

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: Moderate. Be prepared for steep muddy sections particularly in the woods around Torkington Brook.

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

There are also 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

Stage 1

From Rose Hill Station cross the car park to the orchard and mural, then follow the road to the start of the Middlewood Way (an old railway track). Follow this south with houses on your left and playing fields on your right until 50 metres past the houses. Take the footpath on the right between rugby pitches - the Cown Edge Way signposted to Offerton Road. The path descends and crosses Torkington Brook in an attractive wooded valley and skirts the edge the golf course staying mostly within the wood before crossing the Brook again. As the path rises turn right out of the wood and right again now walking along the outside edge of the wood and past a splendid green Peak and Northern Footpaths signpost. Stay on the Cown Edge Way as it crosses fields and the golf course reaching Offerton Road. (2.5km)

Stage 2

Carefully cross Offerton road and go straight ahead on Offerton Old Road and take the path that's a bit hidden just to the right of 2 Foxhill Chase. The path goes through a housing estate, skirting school grounds and eventually brings you to the busy Stockport Road. Cross the road to the pavement and turn left down the hill past the curry restaurant and petrol station (safest to cross back where there is a central reservation) over Poise Brook at the bottom of the valley and then cross the road again to turn right into Holiday Lane. Be particularly careful crossing this busy road. Follow this lane past a few houses and cross the brook again and after a short climb follow the path as it turns left and descends in woods until you cross the River Goyt on the Jim Fearnley bridge. Follow the path (which is part of the Midshires Way - a 230-mile footpath linking Buckinghamshire with Stockport) and turn right when you reach the track (Mill Lane, part of the Goyt Valley Way) at another green Peak and Northern Footpaths signpost.

Stage 3

This takes you to Otterspool Bridge over the River Goyt: Note the hydroelectric works which is a community led scheme to power up to eighty homes. (5km)

Do not cross the bridge (unless you want to visit the café in the garden centre or the Hare & Hounds pub) but take the road for 150 metres northwards and cross the road at the pelican crossing. Turn right down into Vale Road and follow this to Chadkirk Chapel which is a de-consecrated chapel with a fascinating history, just off the road on the right. Refreshments may be available here at weekends. Back on the road continue up the steep hill past the farm and St Chad's Well, and take the steps to the right onto the Peak Forest Canal. Turn right and follow the towpath eastwards on the Cheshire Ring Canal. Walk up and over the canal as Hyde Bank Canal Tunnel has no towpath, turning right past Hyde Bank Farm and descending to the eastern portal of this short tunnel. (8km).

Stage 4

Continue along the towpath: this section of the canal crosses the Goyt on the magnificent aqueduct with the railway viaduct above you, 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.

Stage 5

At lock 7 turn right and cross over the tail of the lock and the road and follow the footpath straight ahead in a westerly direction, continuing along quiet roads and footpaths edging allotments and a dell past a small pumping station. The path crosses the end of two cul de sacs reaching Bowden Lane near 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)

Stage 6

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.