

ROUTE DESCRIPTION



This circular route will take you through a wildlife rich area in the heart of agricultural West Lancashire. Starting at Burscough Wharf the route goes through the north of Burscough and then passes through or near several nature reserves.

You will pass through the home of lapwings, dragonflies and butterflies at the WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre before reaching Tarlscough Moss and Burscough Wharf. You will also pass Windmill Animal Farm and Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve.

- 1 Begin at Burscough Wharf, turn right onto the canal. Follow the towpath and continue to the swing-bridge by the Slipway public house.



- 2 Turn right onto Crabtree Lane, then continue straight ahead to an unmanned level-crossing (take care and close the gates behind you). Follow the lane to Red Cat Lane.

- 3 Turn left onto Red Cat Lane and then first right into Curlew Lane. (For a shorter route, continue along Red Cat Lane to its junction with Marsh Moss Lane, point 9, then follow route back to Burscough Wharf, shown as a dotted line on the map).

- 4 Continue along Curlew Lane, to Mere Lane next to Tootle House Farm.

- 5 Turn left and follow Mere Lane through a series of bends onto Sandy Way, then up to the first left at Cross Meanygate. To access Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve, continue along Sandy Way then turn right onto Holmeswood Road. The entrance can be found on the right after ½ a mile.

- 6 Turn left onto the tree-lined Cross Meanygate and follow to its junction with Wiggins Lane.

- 7 Turn left and continue along the lane, soon you'll pass Homestead Farm and after a couple of bends, Windmill Animal Farm.



- 8 Continuing along the lane, you'll soon pass WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre.

- 9 At the next junction turn right on Marsh Moss Lane. Follow the lane to a level crossing by New Lane station and continue to meet the canal.

- 10 Turn left onto the towpath opposite the Farmer's Arms public house.

- 11 Follow the towpath, crossing Crabtree Lane alongside the swing-bridge by the Slipway pub, back to Burscough Wharf.

VISIT

VISIT Sefton and West Lancs are continuing to develop the cycling offer within and around the area by building on the existing potential.

Co-ordinated packages of activities, promoting and marketing the wider area, are continually being developed.

For information on any upcoming events and other cycle routes see our website www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk



CYCLE ROUTES

This route is one of a series of themed routes in Sefton and West Lancashire. They are suitable for families and the less experienced cyclists and include many of the area's landmarks.

All routes are signed and have accompanying leaflets. These are available at all Cycle Hire Centres or via the website.



CYCLE HIRE

If you are visiting Sefton and West Lancs and you don't have your bike, you can still enjoy our range of themed routes by hiring a bike at one of our cycle hire centres. A wide range of bikes are available for all the family.

For further information or to pre-book, please contact the cycle hire staff or see the website.

01704 500996.
info@southportcyclehire.info
www.southportcyclehire.info



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Lapwing Route

- Moderate
- Mostly on quiet roads
- Distance 9.5 miles
- Time 75-95 mins





Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve



Curlew Lane



Burscough Wharf



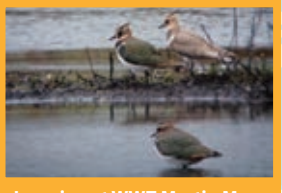
Leeks & Corn-Marigolds besides Mere Lane



Tarlscough Moss



Sandy Way Bridge



Lapwing at WWT Martin Mere

KEY	
	Lapwing Route
	Railway Station
	Cycle Hire Venue