



Friends of ROSE HILL Station

WALK 1

ROSE HILL STATION - MACCLESFIELD CANAL - HIGHER POYNTON – LYME PARK - GRITSTONE TRAIL - DISLEY - PEAK FOREST CANAL - MARPLE.

Notes: - Total distance 9 miles - easy tracks - towpath - some rocky tracks walking boots advised - walking poles optional - can be muddy.

Classification - 'moderate' with numerous refreshment stops.

Start: - Rose Hill railway station - Trains from Manchester Piccadilly except Sundays
- Buses 383 / 384 – Stockport circular
358 – Stockport - Hayfield
375 – Stockport – Mellor.

Stage 1

Turn left off the platform across the car park to Railway Road with the allotments on your right. The entrance to Middlewood Way is signposted in front of you. Go along Middlewood Way (the track bed of the Rose Hill to Macclesfield railway) and turn left at the stile in the hedge on to Marple Golf Course (this is the Cown Edge Way).

Follow the path through the edge of the wood above the gully (**can be slippery here**) and then straight across the golf course to a gap in the hedge marking the boundary with the Macclesfield Canal.

Distance so far 0.75 mile.

Stage 2

Turn right on to the canal towpath. Note the Goyt Mill on your left, which is a fine example of a spinning mill. The chimney now gone was a landmark for miles around. Follow the canal towpath through to bridge 15 at Higher Poynton marina. The towpath provides a nice walk through pleasant countryside. At bridge 11 you pass under the A6 road where the Bulls Head pub sits alongside the canal and road. The number 199 Buxton – Stockport – Manchester Airport buses pass along the A6. On reaching bridge 15 at the marina there is a canal side café / shop and about 50 yards down the road to the left the Boars Head pub and a further coffee shop alongside. Also of interest is the site of Higher Poynton railway station, which is now a picnic area. There is also the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre with information about the various Poynton collieries which used to operate in this area. Open each day, usually unstaffed, Ranger Service 01625 383700, toilets and local event notice board. Bus number 391 Middlewood to Stockport bus passes the Boars Head pub.

Distance so far 3.25 miles

Stage 3

Leave the canal and turn left to cross over bridge 15 and continue up the lane for about 100 yards, over a cattle grid and straight ahead along the track by the edge of the wood signed Haresteads Farm. Continue along the track past the farm on your right and follow the track gently uphill. You reach a wooden gate across the track marking the entrance to the National Trust Lyme Park estate and deer park. Carry on uphill on the track. Behind you is now a good view over the Cheshire Plain and Manchester. At the top the track divides. Follow the left hand track round and down the hill into the car park at Lyme Hall.

Here you will find the National Trust Lyme Hall and gardens. There is a refreshment and information kiosk in the car park and down by the Lake is a cafeteria and toilets.

Distance so far 4.25 miles.

Stage 4

Leave the car park by the steps to the left of the information kiosk. At the top of the steps outside the main entrance to the Hall follow the road uphill bending to the left with the old stable building to your right. Continue along the road with the wood and metal fence on your right. Lyme Cage can be seen on your left. You are now on the Gritstone Trail and are heading towards the East Gate entrance to the Park. Skirt a small copse on your right and drop down to the East Gate Lodge. From this track you get good long distance views of the moors of the Dark Peak and Kinder Scout.

Follow the track downhill, past the Bowstones path on your right, to the bridge over the stream. Currently this bridge is closed and a temporary wooden bridge has been built to the left. Cross the bridge and up the rocky track past the Millennium Wood notice board on the right. At the top of the slope bear left at the signpost marked Gritstone Way. This bit is now known as Green Lane.

Distance so far 5.50 miles

Stage 5

Follow the path and after a slight hollow bear left with it at a right angle with a signpost up on the bank to your right. Pass through the gate and the path goes steadily downhill between hedgerows. There are two small reservoirs to your left. When you reach the 'T' junction keep straight on and the track becomes a lane which drops steadily down towards Disley village. The lane bears left at the bottom and then right again past a post box and down the hill into the centre of the village. Here are a number of pubs and refreshment places. Buxton – Stockport – Manchester trains call at Disley station and bus 199 passes through.

Distance so far 6.5 miles.

Stage 6

At the cross road traffic lights bear right along the A6 main road, cross over and take Hollinwood Road just by the Dandy Cock pub down the hill and under the railway. After the bridge take the left hand fork past the steps coming down on the left. Continue down the lane with good views of Kinder Scout Edge on the right, until you come to a small cottage on the left. Veer right here across the swing bridge and on to the Peak Forest canal towpath. Turn left along the towpath and have a pleasant walk with good views back to bridge 1 at Top Lock in Marple. A refreshment stop can be made at the Sportsman's Arms in Strines by means of a signed path 'Cobden Edge' through the towpath hedge and down the field to the main road.

When you reach bridge 1 at Top Lock at the junction of the Peak Forest and Macclesfield canals cross the bridge and walk down past the locks to lock 13 at the locally known Possett Bridge on the main road.

Here you have three alternatives: -

- continue down the canal to lock 9, turn right down the hill to Marple railway station.
- buses 383/384/358/375 from the centre of Marple to your left.
- turn left through the centre of Marple and follow the main road straight down to Rose Hill railway station, where the Railway pub is handy for some final and well deserved refreshment.

Total distance 9.5 miles.

Disclaimer

FORHS hope that you obtain considerable enjoyment from these Walks - great care has been taken in their preparation. At the time of recording each walk, all routes follow rights of way or permitted paths, but diversion orders can be made and permissions withdrawn. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the route description, we cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions, or for changes in the details given. All distances are approximate. Paths described may be pleasant for walking in fine weather, but can become slippery, boggy and dangerous in wet and wintry weather.