

WALK 3

ROSE HILL STATION – ETHEROW COUNTRY PARK AND AROUND THE PARK/ ERNOCROFT WOOD – GLOSSOP ROAD

Distance: 8.25 miles/13km, return and including an enjoyable exploration of the park
3.75 miles/ 6km, outward to the Glossop Road

There are many opportunities to reduce the overall distance by choosing an earlier landmark as your outer limit, before turning back.

In particular, you may like to take the bus back to Rose Hill Station, either from Compstall village (4 buses an hour) or from the Glossop Road (1 bus an hour).

Time: 3 hours not including stops, for the return walk.
1 hour from Rose Hill Station to the weir in Etherow.

Description: Easy/moderate although it should be noted that the path around the far end of Etherow is **steep in places** and can feel quite strenuous.
Some **muddy stretches** along the further reaches of the park.
The track up through Ernocroft Wood is **steep**.

Refreshments: The Andrew Arms is reached easily from the village.
There is a café in Etherow Park, by the lake. (Open: Monday – Sunday 10.00a.m. – 5p.m.)
There are several delightful picnic spots in the park and even a shelter, if the weather is inclement.
And, of course, The Railway public house awaits you, with a friendly welcome and well kept beer, on your return to Rose Hill.

Footwear: The majority of the route is well surfaced and any comfortable footwear will suffice.
However, more substantial walking boots are advised if you plan to undertake the climb through Ernocroft Wood or the, potentially, muddy stretch beyond Keg Pool.

Description of the Walk

1. Leave Rose Hill Station by the pedestrian ramp up to the Stockport Road and turn left to the pedestrian lights, to cross Stockport Road. Go up Dale Road and take the first right into Bowden Lane, crossing the railway by the road bridge. You can look back, along the track, to Rose Hill Station. Take the first road to the left (Seven Stiles) and follow the tarmac footpath, which starts on the left hand side of the road and quickly continues behind the houses, crossing cul de sacs and then becomes a tree lined track. Pass, on your right, the cricket field and, soon, the allotments. Cross a road and continue with the track, ahead until it ends and you cross Manor Road. Continue straight on, along Grosvenor Road, cross Winnington Road and take the unadopted road, facing you, down to cross the canal at Lock No. 7. Enjoy the view from the bridge.

1(a) (Not included in the measured distance) You may like to take a short detour, at this point, to follow the canal down hill (turn left) beyond the first lock (Bottom Lock) and under the bridge, as

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far as the famous aqueduct, to view the magnificent engineering of the railway viaduct above and the River Goyt, far below. Return the way you came, to pick up the walk.

2. Turn right and immediately find a gap in the wall and take the steep stone steps down to join a track. (If you prefer to avoid the steps, continue right along the tow path for a short distance to take the track from where it joins the canal side, sloping back down on your left at the next gap in the wall)

Follow the track downhill, over the railway. Marple Station can be seen a short distance to your right (this is the Hope valley line, to Sheffield, for which permission was gained to build in the Brabyn's estate, now Brabyn's Park) and, to your left, the short stretch of tunnel which takes the railway track under the canal. **(1 mile)**

Continue with the downhill path, crossing a broad track and then the tarmac road, which you cross near the entrance to the pavilion car park.

The footpath now leaves the tree cover and levels out as it crosses the park, with football pitches to your left.

3. The River Goyt is now ahead of you and, before you cross, bear left alongside the river on a smaller footpath between trees. The 'GW' sign marks the Goyt Valley Way. Follow this for only 200 yards, to view the confluence of the Goyt and the River Etherow. After heavy rain, the flow of water can be an impressive sight.

Retrace your steps, to rejoin your previous path at the Iron Bridge. There is an explanatory plaque, with a good view of the bridge to the right, before you cross.

Cross the bridge and follow the track ahead to meet the Compstall Road. Turn left.

4. To continue the walk, cross the busy road carefully and then the footpath takes you over the River Etherow by the stone road bridge and soon you arrive at the new, colourful sign for Compstall village and the entrance to Etherow Park is on your right. **(2 miles)**
5. To view the carving of the owl, walk along George Street, to enter the park. Here are the car park, the café, toilets and information centre (where duck food is for sale when the centre is open). To the right hand side of the lake is the model boat club and beyond this, the sailing club. Facing the lake, you may now choose one of three paths to continue your walk into the park – to the left, right or further right of the lake. All the paths will take you the same place, the impressive weir, and we advise only that you take the opportunity to follow one route out and a different route back.
6. You will hear the sound of the water rushing over the weir before you see it. There are picnic tables nearby. However, there are quieter spots as you continue into the park, if you prefer. **(3 miles)**

Here the routes diverge. **To explore further into Etherow Park, to Keg Pool:**

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7. Facing the weir, turn left and follow the sign to Keg Wood and Sunny Corner, bearing right past Weir Cottages. Up to the left are toilets (closed in freezing conditions). Continue along the signed path, climbing gently into Keg Wood. Pass the first sign to Keg Pool and continue ahead, past seats and the viewing point across the Etherow valley towards the Glossop Road. Ignore the GW sign to the left and follow the path to cottage, now named John Hirst cottage (see plaque). You may enter the grassy field, through the white iron gates, with benches and picnic tables. This is a gorgeous spot on a sunny day.
You have the option of a more direct route to Keg Pool by crossing the field, diagonally, by the mown path.
8. However, to continue the measured route, return to the main path which passes another lovely spot for a picnic, with seats and a wooden shelter and then continues its undulating and winding journey through woodland (**4 miles**) to the far boundary of the park. The Etherow Valley stretches away to your left towards Charlesworth, Gamesley and Glossop, glimpsed through the trees.
Eventually, the path brings you down steps and across the brook you have been following, to the far end of Keg Pool.
9. You can walk all round the pool, if you wish. On this occasion, take the left hand direction (clockwise). You are now beginning your return journey. Keg Pool is delightful at all seasons. In autumn colour, the trees surrounding the pool are beautiful in the sunshine. We have visited in a frozen winter when the ice sheet over the surface of the pool has drummed against the edges, resonating eerily.
Walk alongside the pool and cross the wooden footbridge at the end. Follow the slope up to turn left to regain the field by John Hirst cottage.
10. Back at the cottage, turn left on to the main path to retrace your outward route, back to the weir. The **5-mile** point is at the view point on the path above the weir.
If you did not see it on your outward journey, take the return path which will leave the lake on your left, to view the information board about the history of coal mining in Ernocroft Wood.
11. To visit the Andrew Arms, exit the park from this path, by the garden centre and turn left to rejoin George Street.
12. Otherwise, return to the main car park and either walk back to Rose Hill by the same route as you came or take the bus - the stop is on the main road at the junction with George Street.

Bus No. 384.	Monday to Saturday:	Up to 4 per hour
	Sunday and Public Holidays:	Reduced Service

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From the Weir to the Glossop Road:

7. a. Facing the weir, turn right to take the path up through Ernecroft Wood, first passing the entrance to Whitebottom Farm on your left. You will come to a sign on your right to the Tramway Trail, taking you to an Information Board.
8. a. Having explored this, return to the main track and continue uphill as the crash of the weir diminishes. Take the left hand track (signed) near the gate marked 'private' to continue your ascent. The steady climb through the woodland can feel quite strenuous, especially the last (short) section before you reach the road.
9. a. At the Glossop Road, turn right to reach the nearest bus stop (250 yards), to take the bus back to Marple centre. Cross the road with care.

Bus No. 394.	Monday to Friday:	Hourly to 17.40
	Saturday:	Hourly to 16.40
	Sunday and Bank Holidays:	No Service

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.