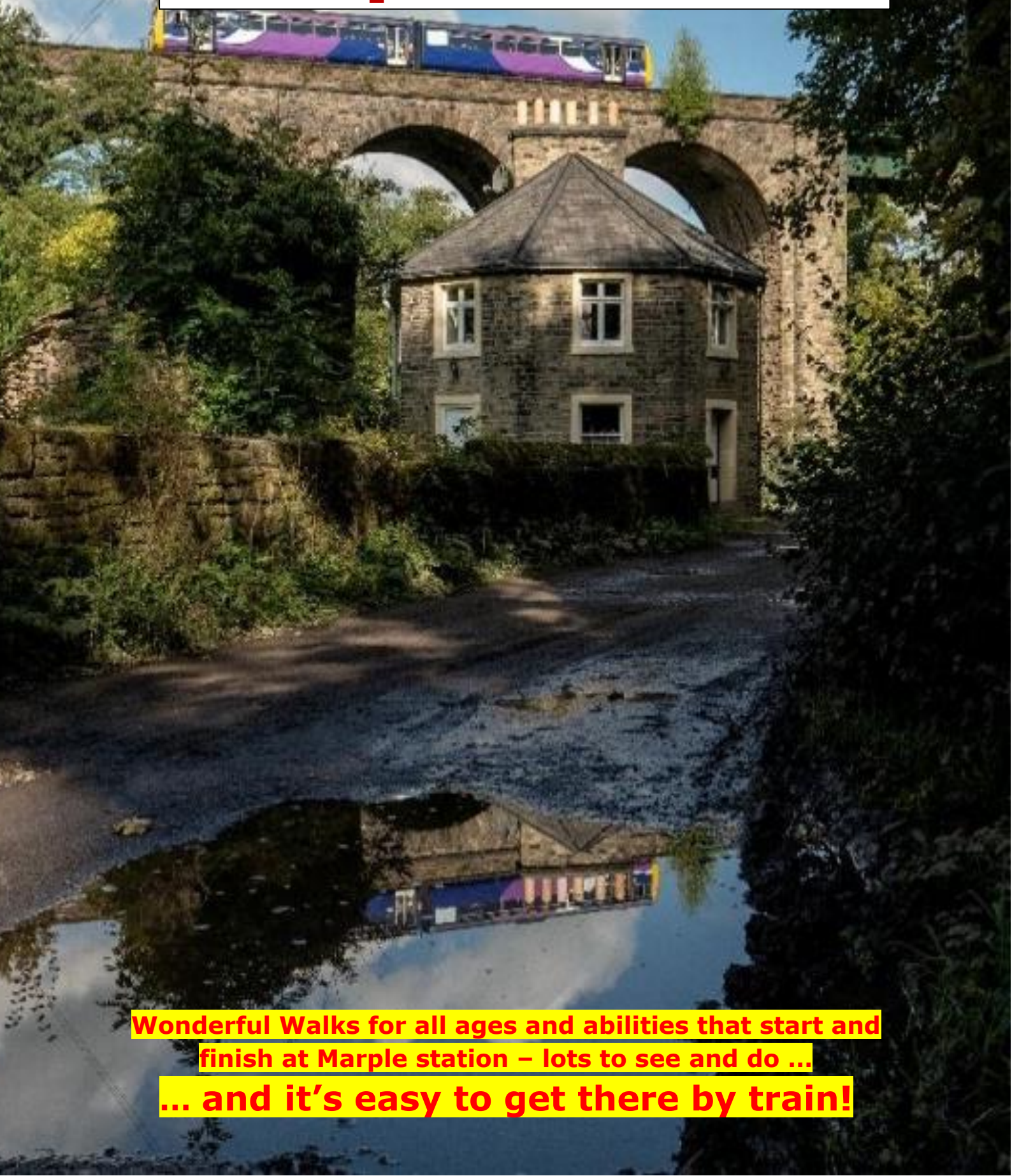


Walks from Marple Station



Wonderful Walks for all ages and abilities that start and finish at Marple station – lots to see and do ...

... and it's easy to get there by train!

INTRODUCTION

Friends of Marple Station is an award-winning voluntary community group set up to improve Marple Station and promote and lobby for improvements to trains and services. We want people to visit Marple by train to explore our wonderful countryside and wildlife. When you return to Marple please see the artwork, planters and other displays provided by Friends of Marple Station and enjoy the wonderful shops, cafes, pubs, and other facilities of our friendly community.

Each of our eight varied walks start and finish at Marple Station. Many can also start or finish at other stations including Romiley, Broadbottom, and Strines. All are on rights of way and suitable for almost anyone. Marple can be gloriously muddy, and some of the paths are rough, so please dress appropriately. Things do change, so tell us at friendsofmarplestation@gmail.com if you spot errors or potential improvements.

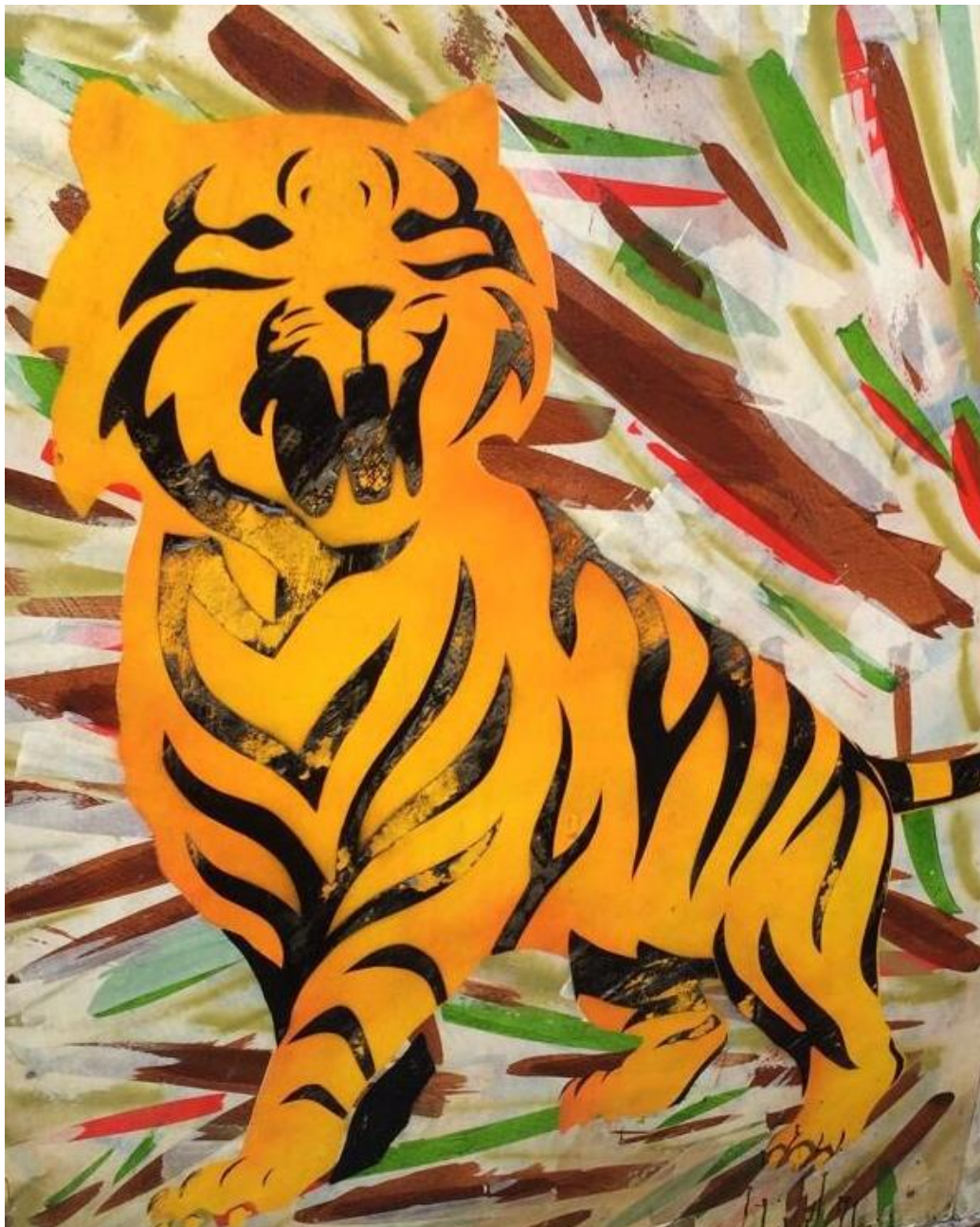
Marple has good train services from all over Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire. In 2021 Marple was served by two trains an hour between Manchester Piccadilly and New Mills Central with one per hour continuing along the scenic Hope Valley to Sheffield. Sunday trains are hourly. Buses 383/4 link Marple, Rose Hill and Romiley stations and Stockport every few minutes. Trains may be cheaper than you think – in 2021 an off-peak return from Manchester to Marple was £6.10 and a Wayfarer allowed off-peak travel anywhere by tram, train or bus in Greater Manchester, the Hope Valley and much of Cheshire/Lancashire for £14.70 a day, or £29.40 for a family.

Thank you to everyone who helped put the walks together, including John Simpson, Jack Warner, Malcolm Booker and Jane Gallwey. Thanks also to Marple District Rambling Club for checking and refining the walks. The club organises an extensive walking programme for people of varying abilities. More details at www.marpleramblers.org or Claude Prime (Membership Secretary) on 0161 483 8596.



This booklet was printed thanks to sponsorship from Northern and Transport for Greater Manchester. The front cover is our 2017 photo competition winner taken by Nigel Valentine. It shows a Pacer crossing Roman Lakes Viaduct.

Peter Black, Friends of Marple Station group – August 2021



The story of the Marple Tiger

Marple Station buildings were demolished in the 1960s and when 'Friends of Marple Station' formed in 2014 there was nothing ... apart from a lone tiger painting on a cabin. The artist was Dan. We tracked him down... this is his story.

'I was pretty interested in making stencils and spray painting them in places. Banksy provided a lot of inspiration. His work is just amazing. I had these big boards at home, and they were perfect for practicing on so one day I just painted the tiger ... after it sat in the passageway at the side of my house for a long time. I had to find a home for it. One night at midnight my friend drove me to the station. We had to put the tiger on the roof and hold on to it and drive down the back streets quite slowly. It was hilarious. Then I screwed it into the wall as well as I could, hoping no one would see it, and it remained for 4/5 years. Then it vanished. I was surprised it stayed for so long.'*

Friends of Marple Station repaired the original and it is displayed in the Manchester-bound waiting room. The cabin (near the steps to Brabyns Brow) has a new version.

Walks all start and finish at Marple Station

	Pages
Walk 1 Roman Lakes and the best of Marple 5.9 km (3.7 miles) - Time 2 hours - relatively easy.	5 - 6
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Walk 4 Hidden delights: Mellor, a Fox and the Upper Peak Forest Canal 10.1 km (6.3 miles) - Time 3.5 to 4 hours - moderate with some climbing	13 - 14
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Walk 1 Roman Lakes and the best of Marple

Distance 5.9 km (3.7 miles)

Ascent 75 metres

Time 2 hours

An easy walk along a rough road to a lost mill, the tranquil Roman Lakes, over the 'Roman Bridge' at Strawberry Hill and the beautiful Peak Forest Canal. Useful websites:

www.romanlakes.co.uk/history_and_nature_trail.htm

www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk/mellor-mill-1792-1892.html

www.marple.website/local-history/samuel-oldknow/marple-lime-kilns.html

Directions

From the main entrance to Marple Station turn left down Brabyns Brow. After the bridge at the bottom of the hill turn right at the traffic lights into Town Street and then right along the track at Low Lea Road to stay parallel to the river – this becomes Bottoms Mill Road as you ascend. At the junction with Lakes Road is the site of Mellor Mill, built by Samuel Oldknow in 1790. Restored recently with a Lottery grant it is now an open site with good picnic places and interpretation boards which describe the history of the Mill.

At the junction of Bottoms Mill Road and Lakes Road turn left and then after about 300 metres turn right and walk down the lane, keeping Roman Lakes to your left. After a while you pass under the railway viaduct and further on at the cottages at Strawberry Hill look for the '**Roman Bridge**' packhorse bridge on your right. Cross the river and follow the path uphill. This crosses the main road and winds uphill (Plucksbridge Road) to reach the Upper Peak Forest Canal where you turn right. The towpath moves to the other bank part way along. When you reach the junction with the Macclesfield canal take the right fork and descend through the locks. You can see the remains of the Lime Kilns (A on the map) by taking a short diversion along Lime Kiln Lane to the right between locks 15 and 16. After lock 9 turn right down Brabyns Brow to the station.

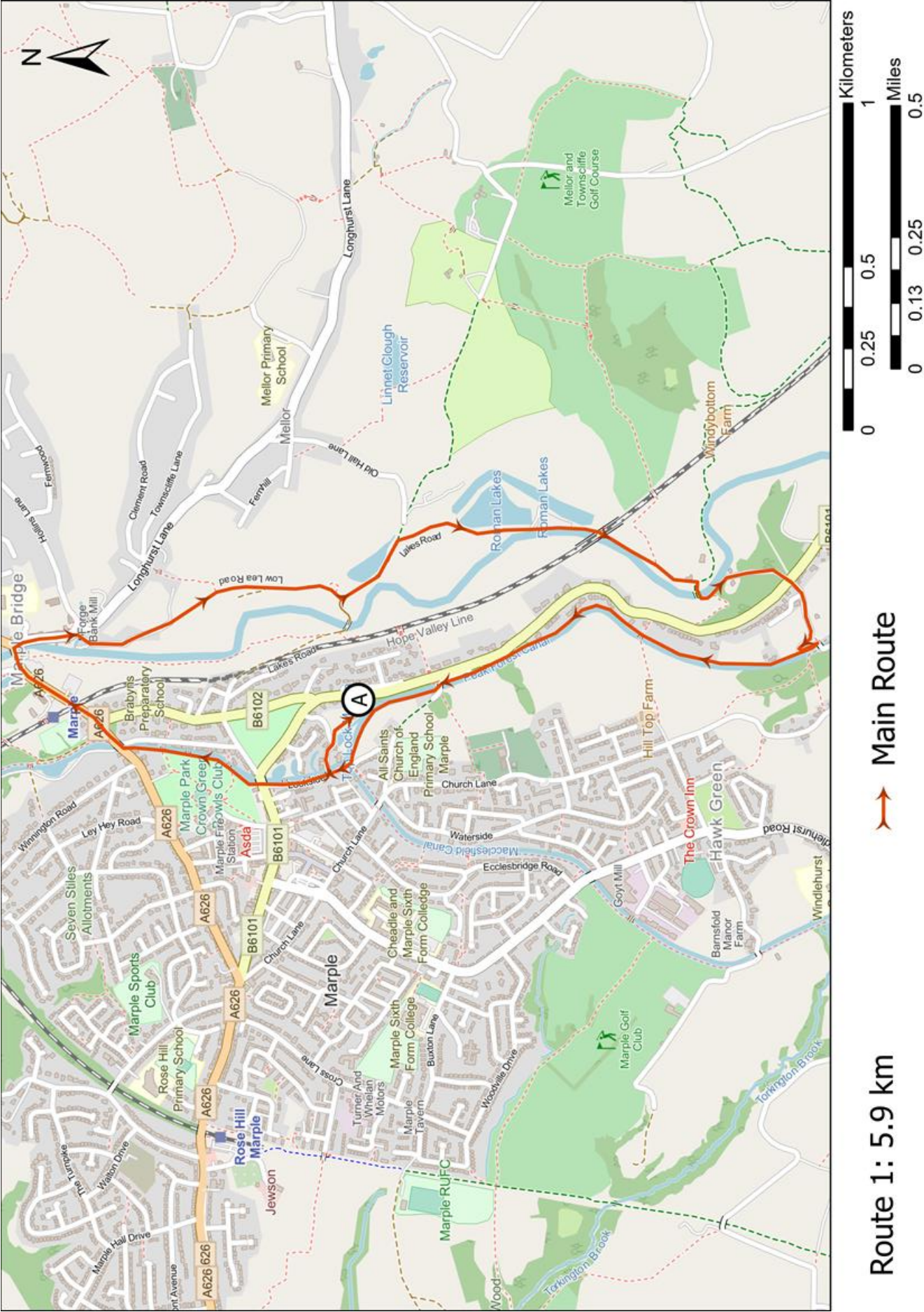
Samuel Oldknow designed the **Lime Kilns** in the old gothic style so that the view from his favourite spot on the Mellor hillside would not be ruined. The main reason for the **Peak Forest Canal** was transport of limestone quarried at Dove Holes in the Peak District via an interchange with a tramway at **Bugsworth Basin** to the booming industries along the route to Manchester. The **Macclesfield Canal** shortened the distance to the Midlands.

It was opened in 1831 at the end of the canal age (after the Liverpool-Manchester rail line) and it had a limited economic life mainly carrying coal and cotton. Mellor Mill once employed over 500 people and the site was recently restored with a Lottery Grant.



1 Lime Kilns near Top Locks

Walk 1 - Map



Walk 2 Mill Brow and Brabyns Park

Distance 8.5 km (5.3 miles)

Ascent 330 metres

Time 2.5 to 3 hours

A moderate walk visiting the lovely scenery and former industry of Mill Brow and the Hare and Hounds (one of our best pubs), a community woodland and Brabyns Park. Some parts of the route can be very muddy and there are a lot of stiles.

Useful websites: www.stockportnaturewatch.co.uk/brabyns-park

Directions

1 From the station car park turn left down Brabyns Brow. Turn right at the traffic lights on to Town Street. Follow the main road towards Mellor which is Longhurst Lane. After about 500 metres take Clement Road on the left, and immediately turn right into Townscliffe Lane. At the top of the hill, you will pass the other end of Clement Road but continue to the end of this lane into a small hamlet. Turn left on a path to Heathy Bank Farm signposted to Mill Brow. After about 100 metres, turn right into the farmyard and cross the cobbled yard to the right. Look for a green sign on the left pointing to a path which starts just inside the drive and passes to the left of the main farm building. Take the path heading over the fields towards Mill Brow. After 500 metres, including one gate and one stile, you reach a lane. Turn left, passing the factory entrance to Primrose Mill on your left then continue up the lane rising to the Hare and Hounds on Ley Lane.



2 Hare and Hounds, Mill Brow (Marple has several others!)

It is hard to imagine that this was once a highly industrialised area. In the late eighteenth century, there were four cotton mills on Mill Brook – Primrose Mill, Clough Mill, Hollywood Head and Holly Vale Mill. There were also coal mines, quarries, and a brick works. The Hare and Hounds car park is an old quarry. By the 1881 census the area had declined and there were 110 uninhabited houses.

2 Turn right at Ley Lane by the pub and follow the road. Ignore lanes to the right (weak bridge) and left (access only). After about 300 m you will cross a stream and take an immediate left turn (Hollywood End Lane). Go through a gate and take the green path until you reach the Hollywoods cottages which you pass on their right via a gate and stile. Ahead there is a metalled lane half right and a path half left. Take the path, crossing over the stream by a wooden bridge. After about 100 metres cross a stile and take the path straight on keeping the fence on your left. Go through a gate by a wooden fence. You may see a side path to the left which cuts across the field, but it is steep and slippery when wet. When you reach the gate and lane (facing Brookbottom Farm) turn left and continue for about 150 metres up the lane. Follow the footpath sign left along a farm track which becomes a path. Keep along the path with the fence to your left until you reach the corner of a field with no stile. Turn right until you reach a gate on your

left and a stile. Cross over the right-hand stile and follow the path which rises to Gird Lane. Turn left onto the lane. After about 300 metres on the lane there is a path to the right – ignore this and take the second path to the right with a green footpath sign just before you reach a converted chapel. Continue along this path for about 500 metres, ignoring paths off to the left until you reach a lane. When you reach a place where a path crosses at right angles, if the path ahead is too muddy you can turn left on the path



3 Converted chapel at Mill Brow

down to Ley Lane. Where the path crosses a drive to a house continue ahead and pass



4 Beautiful landscapes of Brabyns Park

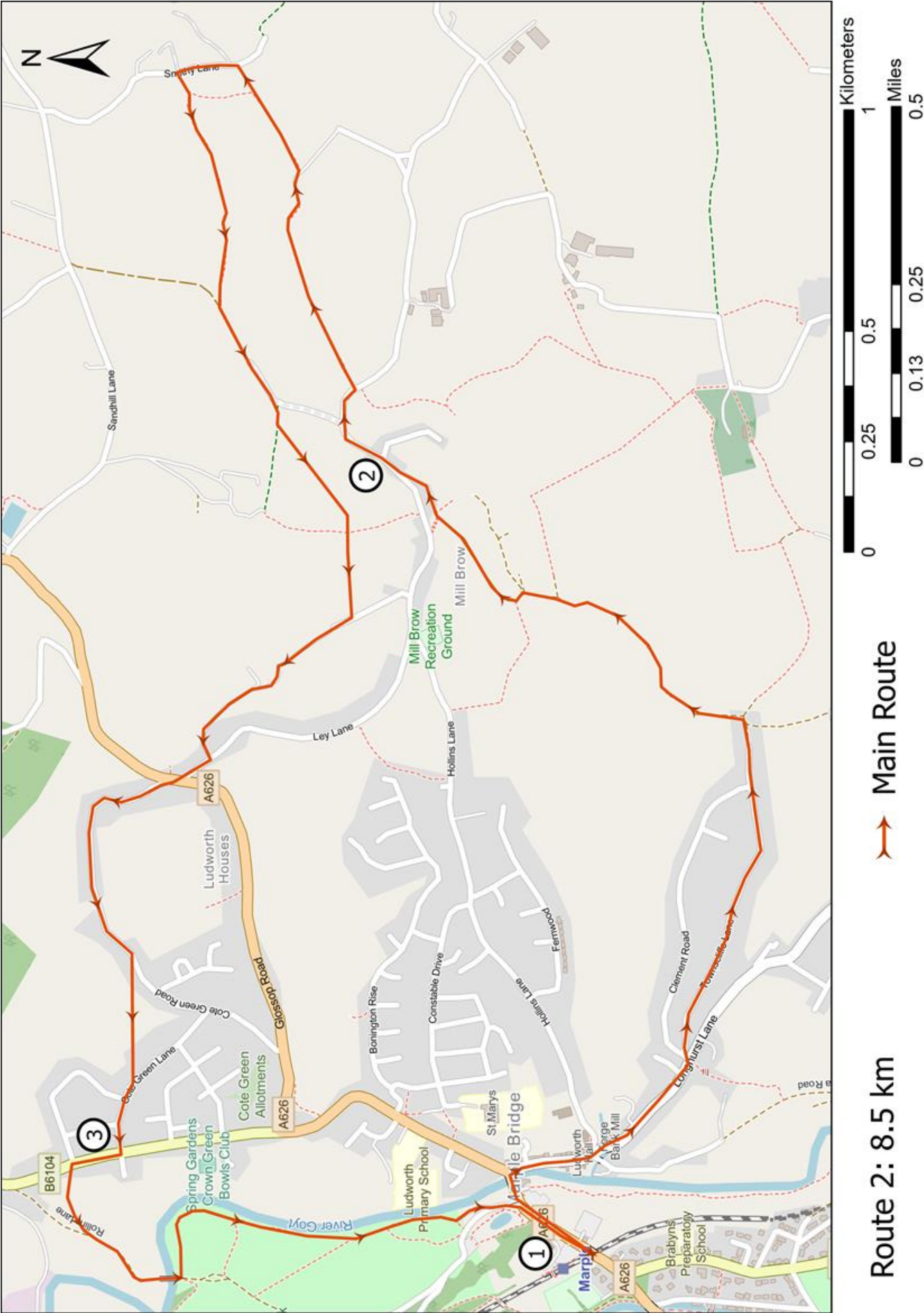
through a small gate. Turn half right onto the lane which eventually joins Ley Lane. Turn right and at the end of Ley Lane cross the main road and go down Cote Green Road opposite.

Look out for four distinctive Poplar trees. Take the path to the right down the side of these trees which opens out onto a park. Follow downhill, exit onto Cote Green Lane, and turn right downhill to Compstall Road.

3 Cross Compstall Road and turn right. After about 100 metres there is side road on the left indicating Rollins Wood Community Woodland. Follow this sign into the wood on a permissive path. The path winds about steadily descending but look out for a sign on a tree on the right indicating Brabyns Park and Iron Bridge. At this sign turn right and descend steeply to a lane. Turn left and follow the track into the park. The track leads you through the park, over the bridge (look for the information point to the left after crossing the bridge – you provide the power for the commentary yourself by winding the handle) follow the path with the river on your left until you reach Brabyns Brow. Turn right up the hill back to the station.

Brabyns Park was a privately estate owned by the Lowe family of lower Marple. Elizabeth Brabin, with her husband Henry built the Georgian Brabyns Hall in 1749 and landscaped the grounds. In 1800 the estate was purchased by Nathaniel Wright and in 1811 the house was extended, a lake added, and chestnut, poplar and cypress trees planted. Ownership passed through the hands of several families until Ann Hudson inherited it in 1866. It continued in the female line until Fanny Hudson died in 1941. The hall was demolished in 1953.

Walk 2 - Map



Walk 3 Mellor and Bottom's Hall

Distance 8.7 km (5.4 miles)

Ascent 230 metres

Time 2.5 to 3 hours

A moderate walk but very boggy and steep in places. Useful websites:

www.romanlakes.co.uk/history_and_nature_trail.htm

www.mellorarchaeology.org.uk/mellor-mill-1792-1892.html

www.marple.website/local-history/samuel-oldknow/marple-lime-kilns.html

1 From the station car park turn left down Brabyns Brow. Turn right at the traffic lights on to Town Street which has excellent shops, cafes and a fish and chip shop. Follow the main road towards Mellor which becomes Longhurst Lane. After about 300 metres uphill take the lane on the left, Clement Road and immediately turn right into Townscliffe Lane. At the top of the hill, you will pass the other end of Clement Road but continue to the end of this lane into a small hamlet. Turn left on a path to Heathy Bank Farm sign-posted Mill Brow. After about 100 metres, turn right into the farmyard and cross the cobbles. There is a green sign pointing to a path which starts just inside a drive and passes to the left of the main farm building. Take the path heading over the fields towards Mill Brow. After about 500 metres, including two gates and one stile, you reach a lane. Turn left, passing the factory entrance to Primrose Mill on your left then continue up the lane rising steadily to the Hare and Hounds on Ley Lane.

2 Turn right at Ley Lane by the Hare and Hounds and follow the road. Ignore lanes to the right (weak bridge) and left (access only). After about 300 m you will cross a stream and immediately turn right onto a footpath at a signpost. The path curves upwards to the left and eventually becomes indistinct. Walk towards a stile and footpath marker ahead across the stile. Keep the fence to the left which leads towards Mellor Hall high up on the hill. This section can be very muddy, and the path is not clear though the Hall is easily seen. Keep to the left as you climb (very steep) and approach the Hall by a narrow passage. (Note that about half-way up the climb a gradually rising path goes off to the right – this can be followed to Mellor Church if the Hall is to be missed out.)



5 Mellor Church

At the Hall turn right and continue down the metalled lane until you reach Mellor Church. If you have some spare time, go right to look over the interesting archaeological site and associated information boards. Enter the churchyard and approach the church. On the left across the graveyard is a gate/stile which leads on to a path steeply downhill towards the main road, Longhurst Lane. Pass over two stiles and angle left at the bottom to locate a footbridge over a stream, followed by steps up to the road.

Cross over Longhurst Lane (busy road) and take the path slightly to the left and opposite which passes a small pond and cuts across a boggy field, joining Gibb Lane. Take the road rising directly opposite which soon bends right. Continue

along the road passing Whetmorhurst Lane on your right. Immediately locate a stone stile on the right onto a footpath. Follow this footpath into a wood, over a small stone slab bridge and turn right when you reach a rough track.

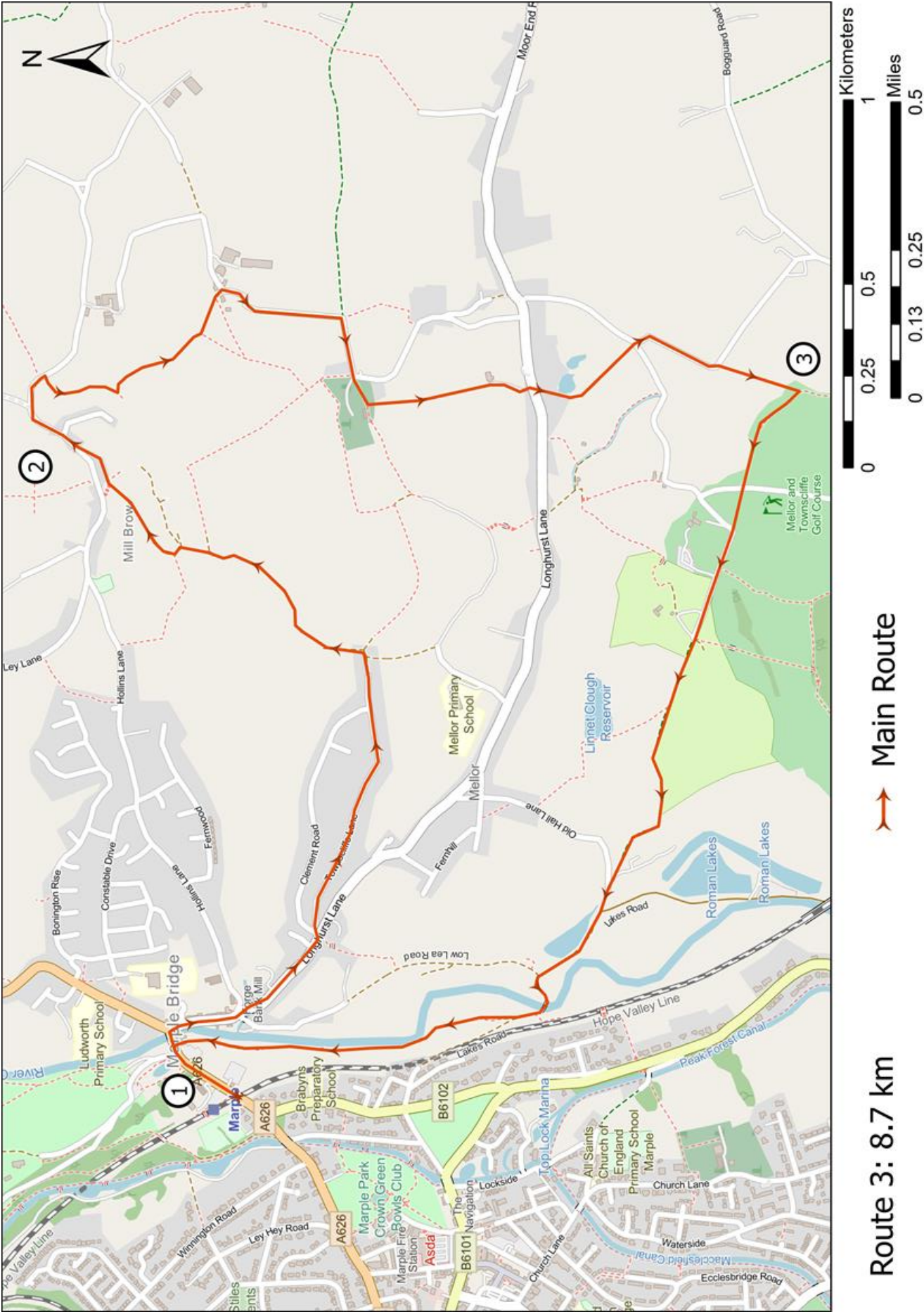
3 Pass through the golf course, keeping straight ahead on the road towards the clubhouse but do not go to the clubhouse. Follow this road round to the left downhill and continue out of the grounds, passing Linnet Clough Scout Camp. The path descends a rough track and reaches a motor road near Bottoms Hall Farm. Turn left at the junction



near the site of Bottoms Mill (more information boards). Go over Bottom's bridge and a short way up the hill turn right through the entrance to the Garden House and along the riverside path to the back of the Midland pub and Brabyns Brow, Turn left uphill back to the station.

6 Roman Legionary

Walk 3 - Map



Walk 4 Mellor, a Fox, and the Upper Peak Forest Canal

Distance: 10.1 km (6.3 miles) Ascent 250 metres Time: 3.5 to 4 hours

A moderate walk of hidden delights with a couple of strenuous climbs to the idyllic and remote Fox Inn and a leisurely stroll back along the peaceful Upper Peak Forest Canal. The walk can be done in two halves by using Strines station which is on the route and is thought to have been the inspiration for the 'Railway Children' book.

Useful website: www.marple.website/community-projects/mellor-cross-appeal.html

1 From the station car park turn left down Brabyns Brow. Turn right at the traffic lights on to Town Street. At the end of the row of shops where the main road starts to climb there is a track on your right, Low Lea Road, straight on which runs parallel to the river. Take this lane to Lakes Road where you turn left. Where the lane splits, take the lane signposted to Mellor. This lane soon passes Bottom's Hall Farm on the right and then narrows to a path which climbs uphill through a wood. There is then a long gradual climb passing Linnet Clough (an adventure site for the Scout and Guide movement) and you pass the golf course clubhouse on a rough tarmacked road. Follow this past the main golf course entrance and turn right onto a track.

2 Continue along the lane passing "The Banks" and eventually you arrive at Brook Bottom and The Fox. The pub interior is a time capsule, and it has a pleasant outside patio.

Take the footpath immediately after this to the right, which follows the stream down the hill to Strines Station. Go under the railway bridge and follow Station Road (past the interesting 'Bruce's Clock' on the right) which leads up to Strines Road. Cross this busy road with care and continue up the lane past a cottage to the Upper Peak Forest Canal.

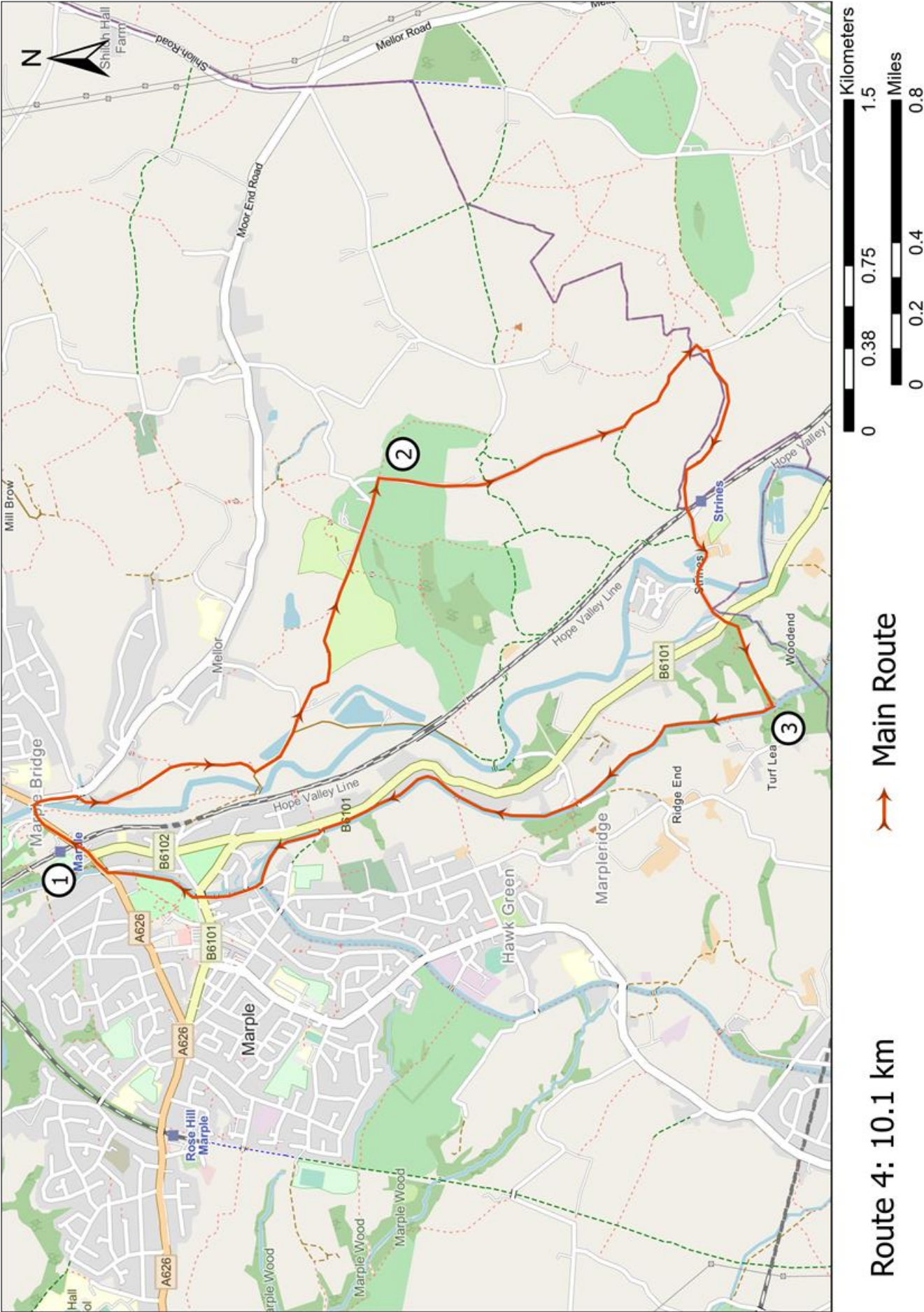


7 Delightful Fox Inn hidden at Brook Bottom

3 Turn right up steps and right onto the towpath and continue until you meet the start of the Macclesfield canal. Go over the bridge and downhill along the lock flight. Cross under Stockport Road using the horse-shaped tunnel – there are plenty of shops and cafes in Marple to the left. Continue down the local flight and after lock 9 turn right down the main road (Brabyns Brow) back to the station.

The **Upper Peak Forest Canal** was completed in 1830 mainly to bring limestone down from Doveholes, southeast of Whaley Bridge. An early casualty of rail competition, commercial traffic ceased in 1922. Navigation was restored in 1974 and it is well-worth exploring as far as the superbly restored Bugsworth Basin and Whaley Bridge terminus.

Walk 4 - Map



Walk 5 Agatha Christie, Canals and Chadkirk Chapel

Distance 7.8 km (4.8 miles)

Time 2.5 to 3 hours

An Agatha Christie themed walk with a great display of spring flowers, the beautiful River Goyt, and a chance to visit Chadkirk Chapel.

Useful websites: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chadkirk_Chapel
<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/chadkirk-chapel-and-country-estate>

Directions

1 From Marple Station turn right up Brabyns Brow and right at the bus stop along a footpath signposted 'Grosvenor Road' above the station. To your right you will see the old water tank supports and the giant Agatha Christie book covers at the station. Turn left up through the woodland and up stone steps to the canal. Go over lock 7 and straight up across a small roundabout then along Grosvenor Road. Next to the dead-end sign for Manor Road is a metal pinch style that runs to the side of Seven Stiles Allotments.

Continue down this path and straight over Ashwood Road onto the other side of the walk, meandering around a small electricity substation, and along the path at the back of houses. You come out at the end of Aspenwood Close cul-de-sac. On the left, the tarmac footpath goes through to Whiteoak Close and again there is a cut through down the side of the houses onto Seven Stiles Drive and the junction with Bowden Lane with its Seven Stiles entrance plaque. Turn right along Bowden Lane and cross over the railway bridge (the line goes to Rose Hill). At the junction with Dale Road turn left and then right onto Kingsbridge Close. As the road bends right, go down the footpath that comes out onto Marsland Road. Take a left, then a right onto Walton Drive and first left onto Flagg Wood Avenue.

At the end of Flagg Wood Avenue, cross over Marple Hall Drive and on the right is a shared cycle and pedestrian cut through that brings you out at Cromwell Avenue where there is a children playground. Walk ahead down Cromwell Avenue and turn right onto Marina Drive. As the bottom of the bend to Marple Hall Drive go through an opening on the left. The area opens out and there is an interpretation board and the Marple Hall date stone. Continue onto a path signposted 'Alan Newton Way', around the edge of Marple Hall High School playing fields. Follow the signpost to Chadkirk Chapel and Romiley and drop down to the River Goyt, on your left until you reach Chadkirk Bridge. Cross the bridge and after about 100 metres follow the Chadkirk Trail sign to the right. Pass through a wooden kissing gate and keep on the low-level path. Turn right along the lane which climbs steeply until you reach a row of terraced houses. To return to Marple, climb the steps on your right and turn right onto the Peak Forest Canal. For Romiley, follow the signs leading under the canal and along Chadkirk Road and Church Lane to the station.

For Marple continue along the towpath. As there is no canal towpath in Hyde Bank tunnel the path takes you over the top. Turn right after the farm and follow the lane. An

opening to the right leads back down to the canal. When you reach the main road after lock 8 turn left to Marple station.

Dame Agatha Christie (1890-1976) has sold a billion books in English and another billion in 44 other languages - just behind Shakespeare and the Bible. She wrote 80 crime novels and short story collections, 19 plays (including the Mousetrap), and 6 novels as Mary Westmacott. Much of her inspiration came from time in the north including Marple when staying with her sister Madge and her extended family at Abney Hall, Cheadle and their countryside retreat at Upper House, Hayfield.

Marple was a major railway station with grand buildings, ornate canopies, four platforms and a large goods yard – now a car park. Horse drawn carriages lined Brabyns Brow. Express trains to St Pancras included a non-stop sleeper. Agatha Christie inevitably passed through and would have soaked in the atmosphere.

Miss Jane Marple, her famous detective was named after Marple Hall, demolished in 1959 and now the site of Marple Hall school. In a letter, Agatha Christie explained to a fan that while staying with a sister in Cheshire (her elder sister Margaret "Madge" had married Sir James Watt of Abney Hall) in the 1930s they went to a sale at Marple Hall. Christie bought two Jacobean oak chairs and wanting a name for her old maid character in 'The Thirteen Problems', thought of Jane Marple. The chairs from the Marple Hall auction are still at her own house, Greenway near Torquay, now a National Trust property.

Marple Wharf Junction and **Aqueduct House** (built 1812) both near bridge 16 on the Peak Forest Canal play a key part in **By the Pricking of My Thumbs** published in 1968 featuring Tommy and Tuppence, although some location details are changed.

A significant part of the story is a house by a canal that Tuppence thinks she has seen through a train window in real life after seeing it in an oil painting. *'I tried to see what the name of the next station was. But you know what railways are nowadays. They have pulled down half the stations and the next one we went through was all torn down, and grass growing over the platforms, and no name board or anything.'* By 1968 Marple Station would have been semi-derelict and reduced to two platforms.

Tuppence goes through old Bradshaw railway guides, maps, and old diaries, to jog her memory. She speculates of it being on-route to places in the north and she tries to remember the journey from the events that had led them to travel by train, including amongst other things 'a sale they had attended' - presumably Marple Hall.

Christie describes the setting of the house as partially wooded, an occasional bridge, sometimes a twisting lane or minor road, a distant farm. She talks of the house being near a factory complex, probably the current Aqueduct Business Park site.

At the end of the chapter, Tuppence decides to find the house and marks a few places on a map in preparation to visit in person. She puts a spot next to a branch railway line (probably Marple Wharf Junction for Rose Hill) and another highlights a "small-town south-east of Medchester" (probably Marple and Manchester) When trying to find the

house by car she talks of Farlingford (probably a play on Farlands, a property at Hayfield that the Watts owned) and Bees Hill (probably Rose Hill). It is written that Tuppence drove lots of roads and hoped there was a road that ran parallel to a railway line and canal to make the house easier to find. She came across a meandering road that seemed to go nowhere, which feels like the track to Aqueduct House. At the end Tuppence hears a goods train overhead, sees a canal bridge and the house.

Chadkirk Chapel

Early records show that there was a chaplain at Chadkirk in 1347. The fact that “kirk” forms part of the name indicates Scandinavian origins of the people who originally worshipped here. The earliest part of the present structure is the half-timbered east end dating back, very probably to the 16th century, the time of the Tudors.

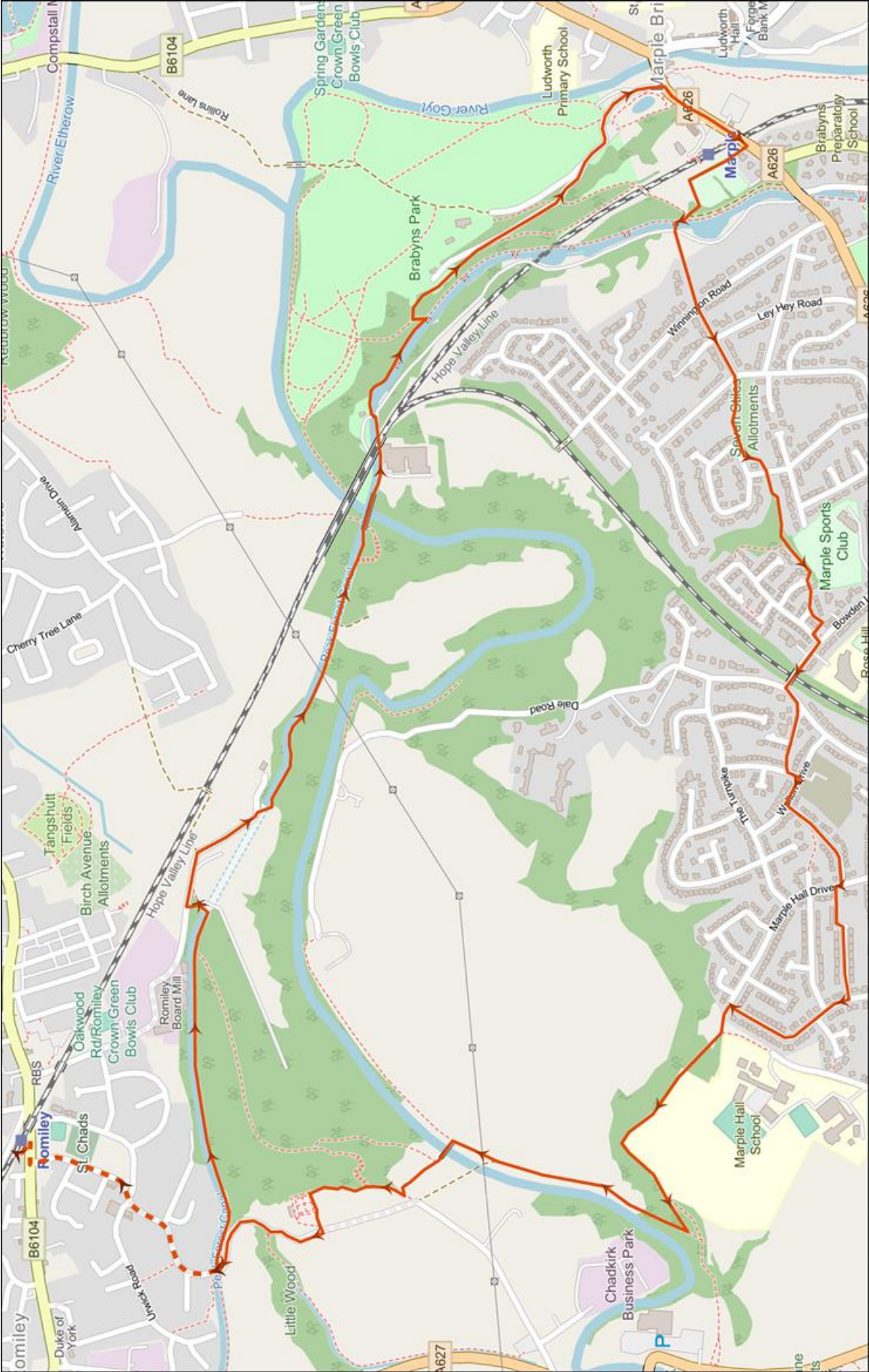
In time, however, the chapel fell into disuse and decay. It passed through a succession of owners and is even reputed to have been used as a stable. Subsequently, it was used by Nonconformists but they were ejected during the reign of Queen Anne when a new chapel was erected at Hatherlow, at the top of the hill overlooking Chadkirk which itself again became neglected and was “in a ruinous condition” until in 1747 it was taken over once again by the Church of England and substantially rebuilt in stone.

Further repairs were carried out in 1761 and 1860. In 1876 there was a restoration when much of the furniture was removed. When St Chads Church was built in 1866 it took over from Chadkirk Chapel as Parish Church. The Chapel was declared redundant in 1971 and was acquired by Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council. In 1974 local government reorganisation abolished “urban districts” and the area was transferred to the newly created Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. The chapel was restored in 1995 and is now open occasionally as a visitor attraction. The grounds are always open and are a good place for a picnic.



8 Chadkirk Chapel

Walk 5 – Map



Route 5: 7.8 km

- ➔ Main route
- ➔ Alternative finish



Walk 6 Etherow, Werneth Low, and Mill Brow

Distance: 13.2 km (8.3 miles)

Time: 4.5 to 5 hours

A longer but rewarding circular walk. You can split the route by following directions to Broadbottom station on the Glossop Line where there are also refreshments. A Wayfarer train ticket is valid on both Marple and Glossop lines. Useful websites:

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Countryside/Welcome-to-Werneth-Low-Country-Park>
<https://www.marple.website/community/community-groups-in-marple/596-friends-of-brabyns-park.html>

Directions

1 Turn left out of the station and down Brabyns Brow. Opposite the car park just above the Midland Pub take the tarmacked road to the left signposted to Brabyns Park. Turn right into the lower car park and follow the footpath along the River Goyt. You pass a stone with the inscription 'July 22nd 1896 laid by the Lord Bishop of Manchester'. Keeping along the path you eventually come to a white house with a bridge to the right over the river. Just before the bridge is a metal column with a handle that you need to wind to get a description of the history of the park. Cross the bridge, which was built in Salford Iron Works in 1813, and follow Rollins Lane track until you reach Compstall Road. Turn left, crossing the bridge over the River Etherow (pavement on the right side of the road). You will soon come to a sign pointing to the right to Etherow Country Park with a café and toilets.



9 Forget Ironbridge, this is Marple's famous Iron Bridge

2 There are several paths through the park to the weir. The lane on the left-hand side of the lake is widest, but the path on the right side is nicer, being next to the river. Before you reach the weir there is a sign pointing to Keg Wood and Sunny Corner on the left side of a small lake. Follow this road for about 300 metres until you see a shelter and convenient bench on the left. (Note: if you reach John Hirst Cottage on the road you have gone too far – this road eventually comes to a dead end). Follow the path up past the shelter through the woods and up to fields on the right. When you next come to a stile turn right and follow the path uphill with great views behind you, heading towards the stile at the top of the field. Go over the stile and turn right onto the lane.

3 You will soon pass through Beacom Farm. Continue straight along this lane which gradually makes its way up the side of Werneth Low with good views to the right towards the Woodhead and Snake Passes. You will soon have the golf course on your left and just by a sign for 'Beacom Road, no unauthorised vehicles' on the left, go over a stile almost hidden to the right of a farm gate and follow the path (if the road turns left uphill, you've missed it). This roughly follows high electricity cables to a stile in the far corner. When you reach the tarmacked lane turn right. You pass Lumn Farm (sign not obvious) on your right, then after about 50 metres take the path on the right pointing to Back Wood. This is a dark, soggy path with overhanging holly branches reminiscent of 'Game of Thrones'. Pass under the power cables and you reach a lane. Take the rather

overgrown path directly opposite. The path meanders through woodland. At an impressive oak tree go forward through the gap in the wire fence. You will eventually hear a stream to your left which you cross. Climb the steps and turn right onto another path. When you reach a lane turn right again passing between several buildings – this is Botham's Hall, a late 17th Century listed building.



4 Walk along the lane. Follow the sign for Hodge Fold. You will soon take a path to the right (through a kissing gate) which leads over a metal bridge.

10 If you see this sign, the path is on the other side of the fence and wall

If you want to go to Broadbottom station do not leave the lane or cross over the bridge but keep on to Hodge Fold. The lane crosses a bridge to the right. The road eventually reaches Broadbottom station with refreshments and shops in the village [5].

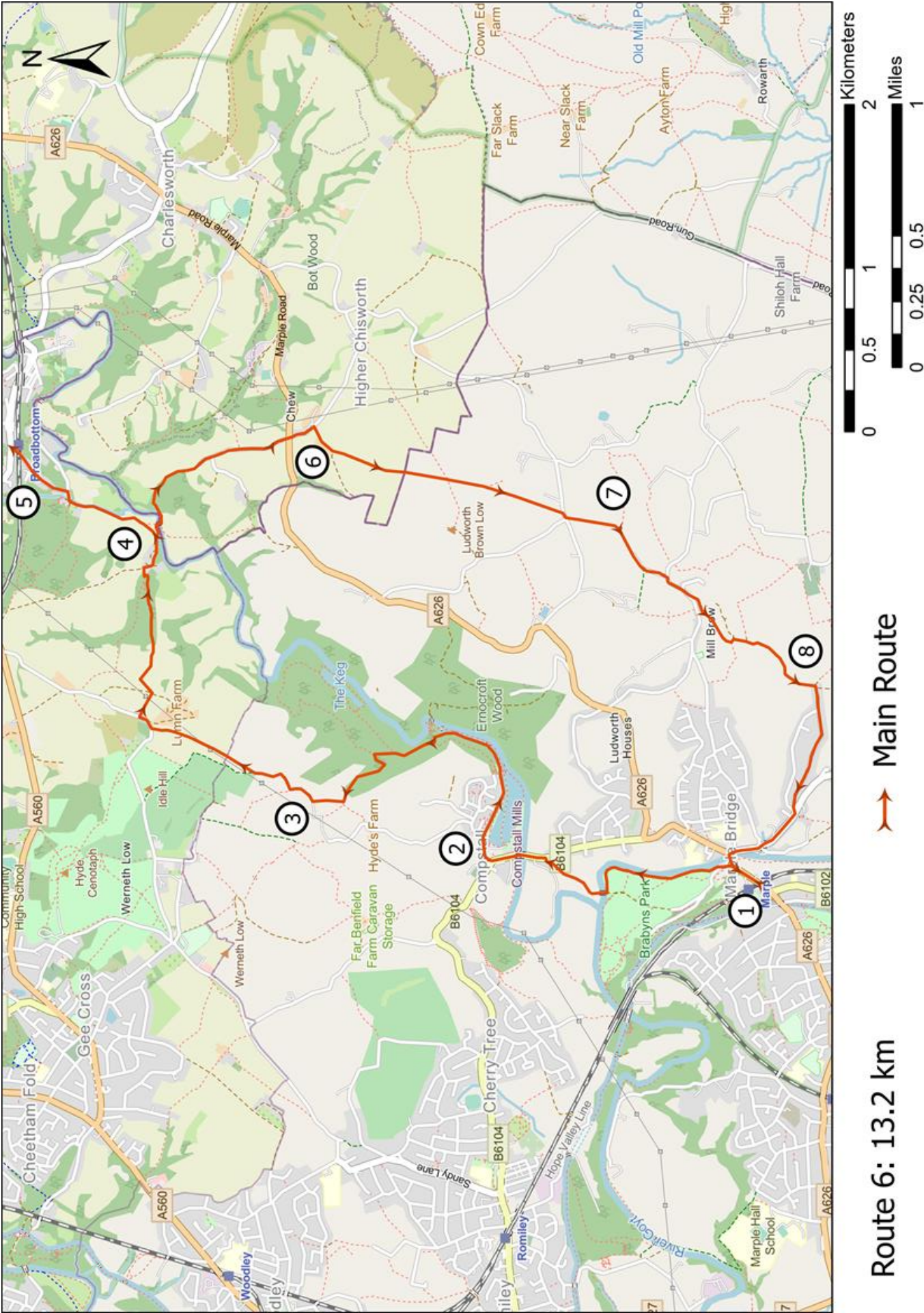
The main route crosses the metal footbridge. Turn left after the bridge and take the path which has the river on your left. This winds uphill through trees. You will soon be walking along the path with a wire fence initially on your right and will pass a stone pillar with a rectangular hole, which I would be interested if anyone can explain the purpose. Go through a gate by some houses, one of which has been named “Owd House”. At the time of writing the barn was being renovated. The lane crosses busy Glossop Road.

6 Across Glossop Road continue up Sandy Lane. After about 250 metres take the rough track to Sandy Farm on your right. Opposite the farmhouse as the track bends right, look on the grassy bank on the left for a stile, which is not easy to see at first. Go over and then continue up the slope with the fence on your left. Cross over a ladder stile and continue up the slope in the same direction. The path may not be distinct. You will come to a gate which you should go through. There is another line of fencing over to your right. Continue along this line of fencing keeping it on your right and crossing over a number of stiles until you reach a wood. Cross over the stile and continue close to the fence keeping it and the wood to your left. At the end of the wood do not go over the stile in the left-hand corner of the field, but the stile about 20 metres to the right. Climb over, and walk down to the road, keeping fence on your left.

7 Virtually straight ahead but slightly to the right is the top of Gird Lane which you should go down towards Mill Brow. Turn right and you will soon come to the Hare and Hounds. Take the path directly opposite the pub which goes downhill and goes over a bridge at the bottom. The first right turn is the entrance to a factory. There is a path going right shortly after this. Take this path over fields and coming out at Heathy Bank farm. After coming out of the farmyard take the lane to the left. After about 100 metres you will come to Townscliffe Farm.

8 Turn right to take the tarmacked Townscliffe Lane, meeting Longhurst Lane where you turn right and walk through Marple Bridge Town Street. At the traffic lights turn left up Brabyns Brow back to the station.

Walk 6 – Map



Walk 7 Marple Panorama Walk

Distance 13.2 km (8.3 miles) Time 3 to 4 hours

Beautiful ramble along the Peak Forest Canal, climbing Werneth Low with spectacular views of Manchester and the Peak District. Down to Etherow Country Park with Bluebell woods, spectacular wildlife and a welcome café with toilets and finishing through Brabyns Park. Some paths can be very muddy. Useful websites:

www.etherowcountrypark.co.uk

<https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Countryside/Welcome-to-Werneth-Low-Country-Park>

Directions

1 From Marple Station turn right and walk up to the Peak Forest canal where you turn right onto the towpath at Lock 9. Follow this for 3.5km down through the locks and over the aqueduct. At one point the canal goes through a tunnel: you go up the steps and continue past Hyde Bank Farm, soon turning left under a bridge to re-join the canal. 550 metres after this you might see Chadkirk Chapel down to your left (in the winter when there are no leaves on the trees). At bridge 14 go under the bridge and take the steps up onto the road and turn left. Here you could walk straight ahead to sample the shops and excellent pubs/cafes of Romiley, or to reach Romiley Station which will take you back to Marple or Manchester.

For Marple take the next left onto Hole House Fold. This is a narrow entrance and cars may be turning swiftly here.

2 Do not go left into the car park for the swimming baths but keep right and after 50 metres turn left up Quarry Road, following the road over the railway bridge. After the bridge turn left following the sign for Highfield Farm. You will soon see a row of terraced houses, the bottom one being called Glendalough. Turn right in front of them and follow the footpath up the hill. At the top you join a track which you should follow as it goes to the left. Sir Ian McKellan once lived in one of these houses.

3 Follow the lane, which turns right at the end of the houses. Shortly after turning right go through a gap between a wall and a fence on the left and follow the path along the wall. After crossing the next stile turn right and follow the path with the wall on your right until you reach another stile which you should cross and turn left onto the lane, passing the house "Wildervank" on the left. 200 metres later take the right-hand fork, and you will see a sign for Heald Wood by a kissing gate. Pass through the gate and follow the path up the slope. After a short distance, take the right fork up the side of a steep bank. A grass covered water reservoir should now be on your right. Keep along the path until you reach two posts. You will now be facing the back of Greave Primary School. Turn right over the stile and continue along the path until you reach the main road. This section can be very wet. At the road turn left then take a right up Werneth Low Road (it has a sign at the bottom stating that it is "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles"). This is not a main road, but vehicles may pass at speed so take care. Pass

“Moorfield”, a modern style house on the right. There is a stile on the left opposite this house but the ground in the field here is very boggy.

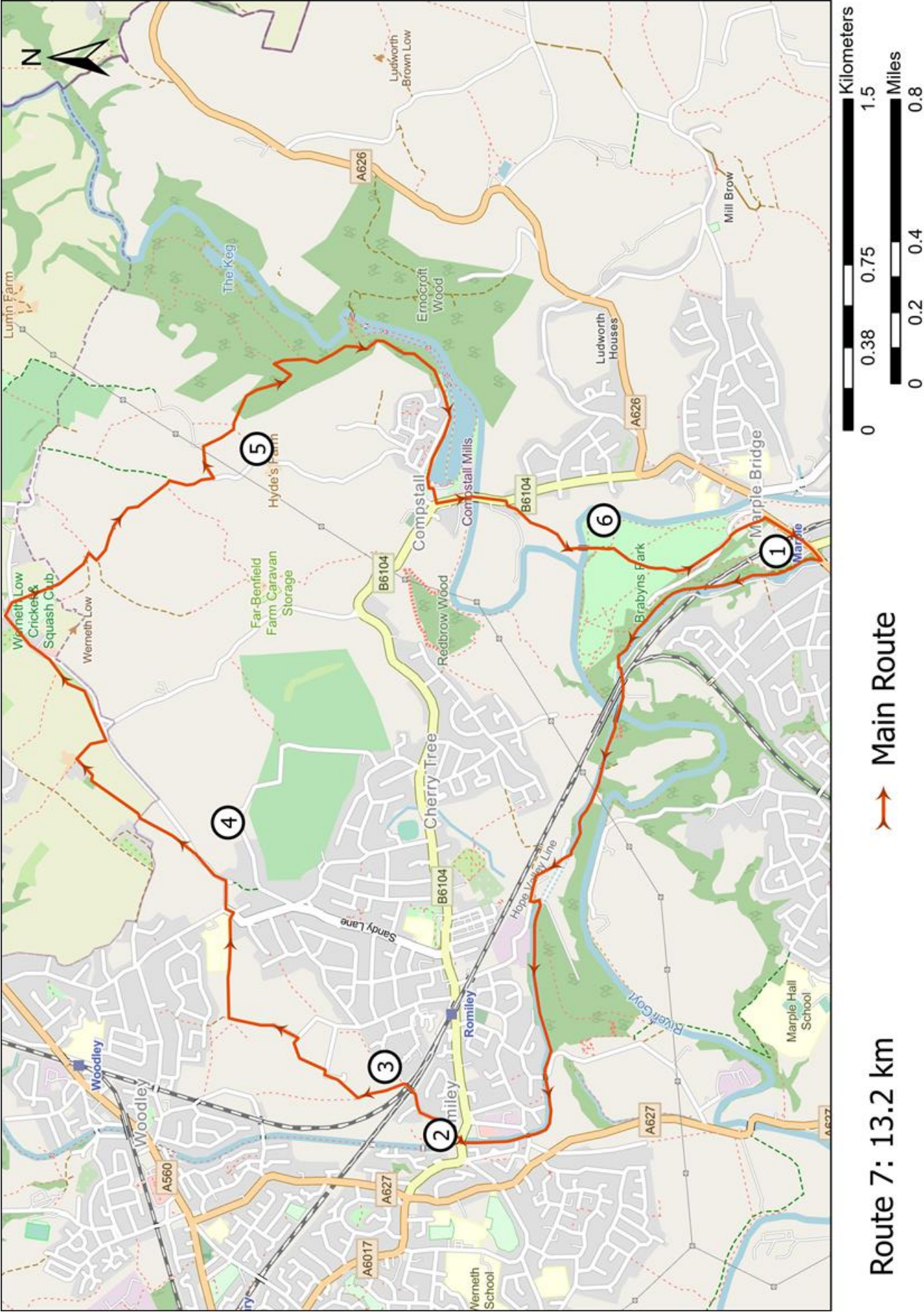
4 Continue up Werneth Low Road for about 200 metres until you come to a stile. Cross the stile and follow the path slightly left up the slope. A bench on the right gives spectacular views of Manchester and beyond to Wales. Continue up the path until you reach another stile. After this stile, the path levels out. Next cross a double stile. Continue along the path between the fields and at the end of the field turn half right and pass through a gap in the stone wall. Cross another field and pass through a wooden kissing gate. After the gate take the right fork of the path. Before reaching the house pass through a wooden gate on the right, Walk up the slope about 15 metres and take a left turn. Pass around the property (Lowside Farm), along a short drive, then turn right and follow the concrete track up the slope until just before you reach the road where there is a path. Turn left onto this path, which can be very muddy. This path runs parallel to the road passing the Hare and Hounds and Hyde Cricket Club to your right. Before you reach the telephone box at the top of Joel Lane take the unmade Mount Road to the right for a short distance, then turn right onto the lane which runs along the side of Hyde Cricket Club. At the end of this lane there are a few parking places. The views to the Peak District including Kinder Scout are spectacular. Behind the parking places is a kissing gate and a sign pointing down the slope. Follow this close to the fence on your left to another kissing gate in the left-hand corner of the field. Go through this and down the path. Pass a small house called Silverdalf (part of the E is missing!) on the right. There is another small gate - keep going down the path until you reach a track which goes in a loop towards Cloughside Farm. Ignore the gate on the left in the bend of the loop and about 70 metres towards the farm there is a small gate through the fence on the left before you reach the farm. Go through the gate and bear left along the path down the slope.

5 After going through a gate, a little further down you will arrive at a wooden bridge over a stream. Cross over the bridge and follow the path over a stile up to the farm. Keep the lower buildings on your left. Follow the track onto a road which leads down to Hyde Farm. Just before Hyde Farm take the road left going up to Beacom Houses. Soon the road bends to the left and you will see a footpath sign on the right. Take this permissive path over a further gate/stile as it goes forward. There is a steep drop to your right. At the end you descend to a shelter at the road through Etherow Park. Turn right and follow this road towards the Visitors Centre.

Etherow has a lakeside café with toilets that are open most days and an abundance of wildlife and plant life including a colony of Mandarin Ducks.. Leave the car park either by the road access or by the path at the far side to reach the busy main Compstall Road. There's also a Post Office/shop here. Turn left and keep on the left-hand side of the road, over the river bridge. About 100 metres after the bridge, cross carefully and follow the sign to Brabyns Park on the right along a rough track (Rollins Lane).

6 After about 300 metres cross the metal bridge and follow the path through the park until you reach Brabyns Brow where you turn right and head back to the station.

Walk 7 - Map



Walk 8 Marple Wood, Chadkirk Chapel and two canals

Distance 11.2 km (7 miles)

Time 3.5 to 4 hours

A moderate and mostly flat walk with steeper sections in Marple Wood and near Chadkirk Chapel. Beautiful displays of spring flowers but some sections can be overgrown with nettles so consider long trousers. I quite like the “afterburn” sensation myself but don’t tell anyone I told you! Sections can be muddy. Useful websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chadkirk_Chapel

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/chadkirk-chapel-and-country-estate>

1 From Marple Station turn right up Brabyns Brow and turn left onto the Peak Forest Canal up to lock 16. At Top Locks canal junction cross the bridge and turn right onto the start of the Macclesfield canal. At bridge 2 the towpath changes to the other side of the canal. Continue along the tow path and immediately past Goyt Mill and bridge 4 turn right onto the golf course where there is a sign warning you to look both ways while crossing the golf course.

2 Look ahead and you will see a series of posts and directional markers across the course. You pass down through a small wood then continue skirting the golf course. The signs take you in and out of the wood, the path being eroded in places. Eventually you reach a stile to leave the golf course and cross over the Middlewood way. Pass between the wire fences separating the pitches of Marple Rugby Club, (although you can go to the left of them) and cross a couple of stiles between two fields. The path leads down into the wood and over a wooden bridge. Just before the next golf course again is a ‘Private’ sign. Take the path right keeping to the side of the golf course. There is a white marker in the corner of the field indicating the path down to the right over wooden sleepers and then down again over a wooden bridge with steps on the other side. At the signpost head right towards Offerton Road. At the next sign again follow the Offerton Road direction. The path takes you out of the wood, then follow the left side of the field and cross the stile in the left-hand corner of the field, following the path at the side of the golf course to Offerton Road (A627).

3 Walk a short distance right along Offerton Old Road, which is opposite, then left down an almost hidden footpath, at the left-hand side of a house with a green tiled roof. This footpath passes through an estate, passing a school on your left, continuing the other side of each road that you cross. When you reach Marple Road turn right and walk about 150 metres to a drive on the left heading downhill to a house. Take the footpath just the other side of the drive. In spring this path has a spectacular display of Wild Garlic. It joins a smaller road, where you turn right, then at the main road, turn left, passing the Hare and Hounds pub. You soon come to a public footpath sign to your right on the opposite side of the road, which you should follow. Pass through a kissing gate and keep straight as the path climbs. Don’t be tempted to take the steep short cut down to your left. Continue to the top of the slope. After a short distance there is a blue direction marker, turn sharp left here and follow the path gently down the slope. Cross a small bridge and then after 400 metres cross the bridge over the River Goyt with convenient bench and seats.

4 Go right where the path divides through a wooden kissing gate. This takes you along a path at the bottom of a wood. Do not take the steps up the slope to the right but continue to Chadkirk Chapel, perfect for a picnic. The main route turns right and heads up the steep hill. Opposite the row of terraced cottages there is a set of steps up to the Peak Forest Canal. Turn right at the top and follow the towpath back to Marple. If you wish to take a short-cut to Romiley Station, instead of re-joining the canal you can keep to the road, passing under the canal and follow the road to Romiley Station.

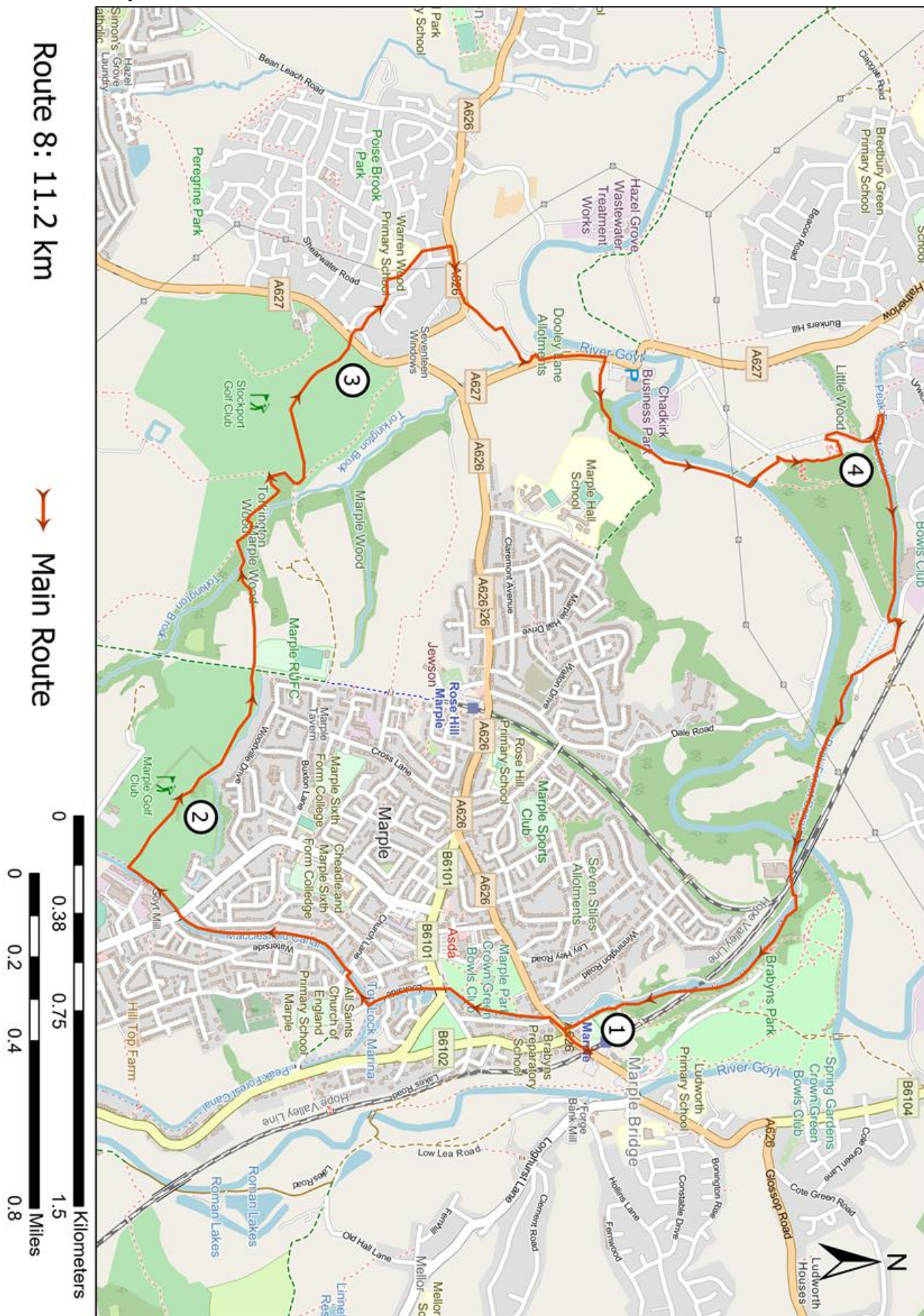
Note that the path leaves the canal at Hyde Bank Tunnel. Follow the path and turn right after Hyde Bank farm. After about 150m metres take the path off to the right back down to the canal. You will soon cross over the famous Marple Aqueduct. When you reach Brabyns Brow turn left back to the station.



11 Magnificent Marple Aqueduct

Marple Aqueduct was opened in 1800 to carry the lower level of the Peak Forest Canal across the River Goyt and is one of the wonders of the canal network. It is the highest canal aqueduct in England and the highest masonry-arch aqueduct in Britain. The difference in water levels between the river and canal is over 27 metres. It is both scheduled as an Ancient Monument and is Grade I listed.

Walk 8 – Map





Marple station opened in 1865. This roundel shows the logo of the Manchester and Sheffield Joint Railway Committee and supported the canopy when the Station was extended in 1875. From 1875 to 1923 services at Marple were shared evenly between the Midland Railway and Great Central Railway and between 1923 and 1948 services were split between the LMS and LNER companies

The roundel was rescued when the station buildings were demolished in 1970.

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friendsofmarplestation@gmail.com

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