



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



Email- marsden.walkersarewelcome@yahoo.co.uk
Web- www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.talktalk.net

All walks start and finish at:

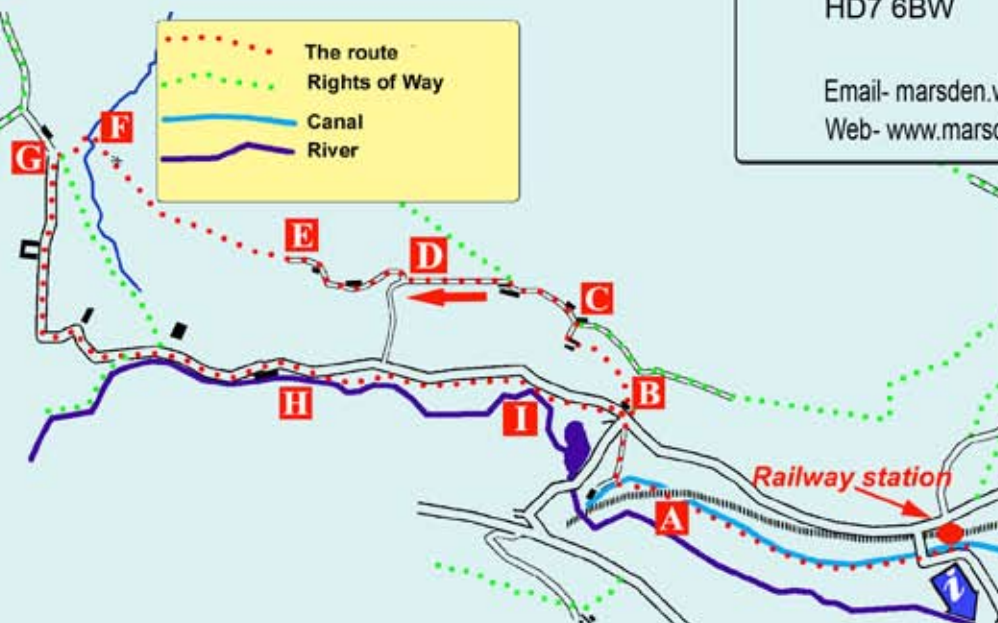
Platform 3
Marsden Railway Station
Station Road
Marsden
HD7 6AX



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

Wear suitable clothing and footwear, and take an OS map.

The route is along public rights of way. Report problems to- highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk



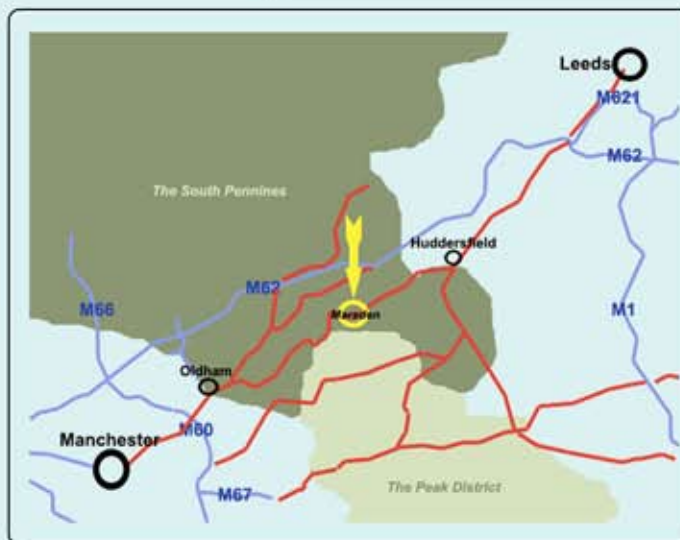
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Visit- www.marsdenhistory.co.uk

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38/40a Peel Street
Marsden
HD7 6BW

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Full historical notes available from our website.



Marsden Walkers Are Welcome



Piper Holes

A 3 mile walk to the head of the Colne Valley in West Yorkshire with some very short easy to moderate ascents and descents.

Visiting the historic Standedge Tunnels, aging farmsteads and ancient routes with far reaching views over the wild and rugged landscape of the Marsden Moors.

Important information for visitors

Country Code Note

- Take your litter home.
- Close gates behind you.
- Keep dogs under close control at ALL times.



Piper Holes Walk Route and Historical Notes

Length 3 Miles (page 2)

From the railway station walk along the canal towpath westwards towards Tunnel End.

The glory days of Marsden Railway Station are gone. It previously had canopies over the platforms; a railway ticket office standing on stilts over the railway, with access from the road bridge, was demolished in 1966

Your path takes you along a landscape much altered by the creation of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal (which reached Marsden from Huddersfield in 1804 and Ashton via the Standedge Tunnel in 1811) and of the railway (first line/tunnel opened in 1849 second tunnel/line completed in 1870 and opened in 1871; two additional lines with double railway tunnel completed in 1894). The woodland area to your left and the heathery slope to your right were created from their excavation spoil.

A Pass under a railway bridge then cross a bridge over the canal.

As you pass under the first railway bridge, notice where projecting stones in the wall to your left have been eroded into lines by the towropes of horse-drawn canal barges.

Notice the fine stone warehouse across the canal, now the Standedge Centre. In 1835 Joseph Dowse, owner of the corn mill at Hey Green further up the valley, advertised space to let in the newly constructed warehouse, complete with "wharf and crane". No doubt the Dowses, who owned boats, used the canal to ship grain to and flour from their mill. Between 1849 and 1854 the warehouse was extended to accommodate a railway siding which reached it from the Marsden direction. By 1885 it had passed into the hands of Walsh Brothers, Manufacturing Chemists, and was used as a "Magnesia" warehouse, possibly to store magnesia (magnesium oxide) and perhaps to manufacture Milk of Magnesia. It later became a canal store for the LNWR, whose predecessor was the Huddersfield and Manchester Railway and Canal Company. In 2001 the warehouse was converted into the present Standedge Visitor Centre.

From the canal bridge you have a good view of the canal tunnel entering the hillside. If you have time, drop into the Visitor Centre to learn more about the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and the Standedge Tunnel. Notice the large embankment behind the Tunnel End cottages, strengthened in the late 20th century. Behind it is Tunnel End Reservoir, constructed on the river Colne to supply water to the canal. The river is led from the reservoir over the tunnel entrance, in an aqueduct and stepped spillway. On 20th September 1946, after heavy rain, a boulder 5ft in diameter was swept down the spillway and breached the wall. The water swept away the earth under the railway tracks, leaving them dangling in the air; fortunately an express train had just passed through. It took four weeks to bring the south line back into use.

Turn right, away from the Standedge Tunnel entrance up a short roadway to the Tunnel End Pub.

Just before the pub, notice the row of cottages on the left with an 1845 date. They housed railway workers, and were locally known as Teapot Row – the story is that the women used to make tea for the railway navvies. The pub, formerly known as the Junction Hotel, had come into existence by 1861.

B Pass the entrance and turn left behind the pub.

Follow the path through a small wooden gate then a large wooden field gate and across a field to a group of buildings at Orchard Hey. Walk through an old metal field gate and into the yard between the houses and turn right immediately past the house on your right through a small metal gate.

For the next mile, the route leads you past some of the oldest houses in Marsden. They housed families engaged both in small-scale farming and in domestic woollen manufacture, a way of life which persisted from perhaps as far back as the 15th century until the beginning of the 19th century.

From the fields, you pass first into the hamlet of The Hey, in existence from 1668 or earlier. The largest house, Hey (with a 1744 date stone) was the home of Samuel Bower, one of the founders of early Marsden woollen manufacturers Bower and Robinson. It was also the birthplace and early home of feminist Dora Marsden (1882-1960). Dora, the daughter of a woollen waste dealer, attended Owens College Manchester, worked as a teacher, then became an organiser for the Pankhurst's suffragette organisation, the WSPU; she quickly established a reputation both "courage and heroism" and "ready wit and repartee". Later she published and edited The Freewoman; a Weekly Feminist Review, and her own philosophical writings.

Piper Holes Walk Route and Historical Notes

Length 3 Miles (Page 3)

C Walk up to where the track divides in front of a row of houses. Turn left. The track continues to another group of buildings on your left.

This is Berry Greave; inside the porch (not visible) are date stones "I.E.W. 1685" and "AH 1852". A small Particular Baptist congregation met here around 1845, served by Oldham preachers Jesse Ainsworth and James Holliday. Adult baptisms took place at an open-air "place for immersion" at the end of the farmhouse building. However, after James Holliday left around 1848, the congregation soon collapsed.

After passing the buildings continue along a road for about 200 yards to a junction.

D Here take the right hand fork across a small stream then past a house on your right to another on your left.

The first house is Near Troughs. The settlement of Troughs (or Troves) dates from the late 17th century or before; note the 1740 date stone on the present house.

E Behind the house a narrow walled track leads to open moorland. Follow a path, which occasionally forks, but keep to the upward right fork.

The path passes over a short boardwalk, then through a gate then another boardwalk.

After this second boardwalk, keep right, climbing a little until you can see a bench near a ruined building (Piper Holes).

Piper Holes was inhabited into the twentieth century. It is hard for us to imagine living in such an isolated spot, drawing water from a spring or stream, and perhaps using peat cut from the moorland on the fire.

F Pass the ruin then drop down to a stream and up the other side to a road.

After joining the road, you may wish to divert right along it for a short distance, to view Lower Green Owers and the farms beyond it. The highest, Higher Green Owers, was at one time the Dean Brewery. These moorland edge farms were created from land taken in piecemeal from the moor with the permission of the Lord of the Manor of Marsden, or enclosed from common grazing pastures by agreement. They were cleared of stone and, with immense effort, made fertile for pasture and perhaps oats. Marsden never had a public Enclosure Act, though one was mooted in 1810.

G Turn left (southward) along the road passing a building on your right.

This fine former farm, Bank Top, with its huge barn and many outbuildings, dates from the late 19th century; it was converted into housing in the 1990s.

Continue along the road as it weaves its way down and eventually reaches the river and continues past the Hey Green Hotel towards Marsden.

At the first bend in the road, pause to look over the wall southwards. This is a view full of history. Far below you is the old packhorse bridge at Eastergate, called, it is said, after a woman called Esther who ran an adjacent inn. Eastergate stands at the start of the packhorse route, the Rapes Highway, which runs over the moors to Rochdale. Beyond it stretches the moorland pasture of Close Moss, which was used for sheep grazing, and to the right is March Hill, where archaeologists have studied Mesolithic flint workings. Across the valley, note the A62 running on a well-engineered gradient around Pule Hill. This section, opened for traffic in 1839, was a great improvement on the steeper roads running around the other side of Pule Hill. Inns sprang up along it; for example, from here you can see Shepherd's Boy and the Coach and Horses, which are now private houses. Note also several stone quarries worked in the 19th century. The tower-like structures to be seen on the western side of Pule Hill are ventilation shafts for the canal and railways which run below the hill.

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Length 3 Miles (Page 4)

At the next bend in the road, glance left to see Blake Lee, a settlement whose first known mention is 1691. In the 1880s it was a "pleasure house" run by John Hirst; visitors would come by train or canal, and walk to Blake Lee to enjoy the scenery and ham teas. In the early 20th century it became a guesthouse, and at the time when the Temperance movement was crusading against "strong drink", a temperance hotel.

Pause again when you reach Hey Green Hotel. Haigh Greene was mentioned in 1691, but the present fine house of Hey Green was inhabited in the early to mid 19th century by the Dowses, a rich family who owned the corn mill further down the road. Later it passed into the hands of Joseph Crowther, Marsden woollen manufacturer. The weir which you can see just above the bridge over the river was used to lead water down a culvert to the millpond, and the hand-operated paddle can still be seen.

Over the bridge (built by John Dowse in 1839) look up the private road; the stones lining the route are not, as is sometimes thought, tenter posts, but posts for railings. This bridge was the scene of a tragedy on 23rd July 1889 when Captain Frederick Brook of The Hey went over the west side of the bridge with his horse and trap; his body was found in a deep pool.

Down the road, look out for a wrought-iron gate in the wall on your left. The building behind it was an early electricity generator which served the house; however, the date on the blue plaque has been questioned as there is some evidence the mill existed on this site some 15 years later than the date given. The gate design is based on a story – for which no evidence has been found – that a heated pool was constructed for the Portuguese wife of a Hey Green proprietor who felt the cold.

A little further down, Hey Green Corn mill formerly stood on the bend, on the opposite side of the road to the row of cottages. Its predecessor was the first woollen fulling mill in Marsden; a 1709 document shows that Robert France of Edgend agreed to build it; and a number of Marsden clothiers agreed to take their cloth to it. Fulling was the process of pounding woollen cloth in water to thicken and mat the fibres – a process which would have considerably polluted the river. In 1858 the corn mill became Hey Green cum Dean brewery, linked with Dean Brewery at Higher Green Owers and operated by "John France & Sons, Ale & Porter Brewers, Aerated Water Manufacturers". By 1905 the building was a ruin.

The cottages date from around 1820; those with arches were formerly cart-sheds and a smithy, belonging to the Dowses of Hey Green House and mill. The furthest cottage was once a gas-works; the black marks on the wall probably result from the process of converting gas from coal. It was converted to a house in 1885, when its fine east end was added.

H Shortly after a row of cottages on your right, turn through a wooden gate onto a riverside path, which after about 700 yards returns to the road by the Tunnel End Pub.

Tunnel End Reservoir was much larger when built in 1789 – 100 million litres – and extended almost up to the cottages. It has silted up considerably over two centuries to create the attractive landscape with winding river and marsh we see today. It was dredged out in 1912 and the silt was carried away by a 3'0" narrow-gauge railway which crossed the canal, ran along the canal towpath below Tunnel End, and deposited spoil on the tip above Warehouse Hill in Marsden village.

Notice the narrow water-channel between the path and the road; this is the "mill-owner's goit". It was constructed when Tunnel End Reservoir was built, at the insistence of the mill-owners, to ensure a continuous supply of water in Colne to operate their mills, and emerges in the river just below the aqueduct at Tunnel End.

I Turn right after the pub and down the road returning to the Standedge visitors centre then retrace your route along the canal and return to the Railway Station.