

Seventy two**MACCLESFIELD – PARADISE MILL.**

Macclesfield was once famed for its silk production. There were 120 mills and dye houses there. Paradise Mill is now a museum of the silk industry. See how the silk was made and the machinery used to spin and weave it. This is followed by a stroll through the town.

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.)* Go left down the approach road and walk along the main road (Sunderland Street). *The shops are old fashioned and some are specialist.*

You come to an open space. *Look at the very fine memorial garden on your left. Behind it is a grand set of offices and to the right of that is a Georgian mill.* Turn right to go along Park Green which is opposite the memorial garden. *Notice the grand 'Greek Temple' on the right.*

Cross Park Green towards the gothic civic buildings opposite. *The former Technical and Science School (1900) is now 'The Society Rooms'. This is another sensitive conversion by J.D. Wetherspoon. Real Ale on hand pumps and food all day.*

To the right of it is the Macclesfield Free Library building (1876) now the registry office.

Go left round the corner of this onto Park Lane, and walk a few yards along. The Silk Museum's Park Lane Galleries is on the left. *Admission (2010) is £5.20 (concessions) includes Paradise Mill tour as well. N.B. if you are going to visit the Silk Heritage Centre too, then buy a £9 (concessions) combined ticket. The gallery has an excellent display of silk goods, machinery, and life for mill workers. Open 11.00 – 17.00 Monday to Saturday. [Tel:01625 613210](tel:01625613210), Website www.macclesfield.silk.museum*

Further along the street on the left is Paradise Mill. *This closed in 1981 and was very old fashioned then. See the machinery operated – guided tours are at 12.15, 13.30 and 14.45 on Monday to Saturday. (11.15 and 14.30 Bank Holiday Mondays.) [Tel:01625 618228](tel:01625618228), Website www.macclesfield.silk.museum*

On leaving the mill, turn right back along Park Lane and then left at Park Green. Ascend Mill Street. *Further along on the left is The White Lion (Cask Marque real ales).*

[If you wish to visit the Silk Heritage Centre and cafe then go left along Roe Street. The entrance is on the right. Then return to Mill Street and continue along it.]

Mill Street eventually is vehicle free.

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

Mill Street comes out onto Market Square. *The classical Town Hall is ahead of you.*

Turn right on the square. 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. Tea and coffee are served from 10.30.*

Website www.stmichaels-macclesfield.com

Facing the church turn right again and follow the windy road down to Waters Green.

Go straight ahead, cross the main road and go right up the approach road to the station.

CLASSIFICATION: SHORT, EASY (ONE STEEP BIT)

MUSEUMS, INDUSTRY, PUBS, CAFES, SHOPS,
FOOD, ARCHITECTURE

RAIL FARE: category two

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 118

Philip's Street Map Cheshire.