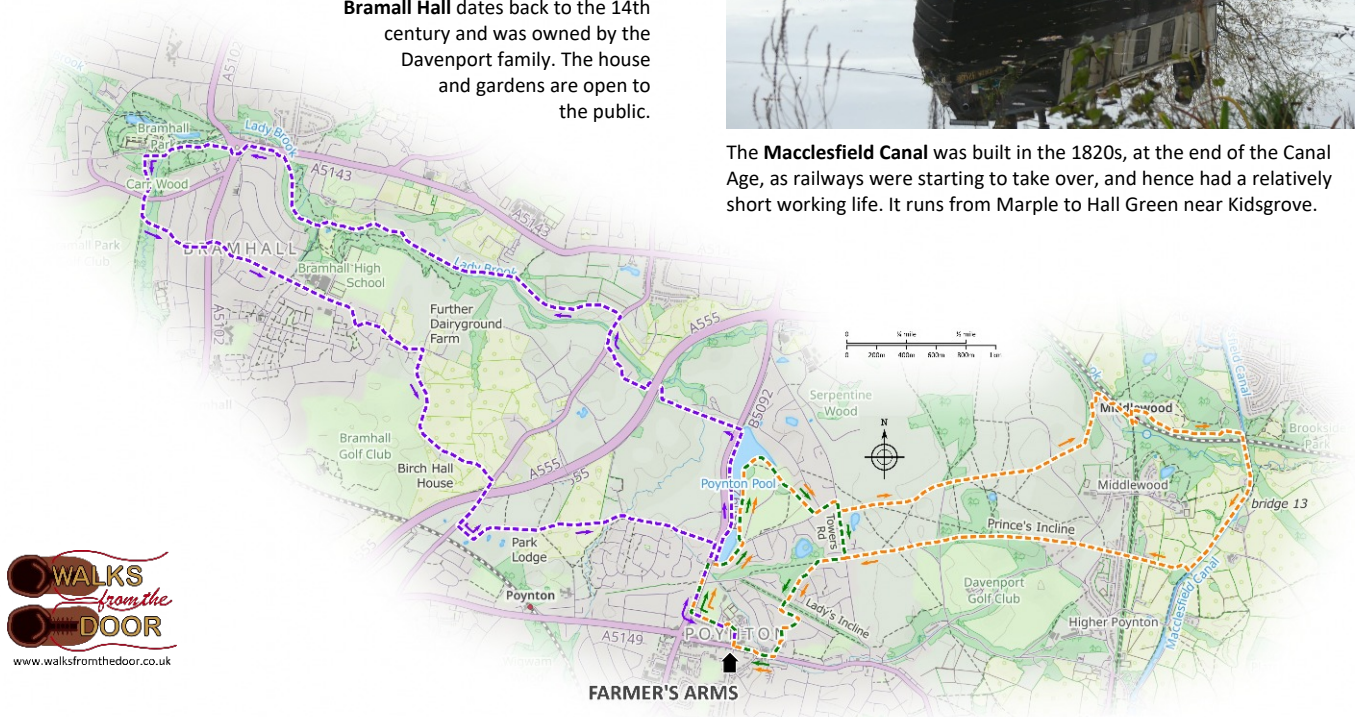




Bramall Hall dates back to the 14th century and was owned by the Davenport family. The house and gardens are open to the public.



The **Macclesfield Canal** was built in the 1820s, at the end of the Canal Age, as railways were starting to take over, and hence had a relatively short working life. It runs from Marple to Hall Green near Kidsgrove.



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Poynton Pool is the centrepiece of Poynton Park, which occupies the former parkland of Poynton Hall. The lake was created in the 1760s by Sir George Warren (1733–1801) by damming the Poynton Brook.

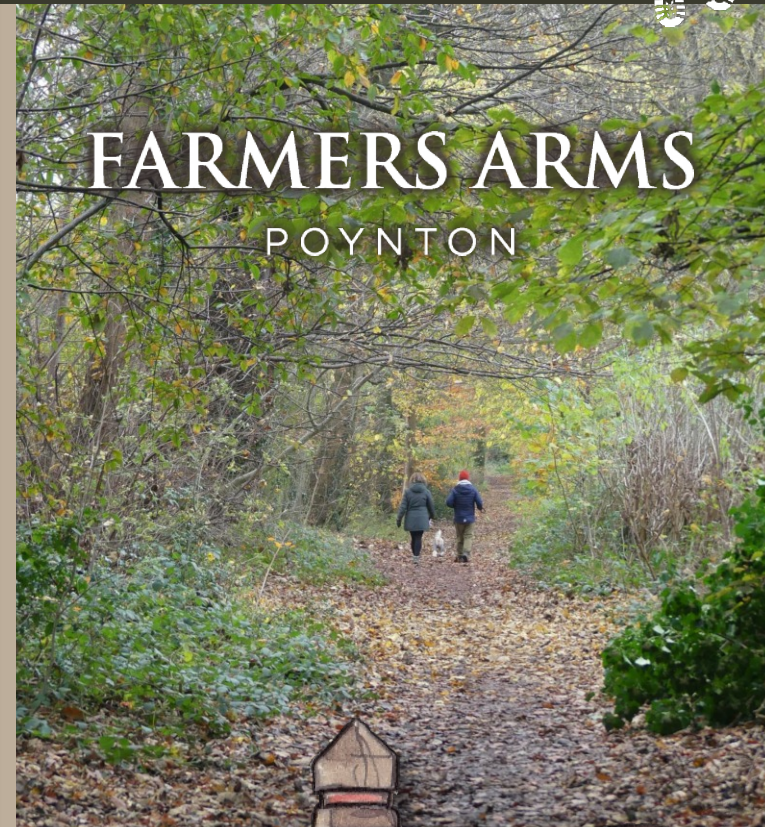


three circular walks from the



FARMERS ARMS

POYNTON



Poynton Park and Pool
2¼ miles: easy
An easy lakeside stroll through the former estate of Poynton Hall, now a public park.

Macclesfield Canal
5½ miles: fairly easy
Pleasant farmland walking and a stretch of towpath, returning via a former colliery railway.

Bramall Hall and Ladybrook
7½ miles: fairly easy
Along the Ladybrook Valley Interest Trail to a spectacular Tudor mansion and its grounds.

Poynton Park and Pool (2¼ miles: easy)

Allow 1½ hours. Mostly on firm paths but may be muddy spots. No stiles: suitable for rugged buggies.

1 Cross the road from the front door and follow the path between the bollards opposite. **2** Continue along the edge of the car park and between the Medical Centre (left) and Civic Hall/Library (right). **3** Turn left and pass between the bollards onto Park Lane. **4** Follow the road out to the main road and turn right. **5** Walk past the entrance to Poynton Sports Club, then cross the end of Woodside Lane. **6** Turn right into South Park Drive and pass the former gatehouse to Poynton Hall on your right. The road curves left round the end of Poynton Pool; beyond a gate on the left, turn left into Poynton Park. **7** Turn left then follow the lakeside path to the right. **8** The path curves to the right past a boathouse and leaves the lakeside. **9** Follow it to a junction, where you turn left. Shortly, ignore a path off to the right. **10** Leave the park to rejoin South Park Drive, turning left. **11** Continue straight on past the junction with Anglesey Drive. **12** At the T-junction at the end, turn right (Towers Road). **13** Just beyond Millstone Close (right) and Towers Yard Barns (left), turn right through a gate onto the path that follows the old Prince's Incline. **14** After 150m, by a litter bin, turn left into an open area. **15** Keep right of the road and follow the path along the fence on your right, passing the end of another residential road. **16** When you meet a crossing path (Lady's Incline), take the narrow path almost opposite that leads between garden fences to emerge on Oakfield Road. **17** Turn left, then right into Beech Crescent. **18** Turn left along School Lane, then skirt to the right of the police and fire station. **19** Bear left past the shops out to Park Lane. **20** Turn right and follow the road back to the Farmers Arms.

Macclesfield Canal and Prince's Incline

5½ miles: fairly easy

Allow 2–3 hours. May be muddy and uneven in places; a few stiles and steps.

Follow steps 1–12 of the **Poynton Park and Pool** walk, above.

13 After 70m, turn left through a kissing gate and follow the track across a field. **14** At the end of the field, cross a track between kissing gates onto a path that continues through scrub and passes a footbridge on the right. **15** When the path reaches an open area, turn left then immediately right onto a narrow path leading to a gap onto a gorse-lined path with a waymark post. Go straight across through another gap into a field, and continue ahead towards a ridge crowned by trees. **16** Cross a track and continue to the top of the hill. **17** At the hilltop, pass another waymark post and continue to a stile by a gate. **18** Follow the track opposite through a farmyard past an old barn on the left and after a stile follow the telegraph poles then bear left past a footpath sign to a stile into trees. **19** Follow the narrow path down to a road. **20** Cross straight over down steps and over a footbridge into a garden; turn left along the stream to the driveway left of the entrance. **21** Turn

right along the track past the garden entrance, then take a path on the left up steps. Turn right partway up, along a fenced path. Continue to the platform of Middlewood Station and under the railway bridge. **22** Turn right beyond the shelter and climb steps to the Middlewood Way. **23** Turn right over the railway bridge, then immediately right before a Middlewood Way information board through a barrier. **24** When the path bends left, go through a gap in the fence straight ahead. **25** Follow the path along the right-hand side of an open area, then keep right through the trees close to the railway line. **26** The path winds through trees to emerge by the side of the Macclesfield Canal. **27** Turn right along the canalside track. **28** Pass under bridge 13 and continue along the towpath. **29** After 500m, turn right off the towpath onto a path with a fingerpost for Prince's Incline and the Middlewood Way. **30** The path winds along the edge of a wood and under power lines. **31** Beyond a gate, continue along the track past a couple of houses on the right. **32** Cross the bridge over the Middlewood Way to a road. **33** Go straight over (Prince Road). **34** At the end of the houses, continue along the track straight ahead. **35** Cross another road into a driveway and take the footpath through a kissing gate on the left. **36** Follow the track ahead; after about 500m, an information panel explains the history of the colliery railways. **37** Shortly afterwards, keep left at the waymarked junction with another of the former railways. **38** Cross a perpendicular track (another former railway) and continue ahead. Cross a driveway and go through a kissing gate. **39** After another gate pass farm buildings (and a final gate) to Towers Road; carry straight on along the path through the gate ahead.

Now follow steps 14–19 of the **Poynton Park and Pool** walk, above.

Bramall Hall and Ladybrook

7½ miles: fairly easy

Allow 3–4 hours. Occasional mud in winter; a few stiles. Bramhall Park is free to enter, but there is an admission charge for the house.

Follow steps 1–5 of the **Poynton Park and Pool** walk, above.

6 Turn right into South Park Drive and, opposite the former gatehouse to Poynton Hall, turn left onto a path between the B5092 and Poynton Pool. **7** Just before the end of the lake, turn left to the road and cross at the traffic island. **8** Go through a tall kissing gate opposite and follow the fenced path beyond between fields. **9** Descend to a footbridge and continue to a kissing gate within sight of the A555. **10** Bear right through another kissing gate. **11** Before the bridge over the stream, turn left and pass under the A555. **12** Bear left, with the road to your left and a pond to your right. **13** Beyond the pond, turn right and follow a narrow path past a house to its driveway. **14** Continue along the lane (Mill Hill Hollow) round a right-hand bend and out to Woodford Road. **15** Turn right for a short distance. **16** Cross the road at the bridge over the Lady Brook and continue along the left-hand pavement to a gate on the left. **17** Go through the gate and walk along the right-hand side of the field. **18** At the far end, turn right over a stile, then turn left to a footbridge and second stile. **19** Cross a short

boardwalk and walk along the field, eventually following the flood-bank on the left alongside the Lady Brook. **20** Go through a wooden squeeze-stile by some stepping stones, but stay on the right-hand bank of the stream, passing the end of a footpath off to the right. **21** After 300m, cross a footbridge on the left and bear right to a footpath junction, where you turn right. Walk past a Happy Valley sign and continue roughly parallel to the stream until you meet the road. **22** Cross the end of Valley Road and follow the pavement alongside the main road to a roundabout. **23** Bear left past a bus stop then cross at the zebra crossing. Turn right on the other side of the road, then turn left behind a bus stop into Bramhall Park. **24** Follow the surfaced cycleway until you meet a service road. **25** Turn left, signposted to Bramall Hall, and follow the road uphill; towards the top of the slope there are good views of the hall. **26** Ignoring paths to left and right, cross a stream valley and continue along a wall. **27** Beyond a white-painted gate, turn left towards the car park. **28** Just before the car park, turn right onto a surfaced path that leads along a fence above a stream valley to a road. **29** Cross straight over at the lights, and follow the path beyond the gate opposite. **30** After 100m, turn left down to a footbridge and, beyond a Carr Wood information panel, climb the bank then follow a narrow path between garden fences. **31** At the road, cross over into Grasmere Crescent and follow it across St Michael's Avenue to the A5102. **32** Cross and turn left, then shortly turn right into Damery Road. The road briefly narrows to a path to a gate, then continues beyond a cottage out to the road. **33** Cross over into Seal Road and continue to Colwyn Road, passing the entrance to Newlands Avenue on the left. **34** Cross Colwyn Road and continue past Bramhall High School on the left. **35** Follow the road round to the right at the junction with Nevin Close, then turn left into Lytham Drive. **36** Follow a narrow fenced footpath on the right (if this is nettly, it can be bypassed by staying on Lytham Drive). **37** At the far end of the path, rejoin the road and continue ahead, passing the entrance to Reddish Wood Nurseries on the left. Keep on past a yard on the right to a crossroads at the entrance to Further Dairyground Farm. **38** Here, turn right along a potholed lane. This lane winds through fields and past Birch Hall House to a junction with a road near the A555. **39** Turn right over the bridge across the main road. **40** Before a railway bridge, turn left into Lower Park Road. **41** Follow the lane round a left-hand bend and continue past Haybrook Farm. **42** Beyond the last house (Park Lodge), go through a gate into a field. **43** Continue along the left-hand side of the field on an obvious path. **44** When you meet a road, turn right over a bridge. **45** At a junction, keep left along a path separated from the road by a hedge. **46** When the path rejoins the road, cross and follow the path to Vicarage Lane. Follow the residential road back to the B5092. **47** Turn right, past the Bulls Head. Continue past South Park Drive and Woodside Lane on the left. **48** Continue past the entrance to Poynton Sports Club, then turn left into Park Avenue. **49** At the end of the road, turn left between bollards, then turn right between the Library (left) and Medical Centre (right). **50** Follow the right-hand edge of the car park back to Park Lane and the Farmers Arms.