



Hummingbird House

hummingbirdhouselet.com

Chadkirk Chapel & Marple Aqueduct (4¼ miles: fairly easy)

An exploration of the Peak Forest Canal.

Allow 2–3 hours. No major difficulties.

- 1** From the front door, turn right and walk down The Turnpike to the T-junction with Marple Hall Drive, where you turn right.
- 2** Cross the two ends of Turncliff Crescent and the end of Merepool Close then, when Marple Hall Drive bends left, go through the gap ahead of you. Follow the Alan Newton Way past the site of Marple Hall (on your right) and continue to the left, below the playing fields of Marple Hall School on your left.
- 3** At a junction with a narrower path on the left, follow the main path as it heads downhill. (Shortly, unless you're in a hurry, ignore a stepped path on the right, which cuts a corner.)
- 4** Towards the bottom of the slope, follow the main path round a sharp right-hand bend, then cross a side-stream and follow the River Goyt upstream.
- 5** At Chadkirk Bridge, cross the river and follow the broad track ahead of you.
- 6** At the end of the track, turn right through a wooden kissing gate into trees. The path bears left along the bottom of the wooded bank, climbing slightly to pass the bottom of a stepped path up the slope.
- 7** At the nearer end of the walled garden by Chadkirk Chapel, turn left (the path ahead leads to a bench with a pretty view of the chapel). The path along the wall leads out to the road.
- 8** Turn right along the lane past Chadkirk Chapel and Farm. Ignore a footpath on the left and pass St Chad's Well on the left as you climb the hill. Pass Kirkwood Cottage on the right and bear left as you continue to climb the lane.
- 9** After a couple more cottages on the left, turn right up a flight of steps next to a garden, which leads to the Peak Forest Canal.
- 10** Turn right along the towpath.
- 11** Shortly after passing a mill building on the opposite bank, you reach the mouth of the Hyde Bank Tunnel. Follow the track that passes above the tunnel entrance and under a stone bridge (designed by Edward Walters, the architect of Manchester's Free Trade Hall).
- 12** Bear right along a driveway past the entrance to Hyde Bank Farm, then turn right into Hyde Bank.
- 13** Skirt the farm and pass a few houses then, at the entrance to The Haven, take the descending path on the right.
- 14** This leads back to the canal at the far end of the Hyde Bank Tunnel, where you continue along the towpath.
- 15** Pass under bridge 15 and through a walled cutting, then cross the Marple Aqueduct.
- 16** Beyond the aqueduct, pass under the railway, then cross to the other side of the canal.

- 17 Continue along the towpath, passing locks 1–6 of the Marple Flight.
- 18 At lock 7, cross the bridge over the canal. Continue straight ahead beyond a road, between bollards onto a path that leads up to Winnington Road.
- 19 Cross into Grosvenor Road and follow it to the end.
- 20 Cross Manor Road and take the footpath between the metal barriers opposite.
- 21 Follow the path alongside allotments.
- 22 Cross the next road (Ashwood Crescent) and continue on the path opposite, shortly passing an electricity substation. Ignoring a path on the right, continue past Marple Cricket Club on your left.
- 23 Bear right to the end of a cul-de-sac (Aspenwood Close), where you turn left along a tarmac path.
- 24 This leads in turn to Whiteoak Close, where you turn right and left, through metal barriers onto another tarmac path between the houses and gardens.
- 25 When this emerges on Seven Stiles Drive, turn left.
- 26 Cross Bowden Lane at the T-junction and turn right, passing Rose Hill Primary School on the left, and cross the railway.
- 27 Turn left along Dale Road, then right into Kingsbridge Close.
- 28 Bear left then, when the road bends right, take the path ahead, which leads to Marsland Road.
- 29 Turn right, then right again, to return to Hummingbird House.

