

# THE MAGHULL TRAIL

The 4 mile (6.4Km) Maghull Trail is fairly level and makes a pleasant half day stroll. The circular route starts and ends at Maghull railway station and passes several sites of local historical interest, including the churchyard where Maghull's most famous former resident, Frank Hornby of Meccano, Hornby Trains and Dinky Toys fame is buried.

WALK - LEISURELY

From Maghull station turn right along Station Road and then left into Rutherford Road to access the towpath of the Leeds Liverpool Canal via Draper's Bridge. Turn left and head south along the towpath heading under the railway and then the M58 motorway towards the village of Melling.

Leave the towpath at Melling Stone Bridge via a track to reach Brewery Lane, walk ahead and pass the small row of terraced houses. Continue to the right on to a footpath, which is the driveway to Wood Hall Farm.

Wood Hall dates back to at least 1300 when the Molyneux family owned it, the current house is late 17th century and James II is reputed to have stayed here when the family were persecuted as Catholics in the Elizabethan period. It is a Grade II listed building and now a farmhouse, please respect the privacy of its residents.

Follow the footpath towards the duck pond and left through the farm yard, crossing open farmland towards the railway embankment and walk through an underpass to turn left between the M58 and the railway across the motorway footbridge. Take the enclosed footpath under a link road of the motorway and follow the footpath alongside Melling Brook to reach the main A59 Dunning's Bridge Road.

The route continues on the other side of this busy road and a traffic light controlled pedestrian crossing allows you to cross safely and access the footpath opposite. Take this footpath and pass under the disused Cheshire Lines railway bridge, follow the embankment of the River Alt to Mill Dam Bridge, some 600 yards (550m).

Turn right over the bridge and walk ahead through Jubilee Woods. This area was restored and replanted as part of the Mersey Forest Initiative. A short detour to the left brings you to a 3.5 metre high sculpture of a barn owl that has been carved in Birchover sandstone to represent the barn owls that have nested near the Sefton Meadows site. The barn owl was chosen by local school children as the symbol of the wood.



Frank Hornby Plaque



Melling Stone Bridge

Returning to the main path we reach the old trackbed of the Cheshire Lines railway again. Turn left and then right to cross a bridge over Dovers Brook and continue along the footpath along Whinney Brook with the school playing fields on our left.

Exiting onto Ormonde Drive turn right and then left into Liverpool Road South passing through the shopping area, keep The Meadows public house on your left, continue along Liverpool Road South. Cross the road and take the path through King George V playing fields

alongside the tennis courts.

Climb the steps and go through the kissing gate onto Northway, turn left and after 100 metres a footpath sign marks the steps down to the canal towpath once more. Turning right (south) beneath the main road we pass St Andrew's Church built in 1878 on the other side of the canal. A marble memorial to Frank Hornby stands in the graveyard.

Continue along the canal towpath passing Maghull Hall swing bridge before reaching Draper's Bridge once more to complete the circuit and the Maghull Trail.



## Keypoints

Distance - 4 miles (6.4km)

- 1** Melling Stone Bridge
- 2** Wood Hall
- 3** Jubilee Woods
- 4** Frank Hornby's Memorial