

Warton, Silverdale & the Lancaster Canal by Tewitfield Locks

13 miles (20km) Moderate

Start & parking: Car park for Warton Crag Nature Reserve up Crag Road at the back of George Washington pub in Warton Main Street.

Nearest train station: Silverdale is less than ½ mile from the route – exit the station, turn left towards Silverdale and first right on a road called The Row.

Refreshments: George Washington pub, Malt Shovel pub, Warton. Tearooms just off the route at Leighton Moss Visitor Centre. Oasis Wildlife Centre tearoom (on the A6). Longlands Hotel, Greenlands Farm, Tewitfield.

The hill at the start of the ride may come as a shock and you may prefer to walk – there are great views across Morecambe Bay and soon you come to the great walls of Warton Crag Quarry, now disused. You may wish to divert off the route to Leighton Moss Visitor Centre. Wooded lanes lead on to a crossing of the A6 by the Oasis Wildlife Centre and before long you join the broad grass and stone towpath alongside the series of disused locks along the Lancaster Canal. Shortly after leaving the canal the ride heads west back to Warton.

Cycling permit. You will need a (free) British Waterways cycling permit to ride on the canal towpath. These can be downloaded from www.waterscape.com/cycling/permit or by dropping into Lancaster Visitor Information Centre.

1 Exit the Warton Crag Nature Reserve car park and turn **R** uphill. Short steep climb, great views to the left towards the bay then after ½ mile go past amazing Warton Crag Quarry.

2 After 2 miles, at the T-junction at the end of Crag Road at the bottom of a long hill bear **R** signposted *Silverdale, Arnside*. This is a busier road.

3 At the T-junction by a triangle of grass and a *Give Way* sign turn **R** signposted *Station, Arnside* then shortly turn first **L*** onto a road called The Row.

**OR, to visit Leighton Moss Nature Reserve (tearoom) continue straight ahead and take the first road to the right.*

4 At the T-junction at the end of The Row (with a car park opposite) turn **R**. Shortly, at the next T-junction turn **L** signposted *Lancashire Cycleway, Arnside*.

5 After 1½ miles ignore a left turn to Arnside. Busier section of road. After a further ¼ mile take the next **L** turning sharply back on yourself signposted *Beetham, 6ft 6ins width limit*.

6 At the T-junction at the end of Leighton Beck Road turn sharp **R** signposted *Yealand, Carnforth*.

7 Descend to a T-junction by a *Give Way* sign and turn **L** signposted *Hale*. Follow the road round to the right. At the T-junction with the A6 turn **R** (**WITH CARE**) signposted *Lancaster* (push your bike along the pavement if you prefer) then shortly turn first **L** signposted *Burton, Holme*.

8 After ¾ mile turn first **R** just before passing under the railway bridge (no sign). At the T-junction at the top of the climb turn **R** (no sign) then after 100yds turn **L** signposted *Lancashire Cycleway* (the sign is in the hedgerow to the left). Shortly turn **L** again following the *Lancashire Cycleway* signs.

9 After ¾ mile cross the M6 and immediately turn **R** onto a road signposted *No entry except authorised vehicles*. Shortly bear **L** through a wooden gate onto a wide tarmac/stone path parallel to the canal. Keep the canal to your left.

10 Follow the canal down past the locks. Shortly after running parallel with the M6 on a tarmac path below the A6070 road bridge you will pass the turning for Longlands Hotel (refreshments). Continue on the towpath past the marina (there may be moored barges), pass under the next bridge (no. 138) then turn immediately **R** uphill sharply back on yourself. At the road turn **L**.

11 At the X-roads by a *Give Way* sign turn **R** signposted *Warton (A6)* and soon cross the M6. At the roundabout with the A6 turn **L** onto the pavement then use the traffic island to cross the A6 to the opposite pavement and turn **L**, pushing your bike alongside the A6 towards Lancaster for 150yds. Turn **R** onto Borwick Lane.

12 At the end of Borwick Lane at the T-junction with Main Street in Warton turn **L** signposted *Carnforth, Silverdale* then immediately before the George Washington pub turn **R** onto Crag Road to return to the start.

