

Route 5

Victoria Park ~ Barden Mill ~ Towneley Park

20km  3 hours

This is a nice route following the Leeds-Liverpool canal from Nelson through to the southern edge of Burnley. Although passing through this urban area, you will be pleasantly surprised at how different it looks from the canal and how quiet it is. The route follows the Pennine Cycleway.

Arriving by Train: The closest station to Victoria Park is Nelson, approx 1000m away. From the station pass through the town centre and onto Carr Road which you follow downhill to the park.

Arriving by Car: Victoria Park is on Carr Road, which runs between the Padiham by-pass and Nelson town centre. There is a car-park for the park on Carr Road.

Toilets: At present there are no toilet facilities in the park. There are toilets at Barden Mill and Towneley Park.

Refreshments: There is a refreshment kiosk in the pavilion at Victoria Park, by the car-park. There are cafes at Barden Mill and Towneley Park.

Start & finish Point: Victoria Park B6249, Carr Rd, Nelson (car-park).

The Route (Mainly towpath - flat, easy although barriers can be difficult for tandems)

Leave the car-park onto Carr Rd and turn right as if to go towards Nelson. Take the right turn before the Motorway bridge and follow this quiet lane into Lomeshaye Village. In the village, opposite the nursery and ZBR radio station office take the turning on the left. This climbs a small gradient, passes underneath the motorway and comes to the canal (there is also a playground here on your right). Turn right onto the canal towpath and follow (the canal will be on your left!).

After passing through Brierfield the canal runs across open ground for a while with good views across to Pendle Hill. Then, approx 4km after joining the canal, you will notice Barden Mill on the other side. To get to it come off the towpath at the bridge and cross over.

Carry along the canal through to Burnley. You will pass Thompson Park on your right and then come onto the famous mile-long straight where you are above the town centre and with views across the Pennines.

At the end of this straight, just before the canal passes underneath a road bridge, turn off the canal through a gate. Turn left onto the road passing over the canal. Follow the road down the hill to a mini-roundabout. Take care along this short section of road as it can be busy.

At the mini-roundabout, you will see the entrance to Towneley Park. Cross over and pass underneath the arch into the Park. Follow the drive through the park until it forks. You can either take the left fork to a large playground or the right fork to Towneley Hall, visitor centre and café. The return to Victoria Park simply involves retracing this outward route.

Places of Interest

- Barden Mill – a mill shop selling a wide variety of discounted goods including clothing. There is a cafe and in the summer they operate canal boat trips.
- Towneley Hall & Park – dating from the 1400's the Hall is set in 24 acres of woodland and surrounded by extensive grounds. Nature trail, Natural History Centre, play areas and café.
- Thompson Park – a large, attractive Edwardian park with lake, Italian gardens and playground.
- Victoria Park – created in 1888 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, this attractive park includes a lake and playground.

What Else Can The Children Do

Playgrounds along the route as mentioned, cafes, nature trails and activities in Towneley Park.

