

Walk 1

Roman Lakes and the best of Marple

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.

This is the first of eight walks from our 'Walks from Marple Station' booklet that 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. 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 2025 an off-peak return from Manchester to Marple is £7. A 'Wayfarer' ticket allows off-peak travel anywhere by tram, train or bus in Greater Manchester, the Hope Valley and much of Cheshire/Lancashire for £16.90 a day, or £33.80 for a family.

Peter Black, Friends of Marple Station group – January 2025



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



↑ Main Route

Route 1: 5.9 km