

Walk 2

Mill Brow, two great pubs and Brabyns Park

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 2 Mill Brow, two great pubs 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, the Hare and Hounds and the Northumberland Arms (two of our best pubs), a community woodland and Brabyns Park. Parts of the route can be very muddy.

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 over the fields towards Mill Brow. After 500 metres, two gates and a stile, you reach a lane. Turn left, passing the factory entrance to Primrose Mill on your left then continue right up the lane to the Hare and Hounds on Ley Lane.



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

It is hard to imagine that this was once a hive of industry. 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. By the 1881 census, decline meant there were 110 uninhabited houses.

2 Turn right at Ley Lane by the Hare and Hounds (the car park is an old quarry) and follow the road. Ignore lanes to the right (weak bridge) and left (access only). After about 300 metres cross a stream and turn immediately left into 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 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 down to Ley Lane. Where the path crosses a drive to a house



2 Converted chapel in Mill Brow



3 Beautiful landscapes of Brabyns Park

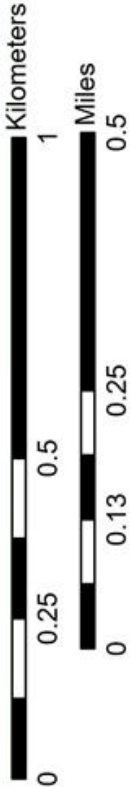
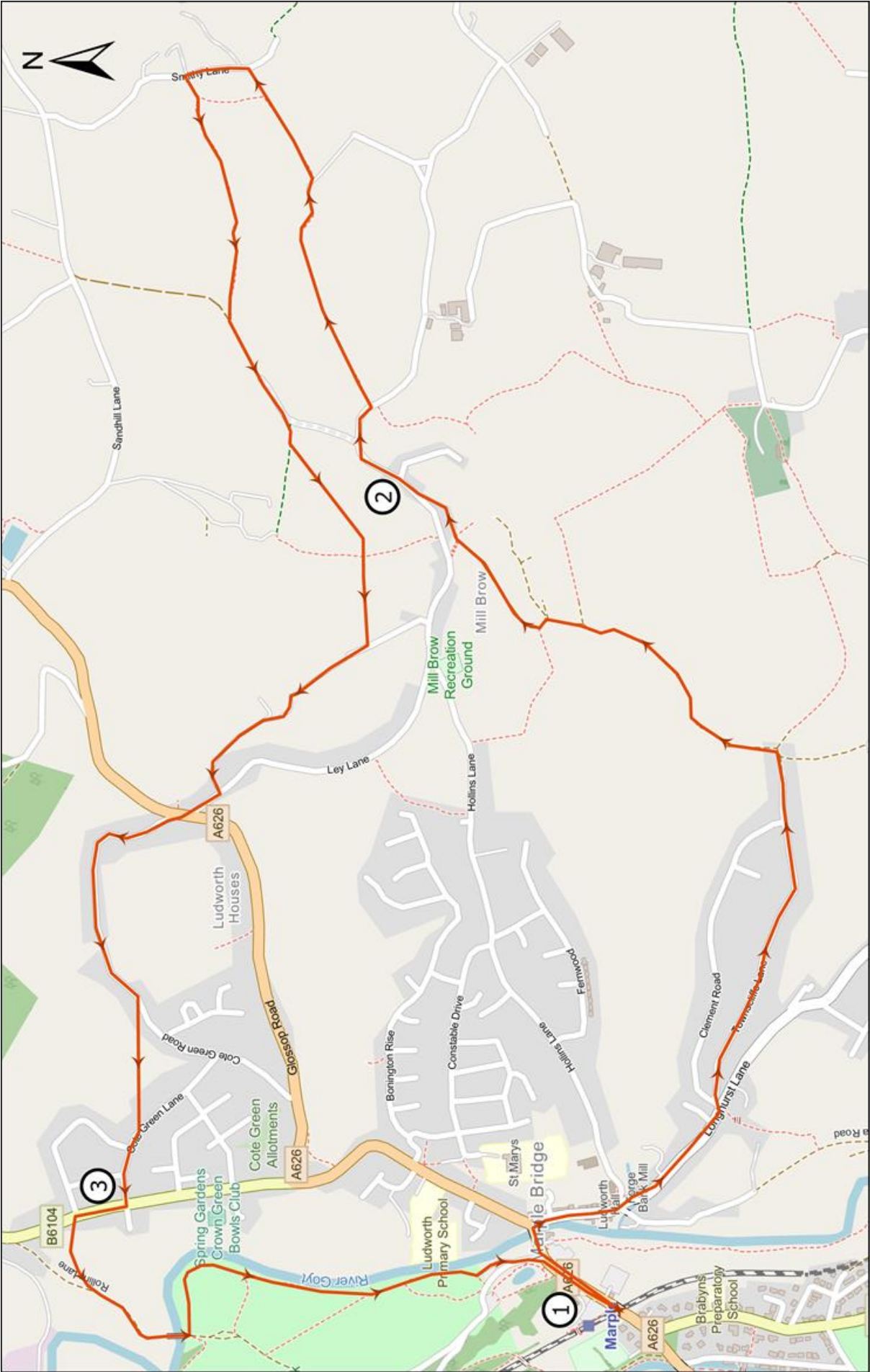
continue ahead and pass through a small gate. Turn half right onto the lane which joins Ley Lane. Turn right, cross the main road and go down Cote Green Road opposite.

Take the path to the right of side of four distinctive Poplar trees near a 'playground' sign. This opens out into a park. Walk downhill, exit onto Cote Green Lane, and turn right downhill to Compstall Road. Here is the Northumberland Arms, bought by the local community and in the 'Good Beer Guide'.

3 Cross Compstall Road and turn right. After about 100 metres turn left into a side road signed 'Rollins Wood Community Woodland' and follow the permissive path which winds steadily downhill. 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 Rollins Lane. Turn left and follow the track into the park and over the bridge. Turn left after crossing the bridge and 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



➔ Main Route

Route 2: 8.5 km