Welcome

The scenes: 10 mile / 16km long Middlewood Way provides lots of opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding. The Middlewood Way runs along the length of a disused railway line and officially opened in 1985.

Cycling

The Middlewood Way offers easy and safer cycling and is a popular destination for leisure cycling all year round thanks to the National Cycle Network and as a section of route 55. Visit www.sustrans.org for more information. Cycling please be aware that walkers may not have your approach please to pass your bike or a wheelchair

Horse Riding

Horse riders can use the Middlewood Way from the Bollington viaduct at Adlington Road all the way to Rosehill in Marple. Use the map overleaf to plan your visit as this shows easy access points as well as sections that might be difficult for wheelchair users. If you need more information, contact the Ranger Service - details are on the back cover of this leaflet.

Accessibility

The Middlewood Way is mostly level and wheelchair accessible. Use the map overlaid to plan your visit as this shows easy access points as well as sections that might be difficult for wheelchair users. If you need more information, contact the Ranger Service - details are on the back cover of this leaflet.

Local History

In 1885, the town of Marple, Bollington and Macclesfield were facing economic depression. Local dignitaries, including the cotton mill owners of Bollington, hoped a new railway would improve their fortunes. A railway scheme was presented to parliament, and in 1886 the Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway opened.

The railway carried cotton, silk, coal and passengers, however it always struggled to make a profit. The line later became part of British Rail but was eventually closed as part of the Beeching cuts in 1969. In 1985 the disused railway was redeveloped for recreation as the Middlewood Way.

At Higher Poynton, coal from the local mines was transported to the railway and railway line by narrow gauge locomotives and ivy leaves. Lady's mother and Prince's white are two of the dozen tramways in Higher Poynton which are now footpaths that lead downhill into Poynton. The Anchor Engine Museum is located on the old Higher Arley station.

Take a walk in Poynton Country Park where wildlife benefits from traditional coppice management techniques. Every year a small group of trees is cut to stimulate regrowth, handle making and peat moss for local allotment groups. Poynton Country Park is also a popular recreation area for newts and dragonflies. This building is located on the site of Nelson Pit which was one of the deepest pits in the area.

The flower rich meadows at Jackson's Brickworks are well worth exploring. This building is located on the site of Nelson Pit which was one of the deepest pits in the area.

Managing the Middlewood Way

The Countryside Ranger Service ensures that the Middlewood Way is maintained to a high standard. The Rangers work with volunteers throughout the year and look after the Middlewood Way, Middlewood Station to Marple.

Walking

Make walks can be created using the footpath network and the adjacent canal towpaths. Footpaths run from the Peak District both to the east and to the west. Higher Poynton footpaths lead to Lyme Park and Lyme Hall. Circular walks starting from Poynton footpaths lead to Lyme Park and the Peak District foothills to the east and the River Goyt to the west.

The scenery 10 mile / 16km long Middlewood Way provides lots of opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding. The Middlewood Way was officially opened in 1985.

The Ordnance Survey Explorer map 268 is recommended for route planning and is a section of route 55. Visit www.sustrans.org for more information. Cycling please be aware that walkers may not have your approach please to pass your bike or a wheelchair

“Middlewood Way”骑行人宜注意

How to get to the Middlewood Way

For bus and train travel information contact Traveline phone 0871 2002233 or visit www.traveline.info

Car parking is available at various locations along the Middlewood Way - please refer to the maps opposite this leaflet.

Middlewood Way 
Your ticket to the countryside