Try a Trail...

Pennine Way NATIONAL TRAIL

NATURAL ENGLAND

pennine yorkshire
pennineyorkshire.com

Standedge circuit

10 miles (16 km) – moderate circular walk with some steep slopes

Walking from **Marsden**

1 Starting at Marsden Railway Station go down Station Road and through the tunnel under the A62.

2 Straight across the roundabout and go up Binn Road bearing left when the road forks at the post box and dead end sign.

3 At the public bridleway sign leave the tarmac road and bear right along the track towards the green gate. Follow the track.

4 At the Pennine Way Fingerpost follow the footpath down into the valley to the right and across the footbridge. Follow the path up the slope.

5 At the concrete structure with an aerial follow the path to the right and cross the shallow stream at the small sluice.

6 Cross the obvious bridge at Black Moss Reservoir, going along the embankment and then follow the path left along the fenceline.

7 At the reservoir end turn right onto the flagged path.

8 Join the track at the Peak and Northern Footpath Society sign and bear left.

9 At the car park cross the road and go up the obvious track opposite.

10 Turn right off the track over the stile at the Pennine Way/Oldham Way fingerpost. Follow the obvious path along the edge to the trig point and onwards.

11 At the stone waymark follow the Pennine Way to the right.

12 As you approach the A640 road bear sharply right along the obvious packhorse route. Follow the route back into the valley bottom.

13 Cross the packhorse bridge and follow the footpath along the riverside to the minor road.

14 Follow the minor road and then follow the Tunnel End Reservoir path to the Standedge Tunnel entrance.

15 Once you have had a look at the tunnel and visitor centre follow the towpath back to the railway station.

Standedge circuit

Start Marsden railway station

Distance 10 miles (16 km)
325m climb with some steep slopes

Terrain Tarmac, tracks, flagged paths, rough moorland & towpath

Time 4 hours (approx)

Refreshment & public toilets There are pubs, cafes and toilets in Marsden and at the Standedge Tunnel. (Opening times vary)

How to get there Rail services from Huddersfield, Leeds and Manchester. Buses from Huddersfield

More information Marsden Information Point: 20-26 Peel Street; 01484 845595; marsden.informationpoint@kirklees.gov.uk (Closed Sun, Mon all day & Tue morning)

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Photographs by Steve Westwood

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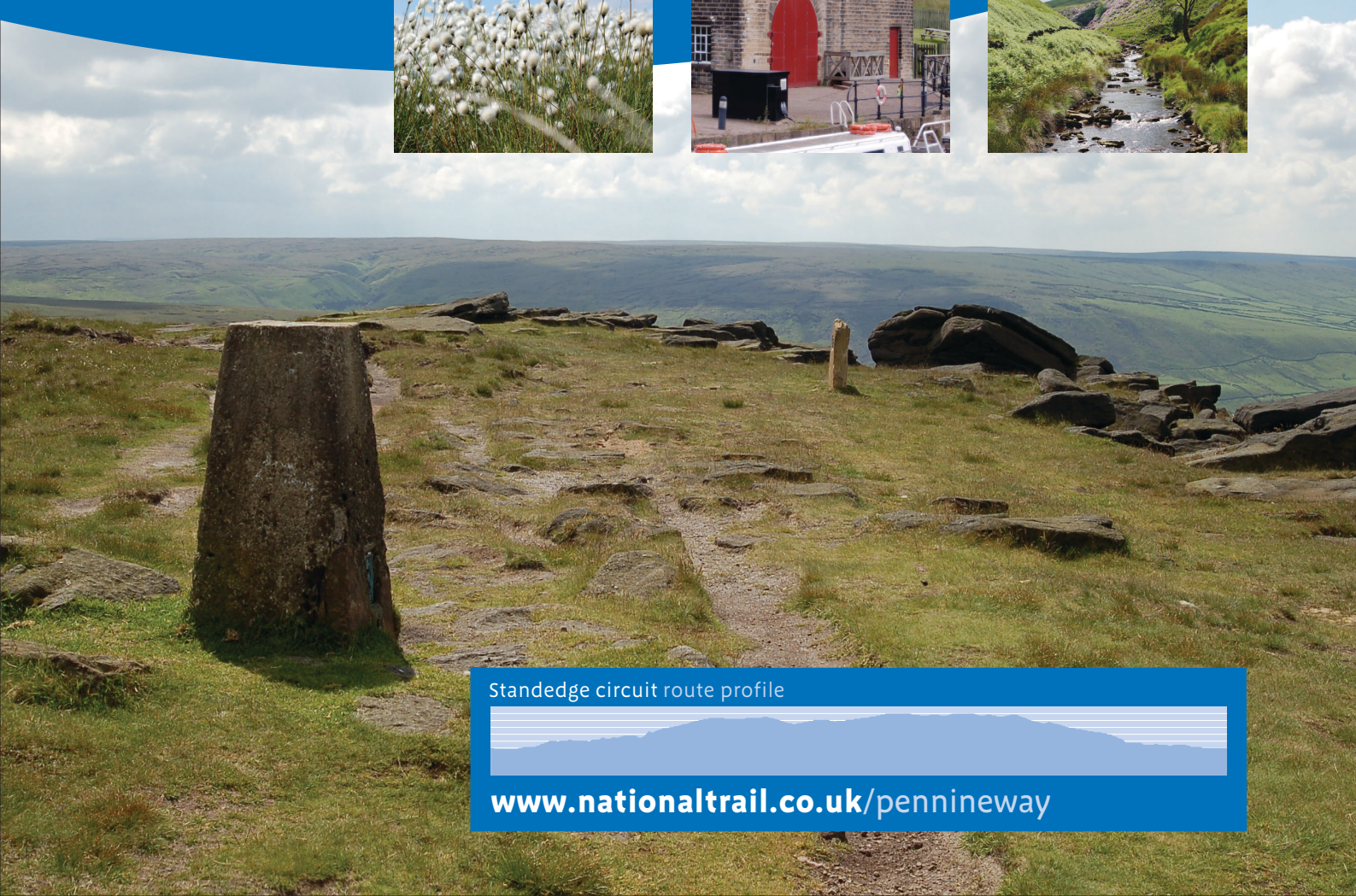
The walk starts at Marsden, a large village located at the head of the Colne Valley surrounded by flower strewn pastures and the stunning wild moorland of the south Pennines. Once a thriving textile town on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal it now supports a thriving cultural scene for arts, crafts and music and has its own theatre company.

Standedge Tunnel – The first Standedge tunnel took seventeen years to build. The first boat went through in December 1810. The tunnel is not wide enough for a towpath, so boats were 'legged' through the three miles. Expert leggers could do the trip with an empty boat in 1 hour 20 minutes, and 3 hours with a full load. The horses were led over the hills to join the boat at the other end.

The Railway – The Huddersfield and Manchester Railway Company bought the canal in 1846 for £150,885, which spelt the end of the canal as a commercial concern.
The railway to Stalybridge was opened in 1849, and trade on the canal declined until it was abandoned in 1944. There are three railway tunnels at Standedge – the one in current use is over 3 miles long.

The Marsden Cuckoo – Signs that the long harsh winter was turning into spring were extremely important for people living in the Pennines and according to tradition the sound of the first cuckoo is heard in the Colne Valley on 24 April at Marsden Spring Cattle Fair. The story goes that in order to prolong the spring a group of well-intentioned villagers tried to capture a cuckoo by building a wall around it roost. Alas, no matter how many stones they added to the wall the cuckoo always made its escape to which onlookers observed, with typical Yorkshire wit, that the wall '...were nobbut a course too low'.



Standedge circuit route profile

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennineway