



# Hummingbird House

[hummingbirdhouselet.com](http://hummingbirdhouselet.com)

## Roman Lakes & Peak Forest Canal (9¾ miles: Moderate)

**A rugged cycling route or a long walk up the Goyt valley, returning via a long towpath section.**

*Allow 1–2 hours (bike) or 4–5 hours (on foot). One significant climb and some rocky surfaces: not suitable for road bikes.*

- 1** Turn left along The Turnpike; at the T-junction with Dale Road, turn right.
- 2** Shortly, turn left into Bowden Lane and follow it to the A626.
- 3** At a junction by a petrol station, take the middle road ahead beyond the lights. Continue ahead towards Marple town centre with shops to either side, continuing ahead at each set of traffic lights. Pass the Regent Cinema on the left and the Navigation pub on the right.
- 4** Cross the Peak Forest Canal and turn left into Oldknow Road, with a grassy area on your right.
- 5** At a crossroads, cross straight over into Faywood Drive. Beyond the last house, join the potholed Lakes Road and head downhill past a car park on the left.
- 6** Swing left over the River Goyt, then turn right by the remains of Mellor Mill.
- 7** At the next junction, swing right along Lakes Road. At a junction below Old Hall Farm, keep right, still following Lakes Road.
- 8** Pass the Roman Lakes complex and continue below Goytcliffe Viaduct and past Floodgates Cottage.
- 9** Pass another building and follow the track beyond, under the railway.
- 10** Pass Windybottom Farm and continue along the narrower path beyond.
- 11** Keep straight on at a junction with another bridleway joining from the left. The path becomes rockier, then descends to meet a farm track.
- 12** Turn right and swing left past Greencrough Farm.
- 13** Follow the track right and left over the railway and continue descending to a road.
- 14** Turn left up the stone-setted road, passing the entrance to Strines station and under the railway.
- 15** Ignoring a driveway to the left, follow the bridleway ahead, signed 'Unsuitable for motor vehicles'. This stony track climbs quite steeply alongside a stream valley to the hamlet of Brookbottom.
- 16** On emerging by the Fox Inn, turn right and follow the road ahead uphill, past a farmhouse.
- 17** A byway joins from the left; take a narrow, rocky bridleway on the right. This leads to Hague Fold Farm, where it joins Hague Fold Road.
- 18** Follow the narrow lane downhill to the B6101.
- 19** Cross straight over into Waterside Road and proceed downhill past a car park into the Goyt valley.
- 20** Cross the Goyt and continue with the river now on your right.
- 21** Pass Waterside Farm (left) and Cottage (right) then, at a right-hand bend, turn left into Lower Greenshall Lane (signposted "Unsuitable for motor vehicles").
- 22** Pass under a railway arch and follow the deteriorating track to the Peak Forest Canal.
- 23** Turn right along a surfaced driveway. When the drive swings right into Cloughside Farm, continue ahead along the towpath.

- 24** Pass under bridge 26 and continue with houses on the opposite bank.
- 25** Pass bridges 25 and 24, both lifting bridges. After the second bridge, the towpath again follows a surfaced driveway to Little Woodend Farm.
- 26** Return to the towpath to pass under bridge 23.
- 27** The towpath crosses a small aqueduct and continues past bridge 22, another lifting bridge.
- 28** Bridge 21 is overlooked by a cottage, beyond which the towpath continues along the slope of Marpleridge. The canal runs parallel to the B6101 and passes a house on the right before bridge 20, a footbridge.
- 29** At bridge 21 follow the spiral ramp up and over the bridge and rejoin the towpath on the opposite bank. This leads to the junction of the Peak Forest and Macclesfield Canals.
- 30** Here, leave the Peak Forest Canal to cross the road onto the towpath of the Macclesfield Canal, passing a stone boat-shed on the opposite bank.
- 31** At the next bridge, go through a gate onto Church Road opposite the Ring O' Bells pub.
- 32** Head downhill towards the centre of Marple.
- 33** At a mini-roundabout go straight on, past the Hatters Arms.
- 34** At the A626, turn left past a petrol station then right into Bowden Lane.
- 35** After 500m, cross the railway to Dale Road.
- 36** Turn right at the T-junction, then left into The Turnpike and back to Hummingbird House.

