

Friends of Romiley Station



WALKS FROM

BRITISH RAILWAYS

ROMILEY STATION

TAKING IN NUMEROUS PLACES OF INTEREST ALONG THE WAY

INCLUDING

ROMILEY



CHADKIRK CHAPEL

ROMILEY



HYDE BANK TUNNEL

SEVEN WALKS SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES THAT ALL START AND FINISH AT ROMILEY STATION

INTRODUCTION

This booklet of walks has been compiled by the Friends of Romiley Station with a view to encouraging not only the use of Romiley Station and the trains that serve it, but also to let the local and wider communities see for themselves what the area has to offer.

Each of the 7 walks, which vary in length and difficulty, start and finish at the Station and as such are readily accessible by train.

There are, except on Sundays, up to three trains an hour to and from Manchester Piccadilly (via Bredbury or Guide Bridge) continuing to Rose Hill Marple, New Mills Central (via Marple) as well as trains along the Hope Valley line to Sheffield.

Full details of all the train services can be obtained from local stations or by visiting www.northernrailway.co.uk or www.nationalrail.co.uk.

In addition Romiley Station is well served by buses (services 382 (not Sundays, Bank Holidays or evenings), 383 and 384) that all start at Stockport Interchange. Visit tfgm.com (Bee Network) or bustimes.org for timetables as well as live running information.

This booklet is free to all thanks to some generous funding from the South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership (SEMCORP) (www.semcorp.org.uk) who have funded this reprint.

SEMCORP represent and support communities throughout South East Manchester who are touched by railway lines. They work in partnership with the rail industry to change services and improve stations.

Across Britain, over 70 community rail partnerships, plus hundreds of station friends and other groups and social enterprises, make up the community rail movement. It's a growing movement delivering a range of activities that bring people together and help communities get the most from their railways, as well as helping our railways to thrive.

Romiley Station itself benefits from some lovely gardens, including a garden unveiled in June 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, together with a number of planters (including one containing herbs from which anyone is welcome to help themselves), arts projects, book swaps and even a bug hotel built by schoolchildren.

As well as being thankful for the funding we are also grateful to those who helped put the walks together, especially John Simpson, who planned all the walks for the first edition in 2020 and updated them for this edition.

Acknowledgment: The two pictures on the front cover depicting Chadkirk Chapel and Hyde Bank Tunnel (both visited during some of the walks) were created by local artist Eamonn Murphy. Eamonn has very kindly allowed us to use his artwork in a number of settings. Please do visit his website at art.exvista.com where you can buy prints of all his work.

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WALK 1

ROMILEY STATION TO CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK AND BACK

DISTANCE 3.3 KM (2 MILES)

TIME 1 TO 1.5 HOURS

ASCENT 164.6 METRES

The walk is relatively easy with a reasonable climb up a series of steps through the woods. Part of the path through the woods can be muddy so good walking shoes/boots are recommended, especially after wet weather.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

1. From Romiley Station front entrance cross the road and walk down Church Lane to the right of the Romiley Arms. Continue along Church Lane which becomes Chadkirk Road at a fork/crossroads. The road gradually slopes downwards and passes under the Peak Forest canal.
2. Keeping to the road you pass Chadkirk Chapel to the left (The Chapel is open to visitors on Saturday and Sunday afternoons but the grounds and walled garden are open at all times). There is a designated walkway to the right which runs parallel to the road. At the end of this path there is a gate. There is a sign for "Alan Newton Way." Alan Newton, who was from Stockport, won bronze medal in the cycling team pursuit at the 1952 Olympic Games. Turn left after the gate go through another gate and follow the path through another kissing gate until you reach a long series of steps leading up the side of the hill, through the wood.
3. When you reach the top of the steps continue along the path keeping the stone wall on your right until you reach the Peak Forest canal. Turn left and walk along the towpath for just under 0.5 mile until you see a set of stone steps leading down to the road on your left (at the bottom of which are Burymewick cottages).
4. Turn right at the bottom of the steps and follow the road back to the station.

Alternatively - if you do not like returning on the same access path you can take the footpath immediately left after passing under the canal bridge (4a). This path emerges onto Urwick Road where you turn right and St Chad's Church steeple is clearly in view for the rest of the return to Church Lane.

Early records show that there was a chaplain at, or possibly from, Chadkirk in 1347.

The fact that "kirk" forms part of the name indicates Scandinavian origins of the people who originally worshipped here.

The earliest part of the present structure is the half-timbered east end dating back, very probably to the 16th century, the time of the Tudor Kings and Queens. In time.

However, the chapel fell into disuse and decay. It passed through a succession of owners and is even reputed to have been used as a stable. Subsequently, it was used by Nonconformists but they were ejected during the reign of Queen Anne when a new chapel was erected at Hatherlow, at the top of the hill overlooking Chadkirk which itself again became neglected and was "in a ruinous condition" until in 1747 it was taken over once again by the Church of England and substantially rebuilt in stone.

Further repairs were carried out in 1761 and 1860. In 1876 there was a restoration when much of the furniture was removed. When St Chad's Church was built in 1866 it took over from Chadkirk Chapel as the Parish Church.

The Chapel was declared redundant in 1971 and was acquired by the then Bredbury and Romiley Urban District Council. In 1974 local government reorganisation abolished "urban districts" and the area was transferred to the newly created Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.

The chapel was restored in 1995 and is now open as a visitor attraction.

Architecture



The west end of the chapel with the timber bell-cote

The present building dates from the 16th century, although the south walls were rebuilt in 1747. It is a timber-framed building with a slate roof but most of the walls have been rebuilt in dressed stone. At the west end is a timber bell-cote with a pyramidal roof and a weather-vane. The south wall of the nave has two doors and two windows with semi-circular heads. Above the west door is a gabled dormer window. The chancel has a semi-circular-headed window. The east and north walls of the chancel retain their timber framing. At the east end is a window with a semi-circular head. The Friends of Chadkirk work tirelessly in helping to maintain and preserve the Chapel, grounds and gardens for everyone to enjoy.

WALK 2

ROMILEY STATION VIA CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, MARPLE, PEAK FOREST CANAL AND BACK

DISTANCE 8.1 KM (5 MILES)

TIME 2 TO 2.5 HOURS

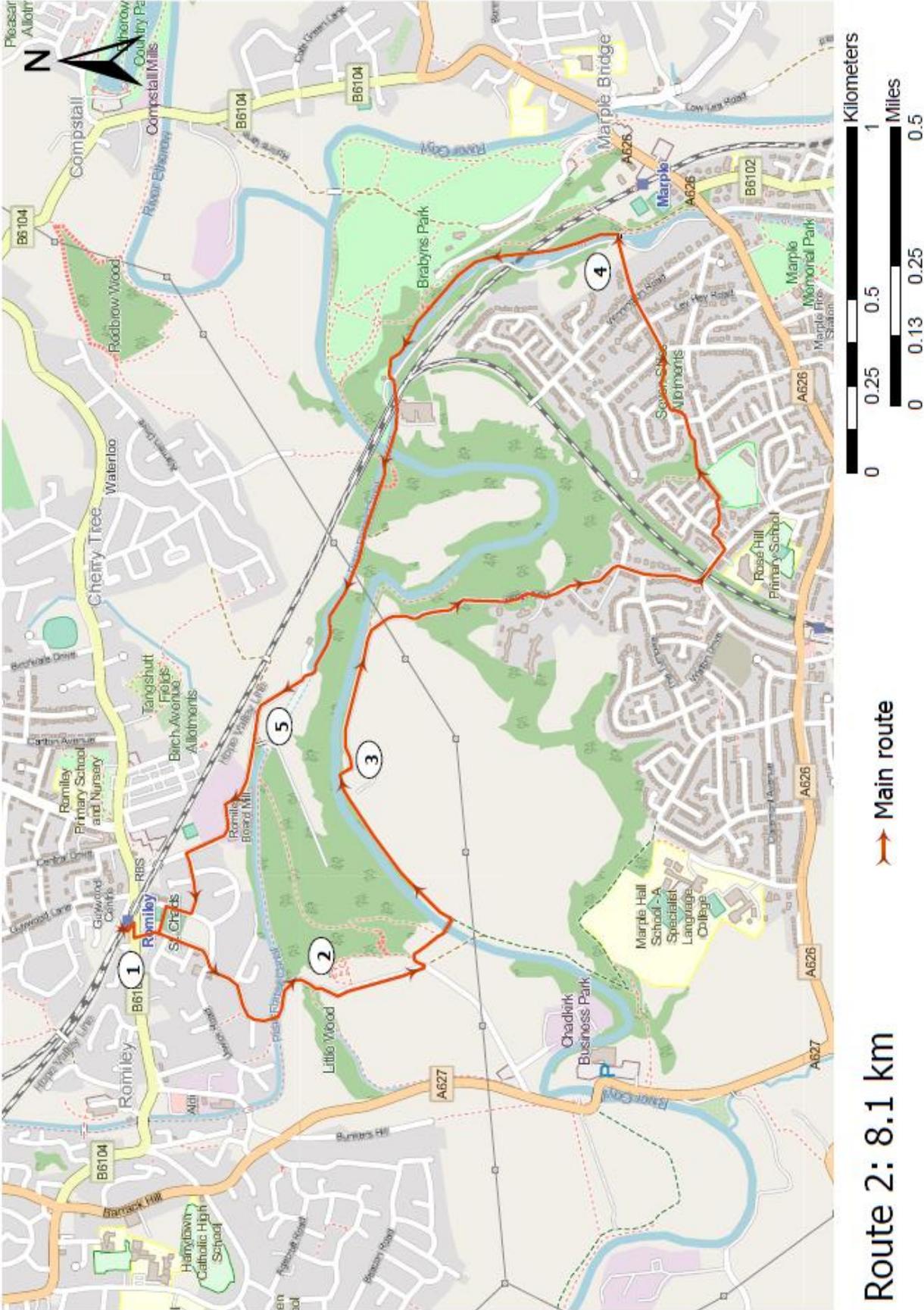
A relatively easy walk with no steep climbs. The section on the other side of the bridge along the banks of the River Goyt can be muddy, especially after wet weather, so suitable walking shoes/boots are recommended.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

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2. Keeping to the road you pass Chadkirk Chapel to the left. There is a designated walkway to the right which runs parallel to the road. At the end of this path there is a gate. There is a sign for "Alan Newton Way." Alan Newton, who was from Stockport, won bronze medal in the cycling team pursuit at the 1952 Olympic Games. Turn left after the gate, go through a kissing gate and you will see a wooden sign marked "Chadkirk Bridge" which points towards the footbridge over the River Goyt. Cross the footbridge, take a left turn and follow the path which runs along the southern bank of the River Goyt. This path can be very muddy after wet weather
3. The path eventually joins Dale Road which climbs through woodland and passes through a housing estate. This is a long road and you pass the following roads – Nab Lane, Treetops Close and The Turnpike. At Bowden Lane turn left, crossing over the railway bridge (Rose Hill Marple station can be seen to your right) and take a left onto Seven Stiles Drive. Take the second right onto Aspenwood Close. At the end of the Close opposite Marple Cricket Club turn left onto a path which you can follow through the estate, passing allotments and crossing an intervening road. The path ends facing Grosvenor Road.
4. At the end of Grosvenor Road take the path over the canal at lock 7. Turn left onto the towpath and follow the canal down through the other locks and crossing the aqueduct. You will come to a canal tunnel at which point you need to go up the steps and continue pass Hyde Bank Farm which is on your left.
5. Instead of re-joining the canal you can continue back to Romiley through the Board Mill and then St Chad's churchyard. Oakwood Mill was opened in 1877 and was originally a cotton spinning mill.

ROUTE FOR WALK 2

ROMILEY STATION VIA CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, MARPLE, PEAK FOREST CANAL AND BACK



Route 2: 8.1 km

WALK 3

ROMILEY STATION THROUGH CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, GOYT HALL FARM AND BACK

DISTANCE 7.5 KM (4.7 MILES)

TIME 2 TO 2.5 HOURS

This is a relatively easy walk along reasonable roads and paths all the way when taking the alternative route up Claggate. The path across the fields after Goyt Hall Farm is fairly muddy and indistinct at the side of Highfield Cemetery. The distance given for this walk relates to the main route, the alternative route is shorter. All that said, good walking shoes/boots are recommended in all cases.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

1. From Romiley Station front entrance cross the road and walk down Church Lane to the right of the Romiley Arms. Continue along Church Road which gradually slopes downwards and passes under the Peak Forest canal. Just after the tunnel there is a smallholding on the right. The owner cuts up wood and sells bags for wood-burners. He has a couple of well decorated old caravans in his grounds, which are usually visible from the road.
2. Keeping to the road you pass Burymewick cottages, which are to the right of the road, then a white house called Kirkwood Cottage on the left before Chadkirk Chapel, also to the left. There is a designated walkway to the right which runs parallel to the road. At the end of this path there is a gate. Turn right after the gate and you will see a sign pointing "To Stockport Centre 4 miles". Follow this road (Vale Road) until you reach Otterspool Road (the A627). Turn left and then cross over the road at the traffic lights controlled pelican crossing.
3. The old brown stone building on the left set back from the road was at one time a public house. Just before you reach the bridge over the Goyt you will see a sign pointing to Stockport Centre, Bridleway 56 and Stockport Hydro – the road starts off cobbled but has been tarmacked for some of its length. You will see on your left a sign for Stockport Hydro. This scheme uses an Archimedes screw to generate electricity. There is an information board which gives more details of the scheme and the local history. Further along the road you will pass Valley Cottages on the left where there are kennels, a cattery and animal grooming services. Further along you will pass a small sign on a tree on your right with the following wording:

“My doctor told me that walking would add years to my life. I think he was right. I feel 10 years older already.” The sign has been sponsored by Almond Family Pubs.

The path has been named Alan Newton Way (See Walk 1). A later section of this path is bordered by Hawthorn bushes which have vivid red berries towards the end of the summer. Horses are normally kept in fields either side of the track.

4. You will pass Goyt Hall farm on the left. Goyt Hall is a half-timbered building erected by Randal Davenport about the year 1570. You now have alternatives depending on the state of the ground. the rough road (Clapgate) to the right leads up to Bredbury Green (see 4A below). Do not take this road but carry straight on towards Lower Bredbury. After about 100 yards you will reach a 7-bar gate on the right with a wooden gap on the left of the gate. The area by the gate can be very muddy and there are often horses in the next two fields. Take the muddy path diagonally across the field towards clumps of trees. There is another stile in the corner of the field, cross over this stile and follow the path up the slope. Head left towards the electricity pylon in the corner of the field and go through the gap in the top right-hand corner of the field by the pylon. Go over a low stile, then follow the path keeping the small brook on your left. There are a multitude of confusing paths in this section. In general keep right at forks in the path (There are two major ones). This path passes through mixed woods and eventually comes to a fence at the top by Highfield Cemetery. Pass through the fence and turn left to reach Goyt View which leads into Highfield Avenue up to Harrytown, where you turn left. When you reach Bredbury Precinct (The Rocks), turn right and walk up Berrycroft to the traffic lights, where you turn left on to George Lane. As you walk along George Lane the Royal Mail Sorting Office is on the left whilst to the right there is a sign for Public Footpath. This is marked Bredbury 41. This path, which may be muddy and overgrown leads around a fence - keep right and go down a slope across a field until you reach the Peak Forest Canal.
5. Turn right onto the canal towpath until you reach a metal footbridge (13B). Go over the footbridge to the other side of the canal. You are now at the back of Romiley Swimming Pool. Cross over the car park and at the entrance turn left, then right onto Dye Lane. You will pass a house dated 1650 – 1976. At the end of this road there is a car park on the right, cross this car park and turn left on to Stockport Road which leads you back to the station.

Alternative route from Goyt Hall Farm when ground is wet

- 4a Turn right onto Clapgate, which at first is a rough road passing between fields, but which becomes a tarmacked road through a housing estate. At the top end of Clapgate you reach Bredbury Green. Turn right onto Bredbury Green and after 200 yards you will reach a main road - Barrack Hill. This can be very busy at times so you are advised to cross the road at the bollards to your right. Continue down this road, passing the Spread Eagle pub and taking a road on the left which leads downhill towards the canal. Pass under the canal, being aware that this road is used as a cut through and care is needed. Continue along this road until you reach Aldi on the left, at which point you turn right, passing the Duke of York and continuing along Stockport Road until you reach Romiley station.

ROUTE FOR WALK 3

ROMILEY STATION THROUGH CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, GOYT HALL FARM AND BACK



WALK 4

ROMILEY STATION TO CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, CHERRY TREE, COMPSTALL, WERNETH LOW AND BACK

DISTANCE 10.6 KM (6.6 MILES)

TIME 3 TO 3.5 HOURS

This walk is moderate. There are a couple of muddy sections on the approach to the River Etherow and again around Far Benfield Farm. Ground conditions can be so bad in places that it may be an idea to give this walk a miss after very wet weather. Again good footwear is essential and you may at times wish that you had worn wellies.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

1. From Romiley Station front entrance cross the road and walk down Church Lane to the right of the Romiley Arms. Continue along Church Lane which gradually slopes downwards and passes under the Peak Forest canal. Just after the tunnel there is a smallholding on the right. The owner cuts up wood and sells bags for wood-burners. He has a couple of well decorated old caravans in his grounds, which are usually visible from the road.
2. Keeping to the road you pass Burymewick cottages, which are to the right of the road, opposite to these cottages, on the left of the road take the flight of steps which lead up to the Peak Forest canal. At the top of the steps turn right in the direction of Marple. Continue along the towpath until you reach Hyde Bank tunnel. The towpath takes you over the canal and to Hyde Bank Farm. Turn right after the farm and follow the lane with the farm on the right and a row of tall terraced houses to the left. An opening on the right leads back down to the canal. Follow the canal until just before the aqueduct. Take the path on the right which leads under the aqueduct and the railway viaduct. The path then leads into a field (which can be very muddy). The path heads up to the left to Watermeetings Lane which is accessed over a stile.
3. Turn right down the lane. You will pass Upper Watermeetings Farm on your right. Keep on the tarmac track to the second farm. There is a gate on the left with a red way-marker arrow pointing straight. Crossing the stile past outbuildings on the right and follow a rough track up to a gate. Do not go through this gate as there is a sign pointing left to Werneth Low. Follow this sign, over the stile following the Valley Way sign. This section can also be very muddy.
4. A red way-marker sign points straight forward. When you reach the River Etherow turn left and follow the sign over the stile. This section can be slightly overgrown but it is passable. Follow the path through the woods keeping parallel to the river. After a while you will pass a weir with a flow measuring station. Follow the path until you reach the main road with the bridge over the river on

the right. At the road turn left until you see a sign pointing to Compstall village – Etherow C P on the right. Turn right onto George Street. There is a café in the Etherow Park buildings to the right. (* see alternative below) Follow this road, which bears left through the village, passing the Andrew Arms on the left. If you are aiming to take refreshments there check whether they will be open (0161 484 5392). Next to the pub is a building which was once a chapel but has been converted to living accommodation. Turn left up John Street, which leads into School Lane. Continue up this lane, which is steep in places, passing School Lane Farm on the right, then Bardsley Knoll on the left. Ignore the stile on the left, following the lane up the slope. There is a house named Chapel Farm with gates and statues of dogs on each gatepost.

5. Continue up the lane passing Hyde's Farm until you reach a fork with Beacom Lane on the right. Don't take this road but keep left onto the lane marked "Private Road" – this is also marked "Public Bridleway." After a while the road bears left ** and you will reach another farm with a row of buildings higher up on the right. Keep to the lower road, go through a gate, keeping the lower farm buildings, which are stables, on the right. There is a gate at the end, proceed through the gate and cross a field, which can be boggy, walking along the edge of the field keeping the fence to your right. The path curves left and leads to a stone stile which you should cross and then follow the path downhill to the left into light woodland at the side of a stream. Cross the wooden footbridge and turn left and climb for about 150 yards then go over a wooden stile to the left of a gate. Heading towards the farm (New Cloughside Farm), the path goes to the right of the barn where there is a small gate. After passing through the gate turn left and follow the track to the right of the barn for about 100 yards. You will come to a blue gate with a smaller gate to the left. Go through the next five bar metal gate, then you will come to a stile with a way-marker. Keep on straight until you reach another five-bar gate with a smaller gate to the left. The farm track that you are on is easy to follow in dry weather but can be very muddy and confused in wet weather. Pass through the farmyard (Benfield Farm) and then right on to a lane out of the farm.
6. Passing through some fairly ornate gates you need to follow the lane until it reaches the road which connects Compstall with Werneth Low (Cowlshaw). There is no pavement on the road, and it can be busy at times, so take care. Turn right and walk about 250 yards up this road until you reach a sign on the right pointing to Springwood Farm. Turn left and follow this track passing Brow Cottages (N W 1809) to your right. At the entrance to Springwood Farm take the track to the left, go through the gates, DO NOT GO TOWARDS THE FARM. There is a stile by the gate - cross over this stile and follow the path keeping the stone wall on your right. Do not turn left into the Golf Course but keep straight on towards Greave. After about 150 yards you pass a sign to the left over the golf course, ignore this sign and continue along the lane. You soon pass two houses (The Cottage and Beech Fairy Cottage). After about 200 yards you come to a lane with concrete tracks, take the lane to the left. You are now on Pinfold Lane and will start to pass several houses, one on the right has a plaque with 1809 and the initials NW on the face.

7. When you reach the end of Pinfold Lane, turn right up Sandy Lane and follow the road up the slope. Turn left at the Foresters Arms (The Piggy) and follow the lane, passing a sign marked "Unsuitable for HGVs." Pass through Greave Fold and continue down the lane passing an old chapel - Holy Innocents on the left. The lane becomes a path between houses. When the path reaches the next road (Moadlock) turn left, then immediately right onto a dirt track between houses. The track leads into a field, continue straight across the field towards a wood. The track heads through a gap in the trees into the woods. Continue straight along this track until you reach the gates of Healdwood House on the right. You are now at the top of Guywood Lane. Turn left and continue down the lane until you reach Compstall Road. Turn right back to Romiley Station.

*Alternative Route (not shown on the map) – instead of walking up the asphalt road you could continue along into Etherow Country Park as far as the turn off left up the waymarked path (before you reach the weir). This path out of Etherow Park starts to the left of a wooded shelter and rises through the woods. It opens out with a field up to the right and a steep wooded slope to the left. You eventually reach a gate/stile on your right, which you should go through/over. The path continues up the slope through the field until you reach a stile with a white sign pointing in the direction from which you have come. Turn right onto a farm road until you reach a gate on your left just before the farm. Go through the gate and continue uphill through a field until you reach a stile with no fence either side. Follow the path left here until you reach another stile with a path crossing. Take a left turn, eventually dropping downhill and walking along a path between two high hedges. Note that this path can at times be the bed of a stream. You eventually reach a concrete farm road where you should turn right. This is much more pleasant than the asphalt road, though a little longer. Continue the rest of the route from ** in para 5 above.



Far Benfield Farm

ROUTE FOR WALK 4

ROMILEY STATION TO CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, CHERRY TREE, COMPSTALL, WERNETH LOW AND BACK



WALK 5

ROMILEY STATION TO WERNETH LOW AND BACK

DISTANCE 8.6 KM (5.4 MILES)

TIME 3 TO 3.5 HOURS

This walk is moderate, rising to the top of Werneth Low (which by the way is higher than Werneth High (School!)). Again walking shoes/boots are essential if you don't want to ruin the fancy shoes that you wear to "strut your stuff"

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

1. From Romiley Station front entrance turn right and walk about 300 yards, turning right onto Hole House Fold, just past the car wash but before you reach the canal. Do not go into the car park for the swimming baths but keep right and then after about 50 yards turn left up Quarry Road, following the road over the railway bridge. After the bridge turn left following the sign for Highfield Farm. You will soon see a row of terraced houses, the bottom one being called Glendalough. Turn directly right and follow the path up the hill. At the top of the slope you join a track which you should follow as it goes slightly to the left. Sir Ian McKellan once lived in one of these houses. Follow the lane, which turns right at the end of the houses. Immediately after turning right you will see a gap in the fence on the left. Go through this gap and follow the path. After crossing the next stile turn right and follow the path with the wall on your right until you reach another stile which you should cross and turn left onto the lane, passing the house "Wildervank" on the left. Continue down this lane until you reach a gate. Do not go through the gate but turn half left and continue along the path with the stone wall on your right. At the end of the wall turn right. You will soon reach a sign for Heald Wood down to the right by a kissing gate. Pass through the gate and follow the path up the slope. After a short distance the path forks, take the right fork up the side of a steep bank. You will eventually reach a stile. The grass covered water reservoir should now be on your right. Keep along the path until you reach two posts. You will now be facing the back of Greave Primary School. Turn right over the stile and continue along the path until you reach the main road.
2. At the road turn left then take a right up Werneth Low Road. (it has a sign at the bottom stating that it is "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles"). This is not a main road but vehicles may pass at speed so take care. Pass "Moorfield," a modern style house on the right. There is a stile on the left opposite this house but the ground in the field is very boggy. Continue up Werneth Low Road for about 200 yards until you come to a stile with a yellow way-marker on the left. Cross over the stile and follow the path slightly left up the slope. There is a bench on the right.

Continue up the path until you reach another stile. After this stile the path levels out. Next cross a double stile. Continue along the path between the fields and at the end of the field turn half right and pass through a gap in the stone wall. Cross another field and pass through a wooden kissing gate. After the gate take the right fork of the path. Before reaching the house pass through a wooden gate on the right, walk up the slope about 15 yards and take a left turn.

3. Pass around the property (Lowside Farm) then turn right and follow the drive until just before you reach the road where there is a path. Turn left onto this path, which can be very muddy. This path runs parallel to the road passing the Hare and Hounds and Hyde Cricket Club to your right. Just before you reach the top of Joel Lane take the unmade Mount Road to the right for a short distance, then turn right onto the lane which runs along the side of Hyde Cricket Club. At the end of this lane there are a few parking places. At the back of these parking places is a kissing gate and a sign pointing down the slope. Follow this path to another kissing gate in the left-hand corner of the field. Go through this and down the path



Hare and Hounds, Werneth Low

4. Pass a small house called Silverdale on the right. There is another small gate – keep going down the path until you reach a track. Turn right and at Cloughside Farm keep to the right of the buildings where there is a track. After a short distance there is a blue gate with a smaller gate on the left. Continue along this track, passing through a five bar metal gate, then over a stile with a way-marker. Keep straight on and reach a five bar gate. The track is easy to follow when dry but can be very muddy after wet weather. Go through a smaller gate on the left, following a way-marker to the right, follow the road through the farmyard to the right. Turn right at the farm along the rough road through an iron gate, passing a caravan store to the left.

5. Reach Benfield House and at the road turn right up Cowlshaw Brow. Cars may travel at high speeds along this road, which does not have a footpath, so take care. After turning right walk for about 250 yards up this road until you reach a track on the left with a sign pointing to Springwood Farm. Turn left here and follow this track passing Brow Cottages (N W 1809) to your right. At the entrance to Springwood Farm take the track to the left, go through a gap between the gates, DO NOT GO TOWARDS THE FARM. There is a stile by the gate - cross over this stile and follow the path keeping the stone wall on your right. Do not turn left into the Golf Course but keep straight on towards Greave. After about 150 yards you pass a sign to the left over the golf course, ignore this sign and continue along the lane. You soon pass two houses (The Cottage and Beech Fairy Cottage). After about 200 yards you come to a lane with concrete tracks, take the lane to the left. You are now on Pinfold Lane and will start to pass several houses, the one on the right (Pinfold Farm) has a plaque with 1809 and the initials NW on the face.



Brow Cottage and track leading off Cowlshaw Brow

6. When you reach the end of Pinfold Lane, turn right onto Sandy Lane and follow the road up the slope. Turn left just after the Foresters Arms (The Piggy) and follow the lane (Greave Fold) passing a sign marked "Unsuitable for HGVs". Along the lane you pass an old chapel (Holy Innocents) on the left. The lane then becomes a path between houses. When the path reaches the road (Moadlock) turn left, then immediately right onto a dirt track between houses. The track leads into a field, continue straight across the field towards a wood. The track continues through a gap in the trees into the woods. Continue straight along this track until you reach the gates of Healdwood House on the right. You are now at the top of Guywood Lane. Turn left and continue down the lane until you reach Compstall Road. Turn right back to Romiley Station.

ROUTE FOR WALK 5

ROMILEY STATION TO WERNETH LOW AND BACK



WALK 6

ROMILEY STATION TO CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, GOYT HALL FARM, BRINNINGTON AND BACK

DISTANCE 16.3 KM (10.1 MILES)

TIME 4 TO 5 HOURS

This is a long walk with some difficult sections to navigate as paths are sometimes indistinct. The route takes you through some derelict industrial scenery and under and over a noisy motorway, but there are some delightful stretches along old railway lines now converted to walkways. Possibly not a walk to do alone. Walking shoes/boots are essential and in some places you will wish that you had brought your wellies. At the end of the section to the east of the M60 on Bredbury Industrial Estate there is a huge puddle and after wet weather you are advised to take the road running parallel to the path rather than the path itself. Note that an alternative route has been given below which avoids the Industrial Estate.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

1. From Romiley Station front entrance cross the road and walk down Church Lane to the right of the Romiley Arms. Continue along Church Lane which becomes Chadkirk Road and continue downhill eventually passing under the Peak Forest canal.
2. Keeping to the road you pass Burymewick cottages, which are to the right of the road, then a white house called Kirkwood Cottage on the left before Chadkirk Chapel, also to the left. There is a designated walkway to the right which runs parallel to the road. At the end of this path there is a gate. Turn right after the gate and you will see a sign pointing "To Stockport Centre 4 miles". Follow this road (Vale Road) until you reach Otterspool Road (A627). Turn left and then cross over the road at the traffic light controlled pelican crossing.
3. The old building on the left set back from the road was at one time a public house. Just before you reach the bridge over the Goyt you will see a sign pointing to "Stockport Centre, Bridleway 56" - the road starts off cobbled but has been tarmacked for some of its length. You will see on your left a sign for Stockport Hydro. This scheme uses an Archimedes screw to generate electricity. There is an information board which gives more details of the scheme and the local history. Further along the road you will pass Valley Cottages on the left where there are kennels, a cattery and animal grooming services. Further along you will pass a sign with the following wording: *"My doctor told me that walking would add years to my life. I think he was right. I feel 10 years older already."* A later section of this path is bordered by Hawthorn bushes which have vivid red berries towards the end of the summer. Horses are normally kept in fields either side of the track.

4. You will pass Goyt Hall Farm on the left, the rough road to the right leads up to Bredbury Green. Do not take this road but carry straight on towards Lower Bredbury. Pass through Middle Farm and continue past the entrance to Bredbury Hall, then turn immediately to the left following the sign to Vernon Park around a football pitch. When you come to a fork keep left on the main path – do not take the bridge over the river to Woodbank Park but continue on the path to the end. Continue on along the entrance to Pear Mill until you reach the main road. Cross at the pedestrian crossing with lights then continue down Welkin Road towards the motorway. The extension to the path has been shown as a dotted line on the map.

5. You are now entering Wharf Meadow. Go to the end of Welkin Road through industrial units and allotments and past Ark Mill. At the end of the road turn left onto a path, then right underneath the motorway. Follow this path which has been covered with red tarmac and which climbs steadily. As the red tarmac finishes the path forks, take the left fork until you reach the path along the disused railway. You will soon come to a well-lit short tunnel. (If you do not like tunnels there is a path taking you over the top and down the other side). About 200 yards on the other side of the tunnel there is a sign "*The Deadline*" which describes how the line was opened in 1863. There is another blue sign marking the "*Trans-Pennine Way (E) towards Denton/Broadbottom*". This is the point where another disused railway line joins. Take a sharp right and follow this line. The River Tame is down the slope on the left, and after a while you should see Reddish Vale Golf Club to your left. After a good distance along the disused railway line a road crosses your path, to your left there is a green gate with a tarmacked road leading down the slope and running virtually parallel with the old railway line. Take this tarmacked road. After a while you will see the River Tame through the trees down to your left. At the bottom of the slope follow the blue sign pointing to Denton/Broadbottom. (see Alternative below for slightly longer but better walk avoiding industrial estate.) After a green gate take the right fork following the wooden sign pointing to Blackberry Slopes/Woodley. Follow the path under the railway viaduct. After about 200 yards take the left fork and walk slightly downhill. After a further 100 yards or so take a right fork just by a bench and pass through a green fence (Do not take the silver 7-bar gate to the left). Follow the path with a small ditch and a fence to the left and a slope up to the right.

- 6a The path turns to run parallel with the motorway on the left, after a while follow the path which goes to the right over a small bridge over the brook. After the bridge turn left and continue parallel to the brook on your left. You will soon reach a path which crosses over the motorway, take the bridge over the motorway and take the path to your left just before reaching the road. The path runs between two fences and is usually strewn with litter. At the end of the fence on your right, turn right and you will be glad to move away from the noise of the motorway, although the path is rather overgrown and VERY MUDDY.

6. You will pass Arden Hall on your left, there are still the remains of the old moat. There is a sign which states that the hall was built in 1597. Keep straight along

the track, passing a bungalow called “Arden Crest” on your left and scrap yards on your right. Go through the gap to the left of the 7-bar gate. When you reach Castle Hill, turn right and walk along the road to the main road. (Instead of taking a right at Castle Hill, if you take a left you will drop down to the main road and the Arden Arms if you feel that you deserve a rest and if the pub is open.) Continuing back along Castle Hill you reach the main road with Allied Bakeries on your right. Over the road and on your left is Bredbury Park Way. To the left of this road is a path which runs parallel to the road. Where the path forks, take the left fork and continue along this path. You will pass through a wooden kissing gate. Continue along the path, in the field to the right there are usually horses and donkeys. Keep along the path round the enclosed paddock and on reaching another kissing gate turn right. Take the bridleway on the left (there is a football pitch on the right). Continue along the side of the River Tame, with the river on your left. There is a bridge over the river, do not take the bridge but continue along straight until you reach a sign for kennels, keep left. The path continues to the right of a small pond with the kennels beyond on the left. The path then climbs up to the Peak Forest canal. Turn right when you reach the canal and follow the canal through the Woodley Tunnel until you reach Stockport Road in Romiley where you should take the road left back to the station.

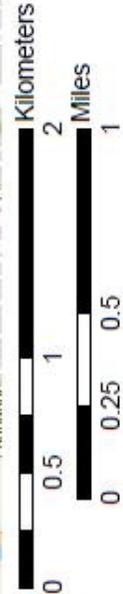
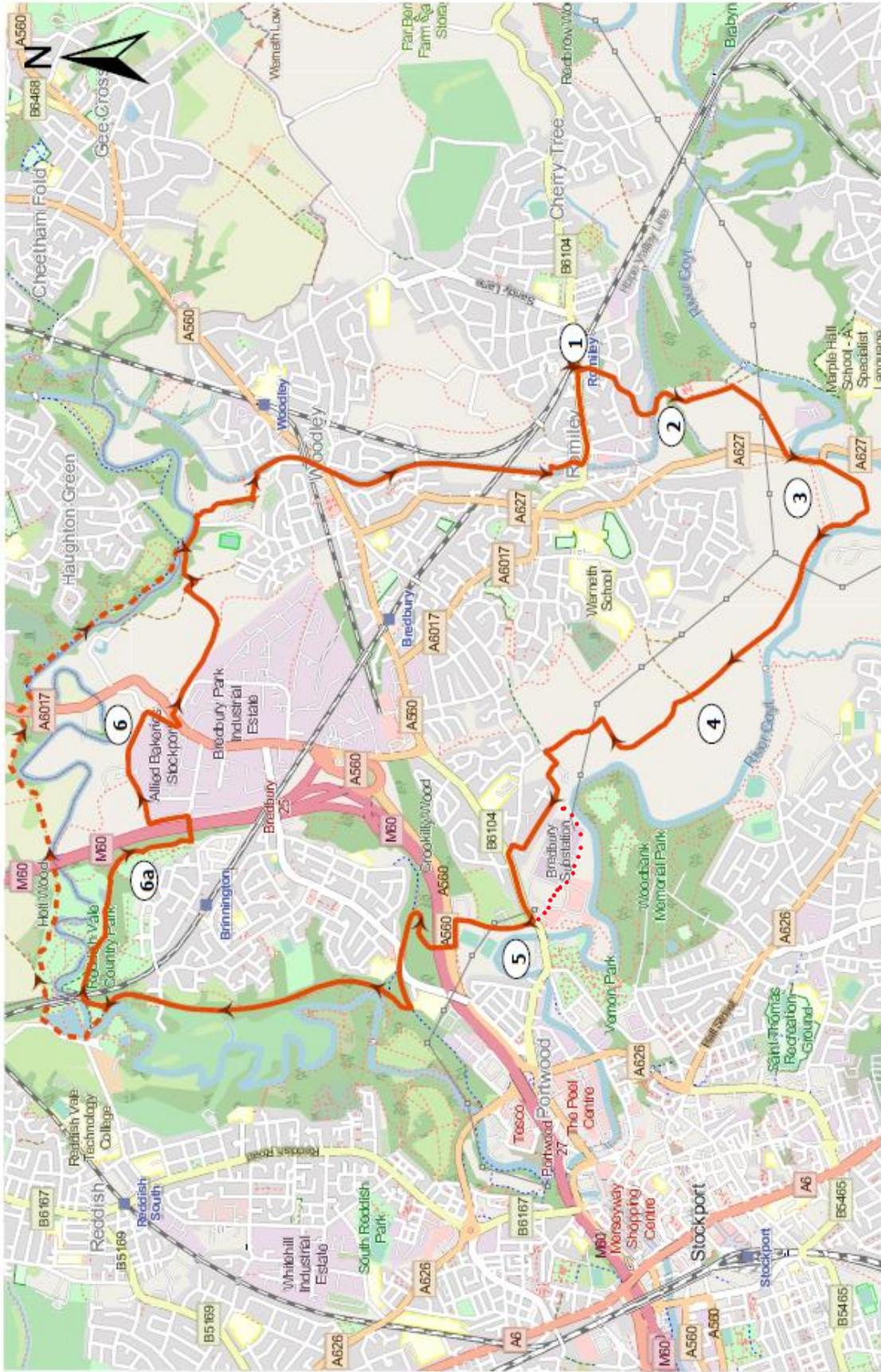
Alternative Route

After leaving the disused railway line, at the bottom of the slope continue straight ahead, following the sign to the Reddish Vale Visitor’s Centre (where you might be able to get a cup of tea) on the left after the bridge. Cross the bridge over the River Tame and turn right after the bridge following the blue sign for the Trans Pennine trail (this is a wide concrete path). After about 300 yards take the path to the right which eventually leads under the railway bridge. After about 400 yards take the path off to the right signposted for Stockport Road. You pass through a small wood then go down a flight of about 10 steps. Shortly after the steps the path forks, take the left fork. You are now walking in the direction of the motorway. There is a wooden walkway for part of the length of the path. After walking under the motorway bridge the path continues straight ahead as the river bends away to the right. After 250 yards you cross a pipe which carries a stream under the path. Go through the stile ahead of you. After the stile follow the path left. The path enters a small wood and you will soon see a sign pointing left to Hyde Hall. Continue straight following the sign to Stockport Road. You will eventually come to a green fence, follow the fence around to the left until you reach Stockport Road.

Across Stockport Road and slightly to the right is a stile by a gate. Cross this stile and continue until you reach a wider track. Turn left at the track and follow it for about one mile until you reach a footbridge on the right. Cross the bridge and turn left. Continue until you reach a sign pointing right to the Kennels. Follow this sign until you reach the entrance to the kennels, where you should take the path to the right of the entrance. The path then climbs up to the Peak Forest canal. Turn right when you reach the canal and follow the canal through the Woodley Tunnel until you reach Stockport Road in Romiley where you should take the road left back to the station.

ROUTE FOR WALK 6

ROMILEY STATION TO CHADKIRK COUNTRY PARK, GOYT HALL FARM, BRINNINGTON AND BACK



- Main route
- Alternative

Route 6: 16.3 km

WALK 7

ROMILEY STATION TO WERNETH LOW, COMPSTALL AND BACK

DISTANCE 11.8 KM (7.4 MILES)

TIME 3.5 TO 4 HOURS

This walk is moderate, rising to the top of Werneth Low, giving great views on both sides, then through Compstall, Brabyns Park and back along the Peak Forest canal. Walking shoes/boots are essential as some paths can be very muddy.

REMEMBER TO FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE

1. From Romiley Station front entrance turn right and walk about 300 yards, turning right onto Hole House Fold, just past the car wash but before you reach the canal. Do not go into the car park for the swimming baths but keep right and then after about 50 yards turn left onto Quarry Road, following the road over the railway bridge. After the bridge turn left following the sign for Highfield Farm. You will soon see a row of terraced houses, the bottom one being called Glendalough. Turn right directly and follow the path up the hill. At the top of the slope you join a track which you should follow as it goes slightly to the left. Sir Ian McKellan once lived in one of these houses.
2. Follow the lane, which turns right at the end of the houses. Shortly after turning right you will see a gap in the fence on the left. Go through this gap and follow the path. After crossing the next stile turn right and follow the path with the wall on your right until you reach another stile which you should cross and turn left onto the lane, passing the house "Wildervank" on the left. Some 200 yards later take the right-hand fork and you will see a sign for Heald Wood by a kissing gate. Pass through the gate and follow the path up the slope. After a short distance the path forks, take the right fork up the side of a steep bank. You will eventually reach a stile. The grass covered water reservoir should now be on your right. Keep along the path until you reach two posts. You will now be facing the back of Greave Primary School. Turn right over the stile and continue along the path until you reach the main road. At the road turn left then take a right up Werneth Low Road (it has a sign at the bottom stating that it is "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles"). This is not a main road, but vehicles may pass at speed so take care. Pass "Moorfield," a modern style house on the right. There is a stile on the left opposite this house but the ground in the field is very boggy.
3. Continue up Werneth Low Road for about 200 yards until you come to a stile with a yellow way-marker on the left. Cross over the stile and follow the path slightly left up the slope. There is a bench on the right from which, hopefully, you will be able to appreciate the view towards Manchester. Continue up the path until you reach another stile. After this stile the path levels out. Next cross a double stile. Continue along the path between the fields and at the end of the field turn half right and pass through a gap in the stone wall. Cross another field

and pass through a wooden kissing gate. After the gate take the right fork of the path. Before reaching the house pass through a wooden gate on the right, walk up the slope about 15 yards and take a left turn. Pass around the property (Lowside Farm), along a short drive, then turn right and follow the concrete track up the slope until just before you reach the road where there is a path. Turn left onto this path, which can be very muddy. This path runs parallel to the road passing the Hare and Hounds and Hyde Cricket Club to your right. Before you reach the telephone box take the unmade Mount Road to the right for a short distance, then turn right onto the lane which runs along the side of Hyde Cricket Club (see map). At the end of this lane there are a few parking places. Behind the parking places is a kissing gate and a sign pointing down the slope. Follow this path close to the fence on your left to another kissing gate in the left-hand corner of the field. Go through this and down the path. Pass a small house called Silverdale on the right. There is another small gate - keep going down the path until you reach a track which goes in a loop towards Cloughside Farm. Ignore the gate on the left in the bend of the loop and about 70 yards towards the farm there is a small gate through the fence on the left before you reach the farm. Go through the gate and follow the path down the slope through a field.

4. After going through a gate, a little further down the slope you will arrive at a wooden bridge over a stream. Cross over the bridge and follow the path over a stile up to the farm. Keep the lower buildings on your left. (After leaving the farm there is an alternative route marked * below). Follow the track onto a road which leads down to Compstall. On this road you will pass Hyde Farm, Chapel House Farm and School Lane Farm. At the bottom of School Lane turn right, passing the Andrew Arms (or call in for one if you feel so inclined). Further along this road you will pass the Etherow Visitor Centre ** on your left, and Compstall Post Office at the end of the road on the right. Where this road meets the main road, turn left and keep on the left-hand side of the road, over the bridge. About 100 yards after the bridge, follow the sign pointing to Brabyns Park on the right.
5. After about 300 yards cross the metal bridge. 30 yards or so beyond the bridge take the path to the right which continues close to the river. Soon you will reach the point at which the River Etherow meets the River Goyt. Follow the path round until you reach the third bench (dedicated to Ian Craig Brocklehurst), where you should take the path left which cuts away from the river. After another 150 yards there is a fork in the path. Take the right fork and after a further 100 yards cross over a stream using the small stone bridge. The path starts to climb. When you reach some steps on your right this will lead you to the canal between locks 1 and 2. Turn right at the canal. You will now walk some distance along the side of the canal, crossing over the aqueduct. You will come to a canal tunnel at which point you need to go up the steps and continue past Hyde Bank Farm. Turn left and soon left again under a bridge to re-join the canal. After about 550 yards you should see Chadkirk Chapel down to your left (in the winter when there are no leaves on the trees). You next reach a gap in the wall on the left. Take the steps down onto Vale Road. Turn right at the bottom of the steps, pass under the canal and follow Chadkirk Road, then Church Lane passing St Chad's Church on the right on your way back to the station.

*** 4A Alternative route**

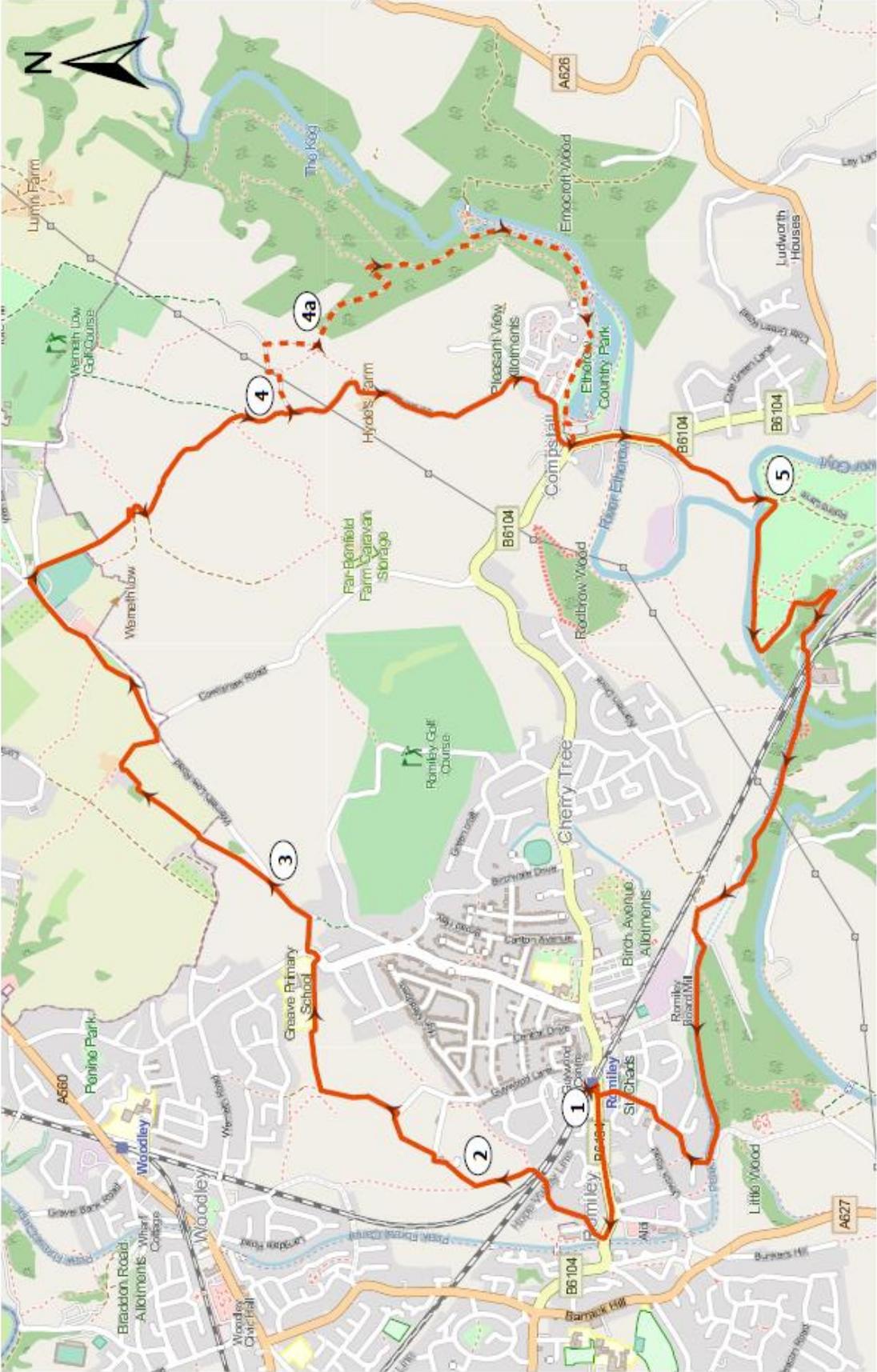
About 200 yards after leaving the farm where the track is concreted there is a dark path sharp left. Take this path which goes upwards between two high hedges along what is at times the bed of a stream. At the top of the slope you will reach a stile with a yellow way-marker on your right. Go over this stile and head towards the electricity pylon. Before you reach the pylon there is a stile with no fence either side, follow the path right here down the hill and through the gate to the right of the farm. Turn right onto the tarmacked road and after about 200 yards there is a white sign pointing left. Cross over the stile here and head downhill towards woodland. When you reach a gate/stile cross over and head to the left keeping the wood on your right and the open field on your left. This path goes downhill into Etherow Country Park. When you reach a wooden shelter head generally right towards the visitors centre where you continue with the route at ** in para 4 above.



Etherow Country Park - Visitor Centre

ROUTE FOR WALK 7

ROMILEY STATION TO WERNETH LOW, COMPSTALL AND BACK



-  Main route
-  Alternative

Route 7: 11.8 km

Why is doing some exercise important?

- By being active and starting some exercise you become stronger and fitter. You may notice your tiredness increase and some breathlessness at first but these should improve the stronger you get; this is a normal response to doing more exercise for all of us.
- You will feel better in yourself and can do more of the things that are important to you.
- Regular activity will help to minimise pain and stiffness in joints and will help you regain muscle strength.
- Being active during the day may help you sleep better.
- Over time regular exercise will help you manage chronic conditions such as heart disease and diabetes.
- **The more time spent being physically active, the greater the health benefits.**
- It is likely you will only be able to manage small amounts of exercise and activity at the beginning of your recovery.
- **Regular physical activity along with eating well can help you recover, build your muscle strength and become independent again.**

How do I start being active again?

- Start slowly and build up your level of activity over time.
- Try to do little and often, allow rest between activities and don't overdo it.
- Reduce sitting time. Try standing up every hour and marching on spot.
- Set yourself small goals that you can do in the day. You can start with small tasks such as making a drink or something to eat.
- Aim for a daily walk. Do walk with someone until you are confident to go out on your own.
- Try making a walk part of your daily routine to give your day structure.
- Don't worry if you need to stop and rest, that's a normal part of recovering and getting strong again.
- If you have an exercise bike at home this might be a good alternative to walking, particularly on wet days.

What should I be aiming for with my walking?

- You should aim to build up to 30 minutes of activity at least five days a week, but this is not going to happen at the beginning of your recovery.
- Take your time and build up as you feel you can and aim to do a little more each day.
- Choose a good time of day (when you are not too tired) to go for a walk.
- You might want to think about times when routes are a little quieter (early morning or evenings).
- Wait an hour after eating a meal before you exercise and take a drink with you.
- Walk with someone until you feel confident to be out on your own.
- If you live alone you might want to walk with a friend but you must maintain distance between both of you.
- Start with just walking for five minutes without stopping (or less if you feel breathless and tired).
- Gradually build this up, by one or two minutes.
- Once you can do 10 minutes without stopping aim to do two 10 minute walks a day.
- Once you can achieve three 10 minute walks aim for two 15 minute walks.
- Gradually progress to a 30 minute walk.

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