

Walk 5: From Way to Cut

1) The signpost at the start of the Middlewood Way has disappeared but the path is well surfaced (at this point) and easy to find to the left of the grey metal fence round the council depot/tip.

Further on there is little trace remaining of the picnic area.

There is a pair of gates across the Way at the crossing leading to Torkington Lane. The Council has thoughtfully provided two openings in the fence, one for the bridleway and one for the footpath. Unfortunately few walkers have used the footpath which has become overgrown and all users have to splash their way along the bridleway.

2) The stile where you leave the Middlewood Way has been replaced by a double gate. There is a sign pointing to the Macclesfield Canal. (To help you identify this point there is another gate across the Middlewood Way about 60 yards ahead.)



There has been little change to the rest of this walk!



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Walk 6: Donkey Wood

Sadly, this walk has become very muddy and can no longer be recommended, but for the sake of completeness here are the amendments.

1) The first change is needed within 100 yards of the start as the path leading up to the right of the Middlewood Way has become overgrown and impassable. Instead, keep to the Way and pass under the bridge and take the steps up the bank on the left. At the top turn left and cross the bridge back over the Way. Now continue straight on with the hedge to your left.

2) It is the farm track approaching the farm which is the difficult part. The track is several inches deep in very smelly mud.

As an alternative it is suggested that you follow Walk 4 (Chadkirk) as far as point 3 and then walk up Dooley Lane to Dan Bank (Point 3 on the current route).

3) The cottage called Seventeen Windows has undergone extensive restoration and is now much smaller than shown in the photograph in the leaflet.

The route after Yew Tree Farm is rather indistinct but if you keep roughly parallel with the line of trees to your left you should find the stile at point 4.

4) The second stile is rather hidden round some bushes on the left. The first part of the descent is very steep and muddy and more of a slither than a walk until the steps are reached. The climb back up to the farm can also be very muddy.

The alternative route is recommended in muddy conditions.

4) 100 yards along the Cown Edge Way you should find a signpost. Turn left to follow the instructions on the leaflet or right if very muddy and then keep left close to the trees when you emerge on the golf course. You should soon see the path just inside the line of trees. Follow this for about 300 yards until you see a large notice "Stockport Golf Club – Private Property – Please keep to the footpath". Turn left to walk away from the sign and down to the bridge.



*Addendum text and photographs by David BurrIDGE
Design, layout and Iron Bridge photo by Mark Whittaker
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Addendum to Gordon Mills' Walks Around Marple

Produced by

**Marple Local History Society and
The Marple Website (www.marple-uk.com)**

Walk 1: Marple Dale



2) "Marple Dale Hall Nursing Home" is now called "Marple Dale Care Centre".

4) At Lower Dale Farm the footpath squeezes to the right of the farm boundary wall. (See photo above.) The 200 yards or so beside the wall is very muddy after rain. Further along care is needed in places as erosion has brought the river very close to the path.

5) The site of the new Sustrans Connect2 bridge which will provide a link between Marple and Stockport for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders is near the weir.

As you enter the woods much of the stile has disappeared and it is easier to walk through the gap where the fence has been broken down. Steps now lead the way up the hillside.

8) From the site of Marple Hall we walk along Marple Hall Drive towards Stockport Road. The photograph at point 9 was taken about 200 yards before Stockport Road is reached.

This leaflet is an addendum to the series of six walking guides entitled 'Walks Around Marple' published by the late Gordon Mills in 1998.

It was produced by Marple Local History Society and The Marple Website to identify the changes that have taken place in the last 10 years or so and to supplement Gordon's original guides as there are many copies still available that can be purchased from local outlets.

Most of the way you will be following clearly defined paths but there will be places where you have to locate a new path. Another problem can be finding your direction across open fields. Following your progress on the maps as well as the text will help you find your way.

Walk 2: Roman Lakes

1) There are two paths to the left of the war memorial. The one passing to the right of the skateboard area is the more direct but, if time permits, the path down the centre of the park offers magnificent views towards Mellor on the right. If following this second path take the fork to the right just before the road is reached to join the canal by Lock 10. Turn right again and follow the towpath up to Posset Bridge.

2) Beechwood Manor is now private flats.

6) After Flood Gates Cottage the track actually moves away from the river. In the summer the Roman Bridge cannot be seen from the track so you will need to watch out for the path leading to the bridge. You will find it just after the "Roman Lodge". Follow the sign to Strines.



8) The door to the footpath leading up to All Saints Church has disappeared.

Walk 3: Marple Locks

2) As we cross Station Road we cross the canal as well to take the tow path on the right of the canal.

4) The sign indicating the path we should take has disappeared. The path is 100 yards beyond the aqueduct and starts through the wooden gate shown in the photo.



The sign near Lower Water Meetings Farm is now red. We leave the farmyard through a metal gate.

6) When you reach the main road you will find there is no footpath over the bridge on this side of the road. So you will need to cross the road first, but do so with great care. Traffic speeds are high and the view to the right is poor.

The "Iron Bridge" has undergone extensive renovation in 2008 and its former glory restored.



8) At the end of the garden wall turn right across the entrance to the Garden Centre to follow the path up to the Car Park.

After the fork the "next junction" is actually a sharp left turn to follow the track whose end is marked with three metal posts. This will take you to the bridge over the railway.

Walk 4: Chadkirk

1) Cross Stockport Road using the pelican crossing. Marple Hall Drive is almost 200 yards from the crossing and it is 600 yards to point 2.

3) When you reach the car park on Vale Road (300 to 400 yards after Otterspool Bridge) there is a choice of routes. Alternative Route A is described below.

4) The farm is no longer open to the public.

The stone steps up to the canal are just past some raised gardens.

6) The path for alternative Route C starts just after the canalside factory.

The farm above the tunnel is Hyde Bank Farm and offers a tearoom to the weary walker. (But not on Mondays!)

7) The footpath from lock 7 has been widened and regraded and is now marked by three metal posts.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE A

Enter the car park, walk across it to the path in the far left corner and follow the sign "Chapel and Farm via Little Wood".

This path (shown as a dotted line on the map) offers a more attractive walk than the road described in the leaflet and passes a number of boards explaining the history of the area. When the path drops down to the road near the farm turn left to continue the walk or turn right to visit the chapel at point 4.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE B

Once you've gone down the steps to the road it is difficult to see the church at the fork. Turn left to walk up Hurstheads Lane to the main road.

Having crossed the main road, the road you should follow is called Bunkers Hill and not Barrack Hill.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE C

This path has been improved recently and is now less muddy. Near its end you can turn right to visit the chapel or left to Vale Road and so back to Marple.

The leaflet has been produced with cut-lines so that you can separate the sections for each walk, although ideally you would need two copies if you wanted to keep the extra information with each of Gordon's original guides.

*Additional copies can be downloaded from
The Marple Website free of charge at:*

www.marple-uk.com/walks