

Eighty three**ROMILEY – MARPLE**

This is an attractive, interesting countryside and canal walk. You can divert off the canal to visit Chadkirk – a charming little spot with St Chad's Well, a farm, a chapel and a walled garden. This walk could be linked to the next one of the series.

Take the train to Manchester Victoria and from there a tram to Manchester Piccadilly Station. From here catch a train to Romiley.

Option: - turn right as you get off the tram and on Fairfield Street use the lift on the left to the link bridge lounge.

Alight at Romiley. Descend the steps from the platform, go along the tunnel and descend the steps ahead.

Outside the station turn right along Stockport Road. *This is Romiley's main street. Notice the Wesleyan chapel of 1811 (MDCCCXI) with the star of Bethlehem above the door – it is now the 'Little Nine Heaven Kung Fu School'!* Cross the bridge then turn right through the wall and descend the steps. Turn right and right again onto the canal bank. *This is the Peak Forest Canal. Just before a pipe crosses the canal there is the remains an old pier to tip mine tubs onto barges.*

Pass a steep set of steps down and *across from this notice the unusual church spire with flying buttresses.* Continue along the canal.

[OPTION: For a very easy walk carry on along the canal to Oakwood Mill and Hyde Bank Tunnel. This misses out the Chadkirk Estate and the steep climb back up.]

Descend the next set of steps on the right. Turn left at the bottom in front of the cottages. *You are now in Chadkirk – a delightful pocket sized country estate.* Continue ahead on Vale Road. *On the left, Kirkwood Cottage was presumably a toll house.*

St Chad's Well is on the right. *St Chad was the seventh century Bishop of Lichfield.*

The road curves left in front of Chadwick Farm *an old fashioned tenant farm. Visits can be arranged.*

The road becomes hedged on both sides. Go left through the gate onto the path. *The chapel and walled garden are now on your left. The chapel opens at 13.00 on Saturday and Sunday.*

Walk ahead to the right of the walled garden. Then curve right and start climbing the hill.

Go left up the steps signed to the canal. *This is a long set of steps!*

At the top turn left through the fence. This path meanders along just inside the top edge of the wood. *The old path is sunken between two small stone walls on your right.*

You eventually come out at the canal. *Oakwood Mill is on the other side and still makes paper and card.*

Turn right then cross over Hyde Bank Tunnel.

Walk through the mock Tudor bridge. *Above its right is the gatehouse to Oakwood Hall.*

A little further on, Hyde Bank farm is on the right. *The farm has a restaurant and tea room. Visits can be made to see the livestock etc. Tel: 0161 430 3582.*

Follow Hyde Bank as it curves right round the farm hedge.

Go down the steps to the right of a double gate across the lane. Rejoin the canal bank at the bottom.

A little way along you cross the canal aqueduct over the River Goyt. *It was opened in 1798 to facilitate transport of Limestone from the High Peak area. On the left is the railway viaduct with good views through the centre arches.* Cross to the other bank of the canal as you pass Aqueduct House. The towpath begins to climb. *This is the start of The Marple Flight of sixteen locks. The canal climbs by 254 feet on this stretch.*

On the left at lock 7 is Brabyns Park –*a large open public park.*

After lock 8 join the main road and turn left. *Was the next building also a toll house? Look at the chimneys.*

Cross the railway bridge. *Ahead on the right is The Midland. The Midland is a free house selling cask marque real ales, tea, coffee, snacks and full meals.*

Go left down the steps just after the bridge, and enter Marple Station. Cross the footbridge to the other platform to catch a train back to Manchester Piccadilly.

CLASSIFICATION: MEDIUM LENGTH MODERATE.
 COUNTRYSIDE, VIEWS, CANAL, CAFES,
 PUB.

RAIL FARE: category one

Maps: OS 1:50 000 SHEET 109.

Philip's Street Atlas Greater Manchester