

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 on public rights of way. Report problems to-
highways.ross@kirklees.gov.uk

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

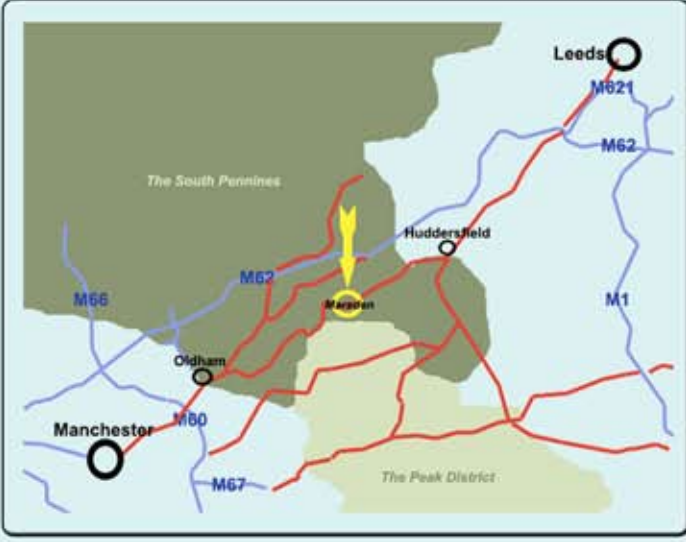
Email- marsden.walkersarewelcome@yahoo.co.uk
 Web- www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.talktalk.net

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

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



Cat Holes

This is a 2.5 mile walk exploring a variety of terrains in the upper Colne Valley in West Yorkshire with one short uphill climb.

The route follows a section of the historic Huddersfield Narrow Canal passing sites of industrial heritage, picturesque woodlands and characteristic farmlands typical of this part of the South Pennines.

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

Marsden Walkers Are Welcome ©2012

Cat Holes route description

2.5 miles/ 4 km

From the **Railway Station** join the towpath eastwards away from the road bridge (which crosses the canal and railway). Immediately pass under two bridges.

A Shortly the towpath drops down under a road bridge and there are houses on the left (north) side of the canal.

(On the opposite bank was a wharf and a warehouse where the cottages now stand, hence 'Warehouse Hill'.)



B Pass a winding hole. (A circular pool used for turning narrow boats around)

(Just before the pool look to your right across the River Colne for remnants of stonework, evidence of the former Sewage Works.)

C After about ¾ mile you enter a wooded section with the river close by on your right.

(To your right is a mill-stream taking water from the river to maintain the level of the millpond. Once every mill had one; this is a rare survivor.)



D Exit the woods to see a large millpond on your right and Sparth Reservoir on your left. After Lock 33E cross the stone bridge and join a flagged path beside the Reservoir. *(The reservoir was built in 1807 to feed the canal.)*

(As you near the end of the reservoir, look right to the millpond and beyond it to Cellars Clough Mill.

A mill has existed here since 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 the Firth family ran it, grandfather, father and son, until manufacturing ceased in 1994.)

Continue until you reach a broad track. Turn left and pass a house on your right.



Continue up to the road then turn left for a few yards then right onto Netherwood Lane which passes under the railway.



E Ignore the first right turn and continue until a fork in the track then bear right into a wooded area.

(Across the clough is the hamlet of Slaithwaite Hall which dates from the early 16th century.)

(The track leads to a dis-used quarry which may have been used to construct Cellars Clough Mill.)

The track eventually turns sharp left by the quarry then curves right and left again. Ahead is Netherwood Farm.



F 100 yards before the house turn left over a stile and cross the field. Over a broken-down wall to a stile in the far wall and onto a track. Turn left and walk down the track for several yards.

G Join a narrow path on your right by the way marker post and a gap in the wall with woodland on the left and fields on the right.

Continue along the path eventually crossing a stream which falls into a deep clough.



The path turns left along the edge of the clough then right and reaches a track below a farm.

Turn left and follow the track as it curves left and climbs to a stile and gate.



H As you pass the gate another track climbs steeply on the right.

Ignore this and carry on, soon dropping down to an open area with views of the Colne Valley and Marsden.

Keep right along the road and past houses on your left.

(On the left are old settlements, including Old House, Dirker Bank and Dirker. These were inhabited by clothiers who combined a little farming with woollen weaving.)



Continue until you arrive at a short grassy track.

Take the grassy track to a large white house on your right. Turn left onto the tarmac track.

At the bottom turn right onto Dirker Drive then left onto Station Road and return to the start.