

ROSE HILL STATION– OFFERTON – OTTERSPOOL – PEAK FOREST CANAL – MARPLE LOCKS AND RETURN

Distance: 7 miles/11.25km, return.

Time: 3 hours, not including stops, for the return walk.
1.25 hours from Rose Hill Station to Otterspool Bridge.

Description: Easy. Be prepared for muddy sections particularly around Stockport Golf Club.

Refreshments: The route begins and ends near the Railway Pub at Rose Hill Station. Robinsons beer and lunchtime meals. There is a café in the garden centre by Otterspool bridge. There are several delightful picnic spots.

Footwear: The majority of the route is well surfaced and any comfortable footwear will suffice. However, more substantial walking boots are always advisable.

Description of the Walk

1. Leave Rose Hill Station almost due south along the Middlewood Way until 50 metres past the houses on your left. Look out for a footpath crossing this old railway track- the Cown Edge Way and turn right between rugby pitches (due west) and descend and cross Torkington Brook in an attractive wooded valley. Bear right when out of the woods and continue in a largely north westerly direction on the edge of the valley for approximately four hundred metres until you come upon a splendid new green Peak and Northern Footpaths signpost. This points you to Offerton still on the Cown Edge Way and you edge the golf course to Offerton Road. (2.5km)
2. Cross Offerton road turn left and after 150 metres turn right into a large housing estate and skirt school grounds. Aim northwest until you reach the busy Stockport Road and Offerton Green. Turn left down the hill past the curry restaurant and petrol station cross Poise Brook and turn right into Holiday Lane. Be particularly careful crossing this busy road. Follow this path past a few houses and cross the brook again and after a short climb and descent in woods you cross the River Goyt on the Jim Fearnley bridge and onto the Midshires Way- a 230-mile footpath linking Buckinghamshire with Stockport. You are now travelling east south east along the Goyt Valley Way which becomes a track and brings you along Mill lane to Otterspool Bridge over the River Goyt. Note the hydro electric works which is a community led scheme to power up to eighty homes. (5km)
3. Do not cross the bridge but take the road for 150metres northwards and cross the road at the pelican crossing. Continue along Vale Road towards the trees and Chadkirk Chapel which is a deconsecrated chapel with a fascinating history. Refreshments may be available here at weekends. Retrace your steps to the Goyt Valley Way through the woods until after a short climb you reach the Peak Forest Canal. Follow the towpath eastwards on the Cheshire Ring Canal Walk up and over

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the canal as Hyde Bank Canal Tunnel has no towpath. Past Hyde Bank Farm and descend to the eastern portal of this short tunnel. (8km) This section of the canal crosses the Goyt on the magnificent aqueduct and you soon reach the first of the sixteen locks which climb 209 feet. This lock system is recognised as one of the most attractive flights on the whole canal network with some of the deepest locks in the country.

4. Continue to lock 7 and cross over the tail of the lock and follow the footpath in a westerly direction along quiet roads and footpaths edging allotments and a dell past a small pumping station onto the Seven Stiles housing estate. Cross the head of two cul de sacs onto Bowden Lane opposite the entrance to the Rose Hill Primary School. Turn right and after crossing the railway bridge, left onto Dale Road and after three hundred metres you are back at the Railway Pub and Rose Hill Station. (11.25km)
5. There is an alternative route to Marple Station from lock 7, skirting Brabyns Tennis Club which shortens the walk by approximately 1km.

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.