

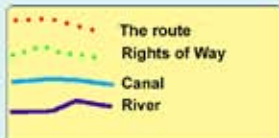
All walks start and finish at:  
Platform 3  
Marsden Railway Station  
Station Road  
Marsden  
HD7 6AX



The weather in Marsden can be cold and unpredictable on high ground even in summer.

Wear suitable clothing, footwear and take OL21 OS map.

The route is along public rights of way. Report problems to: [highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk)



Railway Station



**i** Marsden Library and Information Centre  
Marsden Mechanics Hall  
Peel Street  
Marsden  
HD7 6BW



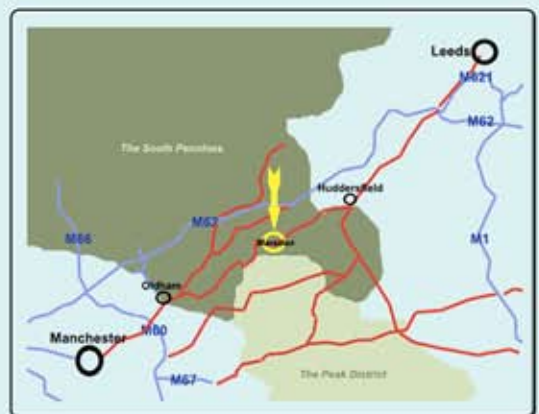
Email- [marsden.walkersarewelcome@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marsden.walkersarewelcome@yahoo.co.uk)  
Web- [www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.talktalk.net](http://www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.talktalk.net)

This leaflet has been produced with the help of the Marsden History Group.  
Visit- [www.marsdenhistory.co.uk](http://www.marsdenhistory.co.uk)

Funded by-  
The Cuckoos Nest  
38/40a Peel Street  
Marsden  
HD7 6BW

Supported by The Valleys Area Committee, The South Pennines Leader Fund and The Kirklees Countryside Unit.

Full historical notes available from our website.



# Marsden Walkers Are Welcome



## Deerhill

This 6.5 mile/ 10.4 Km walk includes some steep ascents and descents, exploring the north-facing high ground east of Marsden and visiting Deer Hill Reservoir and mixing this exposure with an intricate and more enclosed route to and along the valley bottom.

**Important information for visitors**  
**Country Code Note**  
-Take your litter home.  
-Close gates behind you.  
-Keep dogs under close control at ALL times.

## Deer Hill Walk and Historical Notes

6.5 miles/ 10.4 km (Page 2)

From the **Railway Station** take the road down to Marsden centre. Ignore the branch towards the Church continue as the road curves left then cross the bridge over the river into Peel Street (shops on both sides).

Walk up Peel Street past the shops to the main road (A62). Cross the road turn left into the park, pass to the right of the bandstand and up some steps to the road.

*Marsden Park was created by Marsden Council in 1912, on land given to the village by four local mill owners: John Edward Crowther, Samuel Firth, Arthur Robinson, and E J Bruce. Notice the fine War Memorial to the 172 Marsden men killed in the First World War. There is also a memorial to the Marsden dialect poet, Samuel Laycock, who died in 1893; the death date of 1894 on the memorial is incorrect.*

**A** Opposite is a row of houses and to the left of them an entrance to a path which becomes a narrow walled Lane.

*A little way up the path to the right is Ing Head; here from 1845 to 1861 Marsden Adult School operated in a large room over Benjamin and Daniel Ineson's smithy. Workers learned the three "R"s and were also introduced to "chemistry, astronomy, botany, geology and other scientific subjects". In 1861 the classes moved to the newly built Mechanics Institute in the centre of Marsden.*

*The lane passes Crow Hill, the fine large house on the left now used as a wedding venue. In 1801 Crow Hill house and land were owned and occupied by John Kaye, from whom John Haigh rented a mill and dam standing further to the north, where Carrs Street is now. The mill was probably one of John Haigh's cotton mills until around 1810 and then probably became the mill at Carrs called "Bleachers", used for woollen dyeing, bleaching, rug-making etc. It was demolished some time between 1894 and 1904. Meanwhile Crow Hill seems to have been rented out to Marsden's middle class: Enoch Taylor, Ironfounder, was living there in 1871, and Francis Johnstone, draper and grocer, in 1891. Samuel Firth, owner of Cellars Clough Mill, who was living there by 1911, remodeled the house.*

**B** Continue until you reach a field gate, pass through a narrow gap to the left of the gate onto a grassy path across a field between fences and hedges.

Cross a stile past stables on your right OR left through the grounds of a house (along the drive) and emerge onto a broad track. Turn left.

*The buildings are at the hamlet of Scout; the upper farmhouse and barn are dated late 18th century to early 19th century. Note the stone quarries above. During the 19th century the inhabitants of Scout engaged in a mixture of farming, domestic cloth production and quarrying. It is reported that Marsden had a poor-house at Scout (before the Poor Law Act of 1834 changed the relief system), but the only evidence is that in the 1841 census two "paupers" were registered in a house there.*

**C** After about 50m turn right through a wooden gate on to National Trust moorland.

*Your route takes you above Woods, a council housing estate built around 1927.*

Climb up by a stream on your left to a track, here turn left over the stream and continue along the track for about 450m.

**D** Where a broad track joins turn sharp right upwards for about 180m to a bridge over a catchwater (conduit).

*This catchwater is Blackmoorfoot Conduit, one of two which feed Blackmoorfoot reservoir, built 1871-1876. You are above Chain Road, the route of the "First" Wakefield and Austerlands Turnpike (1760).*

**E** Continue up the broad track until you reach another conduit over which there is a bridge. Turn left before the bridge at the side of the conduit towards a building. **(Live rifle range.)**

*The building is Lydgate Rifle and Pistol Club who operate the Rifle Range. When the Army opened this range, the owners of grazing rights (Cow Gates) on the moors were paid £10 compensation per Cow Gate, for loss of grazing. The quarry face beyond the end of the range is, appropriately, called Shooters Nab.*

## Deer Hill Walk Historical Notes

### 6.5 miles/ 10.4 km (Page 3)

**F** Pass in front of the building towards Deer Hill reservoir. Continue along the edge of the reservoir until you reach a flight of steps on your left.

*Deer Hill was the first of Huddersfield Corporation's reservoirs. It was constructed over the existing smaller disused "Lingards Reservoir", built by mill-owners on Lord Dartmouth's estate. Construction began in August 1870 and was completed by 1875; it cost £127,095 7s 5d, covers 38 acres, and had an original capacity of 160 million gallons, later increased. It is fed both by springs and by a catchwater conduit which runs along the eastern side of the Wessenden Valley and then crosses Holme Moor – you passed along this conduit just before reaching the reservoir. Because the catchwater deprived mill-owners in Wessenden and the Colne Valley of some of their water catchment area, they were granted daily compensation. The puddle core of the embankment was raised in 1930 for safety reasons. The reservoir may once have been used for fishing – a "fish ladder at Deerhill" once existed.*

**G** Drop right down the bottom of the steps and turn right along a flat grassy area. Soon you see a wire fence around a reservoir mound. Walk up to the large metal gate and take the path to the right until you reach the stone stile. Climb over the wall and turn left along the wall.

**H** Where the wall turns left carry on straight ahead across the field towards some houses. Continue past a field gate onto a broad track and past a house.

*This track is called Intake Lane; the rectangular fields here were enclosed from the moor under the Meltham Enclosures, which took place over an unusually extended period between 1816 and 1832.*

**Continue down the tarmac track for about 450m until you meet the road.**

*At the catchwater look north; about half a mile away you can see the former White House pub, previously The Dyers Arms. Dating from the 17th century, it closed as a pub in 2010. The catchwater is the Blackmoorfoot Conduit we encountered earlier, which follows the contours of the hill. The farm is called White Reaps: "Reaps" is a common place-name on common or moorland, and may refer to scrubby ground.*

**Turn right along the bendy road for about 100m. Take care this short section of road can be busy with traffic.**

**I** Turn left at Farside Farm and follow the path in front of the house then left down the side of the house with the field wall on your right. Pass through two gates and continue to join another road.

*The first farm is a listed building Bole Bents, and the path through the farm joins the road again at Brindley Brook. The road bridge over the brook here is 18th or early 19th century, with a horseshoe arch. On the opposite side of the road is Linthwaite Riding School, which has a 1771 date stone, and there are other historic buildings in this hamlet, Holt Head. "Dyers Arms" suggests early woollen mills might be on the hillsides if water-power was available, but later mills were built in valley-bottoms which gave canal access to coal for steam-power.*

**J** Turn left onto the road for 25m then turn right along a lane for about 50m. Turn left onto the drive of Mullion Cottage, keeping the house on your right go behind the house to the field gate.

**K** Pass through the field gate then across the field to a road. At the road turn right for 50m then take the path on your left, which climbs to a group of buildings. Head to the right of the buildings to a small gate.

*The group of buildings is Holt Farm (late 18th Century) and cottage. The multi-light mullioned windows gave good light for weaving, which was combined with farming in the "domestic system" typical of the South Pennines. You emerge at Delves Gate.*

**L** Pass through the gate with the buildings on your left and reach a track. Turn left, up the steps and through a leafy arch to join a sunken track for 250m. Finally reach a road and turn right for 400m.

**M** When the road takes a sharp right turn take the sunken track/ bridleway to the left for 50m then climb up to a stile on your right.

**N** Climb the stile, then several more and drop down the field towards some trees and over a stile to the left of the trees on to a road. (Lingards Road.)

## Deer Hill Walk Historical Notes

### 6.5 miles/ 10.4 km (Page 4)

**O** Turn right along the road for 100m then turn left onto the grassy footpath which leads to a road by Brine Place Farm. Turn right for about 100m. Opposite Hill Top farm take a path on your left down to the main road. (A62)

*At Hill Top, note the 17th-18th century barn with its massive quoins of millstone grit around the doors.*

**P** Cross the road to the path directly opposite, through three gates and down an embankment, over some boardwalks to a bridge which crosses the river followed by a bridge over the canal.

**Q** Once over the canal walk up a track bearing left through the wood until the track branches. Take the left branch which follows the canal towards Marsden.

*On the rest of the route, you will get an insight into the history of woollen mills in the upper Colne Valley. Immediately after crossing the canal (the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, which reached Marsden in 1804) look out for the remains of Shaw Carr Mill on your left. This water-powered mill was built in 1797 as a wood-grinding mill, became a cotton mill, and later on served local weavers operating the "domestic system" of cloth production. Look up the hillside to the north towards the settlement of Shaw Fields. This was built by Joseph Sykes, who employed men there in his weaving shop, still operating in the 1880s; the woven cloth was taken down to Shaw Carr Mill to be scoured, and then dried on tenter-posts: "tenter-gates were all over; sometimes stone, sometimes wooden posts carried them".*

**R** After about 500m the track reaches a road, here turn left over a bridge and join the towpath on the right. Keep on the towpath until you reach Marsden.

*Soon after the bridge, you will pass Holme Mills, to your left across the river. A mill has existed here since at least 1801. From around 1888 it was a woollen mill, owned by Samuel Firth of Gatehead, Marsden and his brother Cooper, under the name S & C Firth Ltd. Later, up until the late 1950's, it was run by Cooper's sons, Herbert Arnold and William Schofield Firth.*

*After passing the mill, look beyond it towards the former Lingards Wood Bottom Sunday School (near the A62). It was opened in 1863 just inside the Marsden boundary, since the Earl of Dartmouth would not allow non-conformist chapels or schools in Slaithwaite. The school was famous for its athletic teams, and its climbing team was so successful it was banned from competitions!*

*Half a mile further on, the towpath passes closely under the walls of Cellars Clough Mill. A mill has existed here since at least 1801; between c.1851 and 1887 it was a cotton-spinning mill owned by Dowse and Collins; in 1888 it passed into the ownership of Fisher, Firth & Co, woollen manufacturers, and was run by Samuel Firth of Gatehead, followed by his son Frank and grandson George, until manufacturing ceased in 1994. Beyond the mill are its sizeable millponds, and on the right you pass Sandhill Cottages, back-to-back housing built in the 1850s for the mill workers.*

*The canal passes between the millpond and a reservoir; this is Sparth Reservoir, which held 8.15 million gallons when it was constructed to store water to feed the canal. Previously, the river Colne took a wide bend to the north across the present reservoir bed, and it had to be re-routed. Since at least 1950 the reservoir has been used by local people for recreational swimming; a favourite activity was to slide down the muddy bank on the northern side into the water!*

*The canal then ascends a flight of locks. Just before you reach the pool between locks 34E and 35E, look to your left across the river Colne; along the far bank remnants of stonework provide evidence of the former Sewage Works, constructed by Marsden Urban District Council around 1900. At that time, the river was heavily polluted by the woollen mills, but has now been returned to purity.*

*Pause just after the canal passes under a road. On the opposite bank there was originally a wharf. During the 20th century, lorries would pass along it to load up with coal from seven coal "shoots", which were filled from railway trucks on a siding on the land above. On the near bank, where the cottages now stand, there was a warehouse in the early 19th century; this probably gave the road (Warehouse Hill) its name.*

*Across the road, on the site of the terraced housing, stood a large early mill, The Factory; and below it was another, Upperend Mill, with a millpond fed by the river Colne. They were used for cotton spinning from the 1790s to 1809; possibly then for woollen manufacture; for silk spinning between c.1830 to the 1870s, and again for woollens, including shawl weaving, from about 1880. They were powered both by a water wheel and by a steam engine which burned coal brought in on the canal.*

*As you continue along the towpath, notice the raised ground to either side. The ground to your right was raised in 1912 when Tunnel End Reservoir, which had become silted up, was dredged out and the silt dumped here. The land to the left was raised by dumping of spoil from the excavation of the Standedge double railway tunnels (completed 1894), and at various times held railway sidings and buildings including a railway ironworks.*