

Marsden Walkers are Welcome

Mesolithic March Hill Walk

The walk is graded as Difficult:

Longer walks around 5-16km. These walks require a good level of fitness, crossing hilly ground or moorland with rising and falling levels. Paths may be rough and uneven, with some steeper slopes or longer sections of ascent and descent. Walking boots and warm, waterproof clothing are essential.

Directions

With your back to the railway station, turn right and follow the towpath of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal to Tunnel End and Standedge Visitor Centre.

1 Pass under the railway bridge and continue to follow the path as it crosses the canal and arrives into the visitor centre car park. Turn right, crossing the car park.

2 Follow the footpath across the grass on your left, cross a lane and pass Teapot cottages on your right and continue to follow the path as it runs between waterways, crossing the former Tunnel End reservoir, now a nature reserve managed by the Canal and Rivers Trust.



3 At a gate onto Waters Road continue on the footpath. The path passes an attractive bend in the river, with a large picnic table and bench. This area is known locally as 'Marsden Beach'.

4 Arrive at a wooden gate to exit onto Waters Road and turn left, passing Lower Hey Green cottages on your left.

5 On your right you will see the large metal gate to Hey Green House, formerly a hotel. Go up several stone steps to a footpath on the left of the gate and follow the path alongside a wall, uphill.



During the winter the first part of this path may be very muddy as a stream runs through it. As an alternative, continue ahead up Blake Lea Lane, rejoining the walk at point 9.

6 Continue through a gap in the wall following the path as it runs alongside a row of rail posts on your right, dated 1847.



7 Cross a stile and continue diagonally uphill to a metal gate to arrive onto a surfaced lane. Turn around to admire the view behind you of Pule Hill with its ventilation shaft for the railway tunnel.



8 At the metal gate bear right slightly downhill, walking past a white farmhouse, Lower Green Owlers.



9 Soon you reach a junction. Turn left onto a farm track following a public footpath sign. Ignore the first stile that is on your left. Continue along the farm track uphill for a short distance going past the first entrance to White Hall Farm.



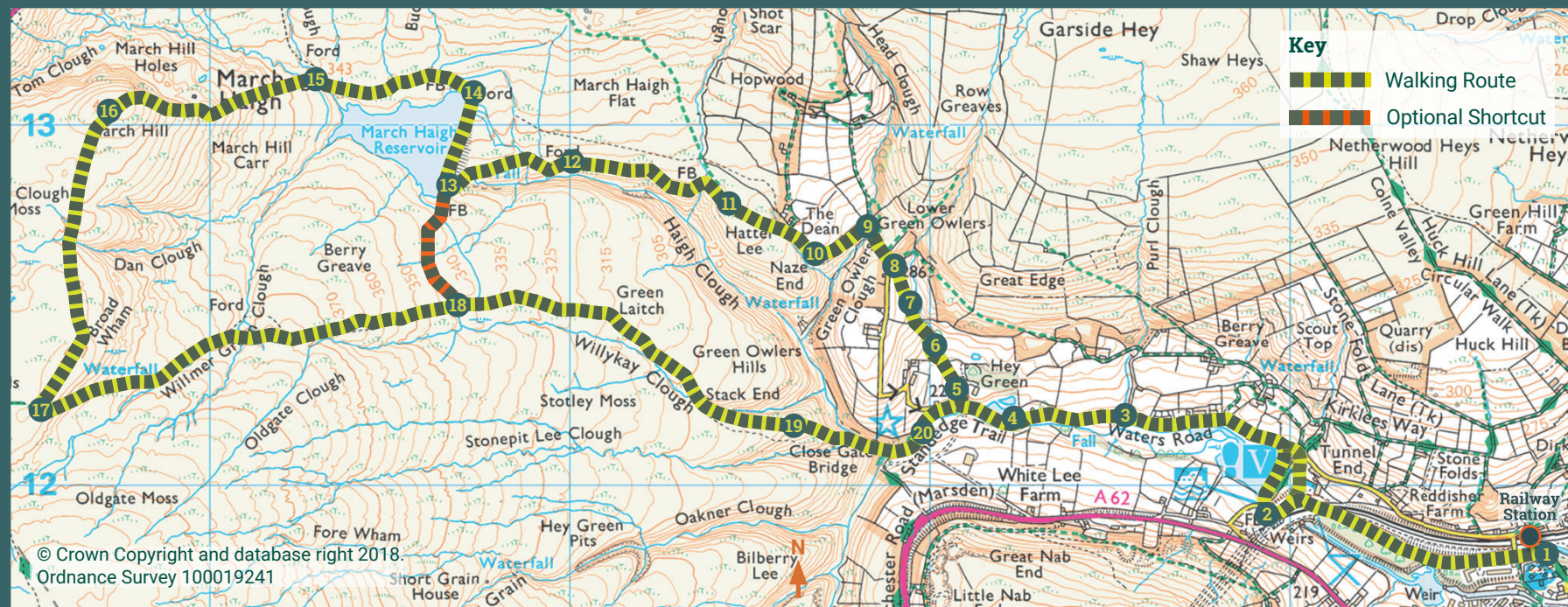
10 Arrive at a stile on your left, opposite the second entrance to the farm. Cross the stile and follow the track as it bears right across fields and moorland, with the rounded peak of March Hill ahead of you.



11 As you progress, enjoy the view down into the steep sides of Haigh Clough before you.



- Take your litter home
- Close gates behind you
- Keep dogs under close control at all times



12 Continue on this path for 0.5 m (0.8 km) crossing several streams, finally crossing a prominent stone footbridge as you approach the embankment of March Haigh Reservoir.



13 Take the path ascending left up the embankment to arrive at the shore of March Haigh Reservoir. Turn right to cross the reservoir embankment. (To shorten the walk, turn left to join the Pack Horse Road at step 18.)



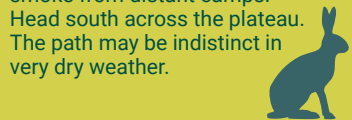
14 Cross the spillway, step up and turn left, following the well-trodden path around the reservoir, towards March Hill.



15 At a path junction at the end of the reservoir, keep left and start the short ascent of March Hill, pausing on the summit to enjoy the view to Marsden.



16 From the summit of March Hill, consider the views that Mesolithic people would have seen. No reservoir or roads, wooded valleys and rising smoke from distant camps. Head south across the plateau. The path may be indistinct in very dry weather.



17 At a path junction turn left to join the Pack Horse Road. The turn is clearly marked by a PH road stone way marker post.



19 The descent is gradual until the last part, which is steeper, arriving at the pack horse bridge at Easter Gate (aka Close Gate on OS Maps). Cross the bridge and follow the path alongside the river.



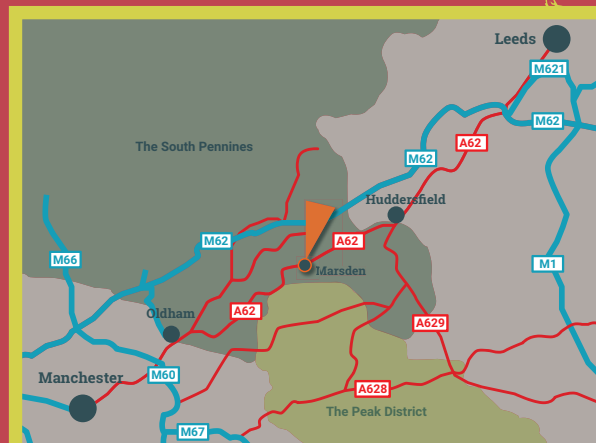
20 Go through a gate and turn right onto the lane slightly downhill to arrive again at Hey Green House. Continue straight on Waters Road, retracing the way you came. Shortly after Lower Hey Green Cottages, turn right through a wooden gate continuing to retrace your steps. Follow the path once again to eventually arrive back at the Standedge visitor centre.

Then retrace your route along the canal and return to Marsden Railway Station.

All our walks follow public rights of way.

To report any issues please follow the link on our website, www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.org

To find out more about March Hill's mesolithic past visit <https://bit.ly/MesoMarsden>



Marsden is situated off the A62 at the head of the Colne Valley, west of Huddersfield. It is well served by bus and rail.

All walks start and end at Platform 3 of the railway station where there is a large free car park (HD7 6AX)

Marsden Walkers are Welcome is a voluntary group. Find out more, including how you can get involved:

E marsdenwaw@gmail.com

W www.marsdenwalkersarewelcome.org

f [facebook.com/MarsdenWAW](https://www.facebook.com/MarsdenWAW)

Marsden Walkers are Welcome would like to thank the following for their support of this project:

YORKSHIRE
AVALANCHE
DODGERS



THE CUCKOO'S NEST
PEEL STREET, MARSDEN



Marsden Walkers are Welcome

Mesolithic March Hill Walk

6.5 mile/10.4km - 3 hour* walk

Difficult



Hike up through outlying hamlets to reach March Hill, one of the highest points around with great views.

The hill and plateau next to it were used by mesolithic hunter-gatherers approximately 5,500 to 9,500 years ago. You'll return on the historic packhorse road down to Marsden.

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* Walk times given as a rough guide only

