

Explore West Lancashire's Countryside by bike

Cycling is a great way of exploring West Lancashire's countryside. Most of the area is flat and there are many quiet lanes, which are a dream to cycle on. To the east the countryside is hillier but there are also splendid views over the West Lancashire Plain.



Lancashire Cycleway (Routes 90 and 91)

A 270 mile cycle tour of the county, skirting the north of Skelmersdale and running to the south of Ormskirk. You could use the West Lancashire section to make a cycle tour of the area by linking the Lancashire Cycleway at Croston with the Cycleway west of Charnock Richard. The West Lancashire section is 42 miles in total. You will find it largely flat, except for a steep hill up to Ashurst Beacon near Skelmersdale. There are also good views from the Clieves Hills, west of Ormskirk, which being lower do not require a steep climb up.



Cheshire Lines (Route 62)

Though called the Cheshire Lines, this traffic free path on the old railway is in fact in Lancashire. The railway was opened in 1884 by the Cheshire Lines Committee to link their railway at Aintree with Southport. It was mainly used by express trains from Manchester to Southport on holiday weekends.

The railway closed to passengers in 1952. It is now a traffic-free cycle path from Maghull to Formby and a great place to cycle with children. It is part of the Trans-Pennine Trail from Hull to Southport. You can continue along the route to Southport seafront.

The path is 5½ miles long and you can park at the old station, situated to the west of Lydiat.

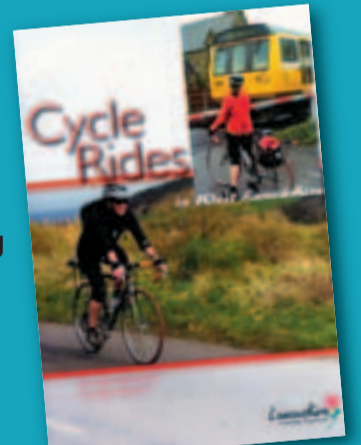
Leeds-Liverpool Canal

You can cycle along Leeds-Liverpool Canal in West Lancashire, though part can become muddy in winter and you should give way to walkers, especially on narrow sections. You can also continue on the towpath to Wigan and its pier or to Liverpool. To cycle on the canal you need a permit, which can be downloaded from www.waterscape.com or by ringing 01923 201120.



Cycle Rides in West Lancashire

A free booklet of cycle rides in West Lancashire by Jon Sparks, award winning author and photographer is available from the information offices or the County Council.



Cycle to Tourist Attractions

Cycling is a great way of getting to the areas attractions, such as Martin Mere and Martin Sands Wood, adding to the day out. Or why not catch the train and cycle to the attraction from the nearest railway station? If you arrive at Martin Mere by bicycle you get a reduction on the entrance fee.

Cycle Hire

Cycle hire is available from Jack Parker Cycles at Burscough Bridge, call 01704 892442 or email jpc.1@tiscali.co.uk for more details. You can cycle along the canal from Burscough or to Martin Mere on back lanes.

Further information

Lancashire County Council publishes a range of free leaflets and maps on cycling in the county. These can be downloaded from: www.lancashire.gov.uk/cycling or ring 0800 328 1635.