

Sixty eight MACCLESFIELD – MARKET & SHOPS

Macclesfield is an old fashioned Cheshire market town with some fine buildings. There is an indoor market, and an outdoor market on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here there are frequent trains that stop at Macclesfield. *Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.*

As the train approaches Macclesfield notice the furniture factory and showrooms of Arighi Bianchi on the left.

Alight at Macclesfield Station. *As you leave the station notice the buildings and styles on the opposite side of Water's Green – Water's Green House, and Wyld's (Jospeh Holt hand pump mild and bitter, also meals.)*

Descend the approach road on the right and cross the main road.

Walk ahead up the road into town, passing the Nag's Head (*Robinson's beers*).

Follow the bend to the left (*but notice The Castle pub tucked away on left hand side*).

You come out onto the main town square. *There is a fine old church on your right -St Michael's. Facing you is St Michael and All Angels Church a fine old parish church – take a walk round it. Open 09.30 to 13.00 most days with tea and coffee from 10.30. Website www.stmichaels-macclesfield.com*

Cross the town square on a diagonal.

Opposite the portico of the Town Hall building go left along Chestergate-*this street has shops on both sides and The Bate Hall pub on the right (Marston's real ale).*

Go as far as the traffic lights on the road that crosses Chestergate

[OPTION: You may wish to cross and go further along Chestergate. *There are some interesting buildings: left on Bridge Street is the 1872 Drill Hall for the Cheshire Regiment Volunteers; on a street corner is Norbury's 'Garden Machinery Shop' – full of lawn mowers etc! Also on the left is The Picturedrome – “The World in Motion.” – as its motto says. On the right is The Spectacular Fireworks Shop.]*

Turn back and retrace your steps along Chestergate towards the Town Hall.

Enter The Grosvenor Shopping Centre on the right. *As well as the shops there is an indoor market. At a very good cheese stall I bought 'Stinking Bishop' (well wrapped!) and Staffordshire oatcakes.*

Exit at the opposite end of the shopping centre and there is another section of the open market *(on the busiest days this continues a long way to the right and onto a car park).*

Turn left outside the shopping centre.

At end of street go right. This takes you along the main shopping street.

Follow this as it gently curves downhill. *Keep your eyes open on the right for Duke's Court (shops and cafe) under the white tiled 1922 tower, The Cheshire Gap (a good delicatessen) and on the left an old half timbered curry restaurant!*

Further along on the right is The White Lion *(Cask Marque real ales).*

You come to a civic open space. *On the left is a large classical portico and a few shops (including an excellent old fashioned butcher's shop. On the opposite side is a registry office and 'The Society Rooms' – a J.D. Wetherspoon pub – real ales and food.*

Continue ahead to the main road. Turn left along it opposite the memorial garden. *There are small and specialist shops along here.*

Ascend the station approach road on the right to catch a train back to Manchester.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY (ONE STEEP BIT)

MARKETS, PUBS, CAFES, SHOPS, FOOD,
ARCHITECTURE

RAIL FARE: category two

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 118

Phillips street atlas Cheshire