Walking

Your ticket to the Countryside

Middlewood Way

The Countryside Ranger Service ensures that the Middlewood Way is well maintained, that the woods and countryside are safe, and that the footpath network and the adjacent fields are accessible. Access is available for wheelchair users 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.

Cycling

The Middlewood Way offers easy and scenic cycling and is a popular destination for leisure cycling year round. It is formed of the National Cycle Network and a section of the Manchester to Bollington and Marple Railway opened in 1863. It forms part of the National Cycle Network and is a section of Route 557. Suitable for use by all ages and abilities. Cyclepath is a safe and direct route from the Bollington viaduct at Middlewood Way to the canal and railway line by tramways also known as the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The oldest railway in the world, the Bridgewater and Manchester Railway opened in 1825. The line was constructed on top of a disused lead mine, at Higher Poynton, and opened in 1801.

Local History

In 1863, the towns of Marple, Bollington and Macclesfield were enjoying economic depression. Local dignitaries and especially the cotton mill owners of Bollington, hoped a new railway would improve their fortunes. A railway scheme was put forward to Bollington and Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway opened.

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Accessibility Information

- Easy access point
- Wheelchair accessible
- Difficult gradient or surface

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