

**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)

**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.

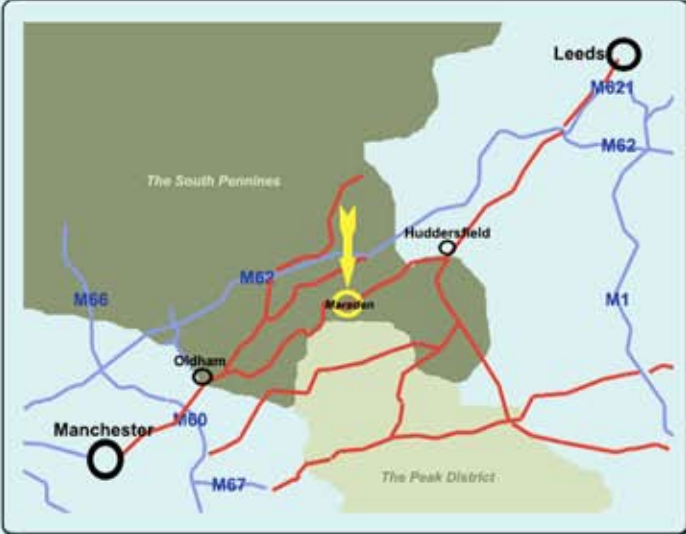
The route is along public rights of way. Report problems to- [highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk)

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



**Swellands**

This 6.5 mile walk will take you from the pleasant village of Marsden in West Yorkshire into the scenic Wessenden Valley beside ancient woodlands, deep upland reservoirs and onto wild expanses of rugged peat moorland rich in wildlife and steeped in industrial heritage. This walk contains some steep ascents, descents and rough terrain.

**Important information for visitors**

**Country Code Note**

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

## Swellands route description 6.5 miles/ 10.5 km



**WARNING** Part of this walk is on open moorland paths and there are some steep rugged sections.

From the **Railway Station**, go down Station Road towards the village centre.

At the junction take the right fork and cross the bridge over the river onto Church Lane with the church on your right.

Leave the road as it bends up to the right and bear left along the road between the houses opposite.

Pass the Old Cobblers on your left, cross the river and continue under the road bridge to your right.

Join Fall Lane and continue away from Marsden to the roundabout.



**A** Take the road across the roundabout; Binn Road.

*(Here stood Ottiwells Mill, run by William Horsfall. In 1812, he was shot dead by the Luddites. Three men later hanged for his murder.)*

Continue to climb up Binn Road. 200 yards after the last housing on your right you pass many steps leading down the damside back to Marsden.

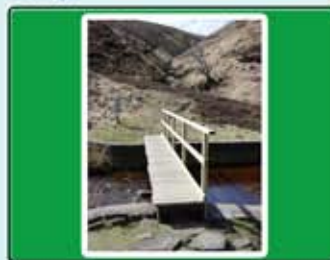
**B** Take the wide track ahead on the right, and continue along it beside Butterley Reservoir.

*(Butterly Reservoir was Completed in 1906 and took 15 years to build.)*



**C** Continue to the second reservoir. 50 yards past the embankment pass through a gate to your right and down a track beside the reservoir.

*(Blakeley Reservoir was constructed in 1903 to supply water to Huddersfield.)*



**E** The path crosses a stream, and climbs a steep stepped slope. Continue on this mainly flagged moorland path upward for about ¾ mile with the stream on your left. Arrive at Black Moss and Swellands Reservoirs.

*(Black Moss Reservoir built in 1806 and Swellands Reservoir were built to feed the Huddersfield Narrow Canal.)*



**G** Do not continue on the path to your left, but go down and climb across the stream. Your route lies along the raised causeway to your right. Continue for 0.6 miles past a pond on your right, then through a cutting, and come to a conduit which goes under the road.

*(The 1815 "Second" Wakefield to Austerlands Turnpike road.)*



**D** Continue on the path until it turns to the right and crosses a bridge. Climb a steep path, and on reaching the stone structure at the top, turn right past the Marsden Moor Heritage Trail marker, and follow the path as it passes above a deep valley to your right.



**F** Cross the small bridge and the embankment. Turn left and soon pass through a large wooden gate. After 50 yards turn right up a flagged path to a kissing-gate. Continue, pass through another kissing-gate; as you descend you reach a standing stone.

*(Ahead is Redbrook Reservoir, built to feed the Canal.)*



**H** Continue for a 1/4 mile then turn left on a broad path and drop down to ford a stream.

Turn right, cross a bridge over another stream, and climb up a broad path to the road.

Turn right along the road a little way to reach a junction with a road on your left.



*(As you cross the second stream examine the structure of the old stone bridge. In 1852 a house called "Old Bridge House" stood here.)*



**I** Take the road to the left (Old Mount Road),

*(The route of the "First" Turnpike, constructed by John Metcalfe around 1759.)*

After a few yards take the broad track which leads off to the left towards Hades Farm. Continue along the track for about half a mile.

**J** When you see a stone barn on your right, take the track just after it leading downhill. When you come to a wall corner just after the barn, take the right fork, and descend to pass a house (Green Top with date 1671) on the left, and join Old Mount Road.

*(This was the home of Mary Firth, who died in 1784, it is said she was aged 111.)*



**K** Turn left down Old Mount Road. Continue down the road for half a mile to the A62 Manchester Road.

*(The "founders", London workhouse children brought to Marsden to work in the cotton mills at the beginning of the 19th century, lived at Throstle Nest or nearby.)*

**L** Cross the road and pass down the road opposite. At the junction, cross to Station Road and follow it up to the railway station.

*(Opposite the church is the site of the former church built in 1758 to replace an earlier chapel. Notice the old gravestones and family tomb of Enoch Taylor, iron founder.)*

