



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:

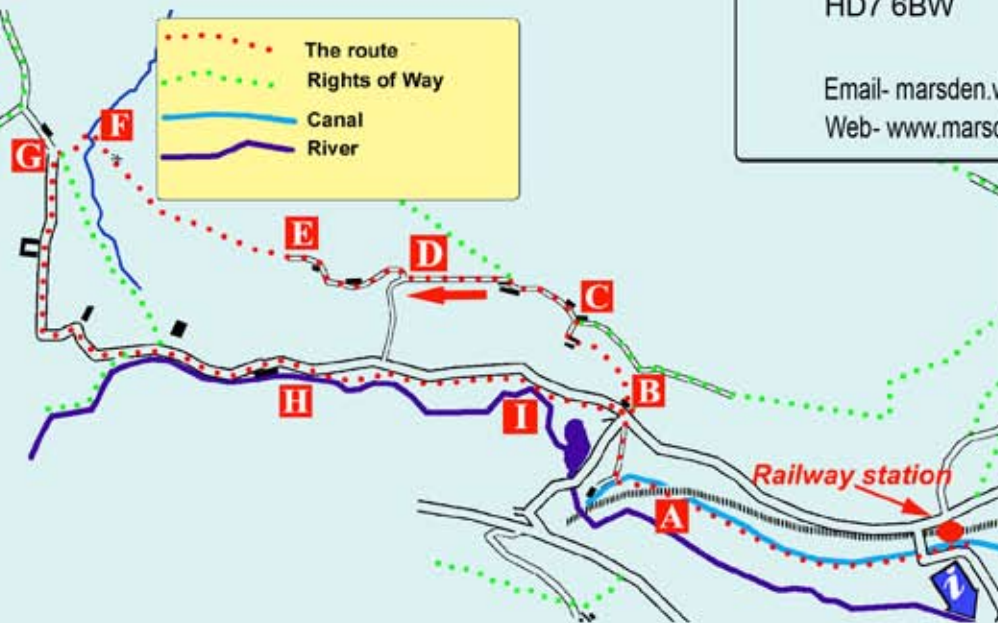
Platform 3
Marsden Railway Station
Station Road
Marsden
HD7 6AX



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



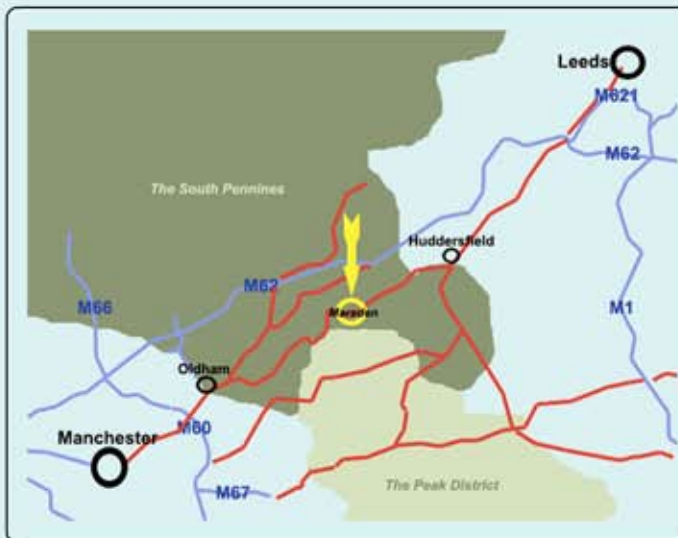
This leaflet has been produced with the help of the Marsden History Group.

Visit- www.marsdenhistory.co.uk

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

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Full historical notes available from our website.



Marsden Walkers Are Welcome



Piper Holes

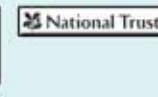
A 3 mile walk to the head of the Colne Valley in West Yorkshire with some very short easy to moderate ascents and descents.

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 route description

3 miles/ 4.8 km

From the **Railway Station** walk along the canal towpath westwards towards the Tunnel End.

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

Turn right away from the Tunnel entrance up a short roadway to the Tunnel End Inn, now closed.

(The canal reached Marsden in 1804. The Standedge Tunnel opened in 1811.)



(For the next mile the route leads you past some of the oldest houses in Marsden. Habitation here dates back to the 15th Century.)

C Walk up to the T-junction in front of a row of houses and turn left.

The track continues to Berry Greave Farm on your left.

Continue along the road for about 200 yards to a junction.



D Here turn right across a small stream then past Troaves Farm on your right and up to a house on your left.

(The settlement of Troughs (or Troves) dates from the late 17th century or before. Note the 1740 date stone.)



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.

Through an old metal field gate and into the yard between the houses and turn right immediately past the small house on your right and through a small metal gate.



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



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.)

(At the first left bend in the road, pause to look over the wall Southwards. 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 which runs over the moors to Rochdale.)

To the right is March Hill, where archaeologists have studied Mesolithic flint workings. Note the A62 running around Pule Hill. See also several stone quarries worked in the 19th century.

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, through a gate then down to another boardwalk.



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

(Looking to your right is Lower Green Owers and the farms beyond it. Above is Higher Green Owers, this at one time the Dean Brewery.)



The tower-like structures are ventilation shafts for the canal and railways which run below the hill.

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.

Continue along the road as it weaves its way down and eventually reaches the river. Do not cross the bridge- carry straight on past the Hey Green Hotel keeping the river on your right.

Haigh Greene was mentioned in 1691, but the present fine house 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 Joseph Crowther, Marsden woollen manufacturer lived here.

Look right over the bridge (built by John Dowse in 1839) and up the private road. The stones lining the route are not, as is sometimes thought, tenter posts, but posts for railings.

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. 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.)

H Shortly after Lower Hey Green Cottages on your right, turn right through a wooden gate onto a riverside path. Eventually arrive back at the road by the Tunnel End Pub.

(Tunnel End Reservoir was built in 1789 and extended almost up to the cottages. It has silted up considerably



I Turn right opposite 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.

