and appreciate Nature. At Nelson Pit Visitor Centre in Higher Poynton, visitors will find displays, activities and information leaflets. Nearby is the Anson Museum, an important collection of static engines, which holds open days in the summer months. From Higher Poynton, footpaths lead to Lyme Park and Lyme Hall. Canal enthusiasts might like to see the flight of locks at Marple or hire a narrowboat. If you are in Macclesfield, don't miss the fascinating Silk Museum. From Marple, do continue to Stockport to see the famous Hat Museum. For more information about any of these activities, telephone **Tourist Information**.

middlewood way

A traffic-free trail between the peaks and the plains





Stockport Road

A626

The Railway pub

Railway Road

Refuse Site

Rose Hill Station

WC

Marple

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

Height 1.9m

Trading Post

Footpath to Lyme Park

Green Lane

Anson Road

Boar's Head

Coffee Tavern

Shrigley Road North

Lyme Road

High Lane

The Vale

Dog & Partridge

Bus Stop

Adlington Road

Viaduct

Wellington Road

B5090

Kay Metzler Works

Horse access to north only

Access via steep steps

Poynton

River Bollin

Beech La.

Hibel Road

Silk Road

A537

A523

Waters Green

Bus Station

Railway Station

Bollin Valley Way

Riverside Park

Macclesfield

- Key**
- Middlewood Way
 - Macclesfield Canal
 - Farm bridge (no access)
 - Selected public footpaths
 - Railway line
 - Parking
 - Toilets, including RADAR-accessible toilet
 - Information point
 - Marina
 - Pub
 - Cafe
 - Horse access
 - Picnic area
 - No entry to Middlewood Way from road
 - Bridge numbers

- Accessibility Information**
(Please refer to text overleaf)
- Easy access point
 - Wheelchair accessible with assistance
 - Difficult gradient or surface