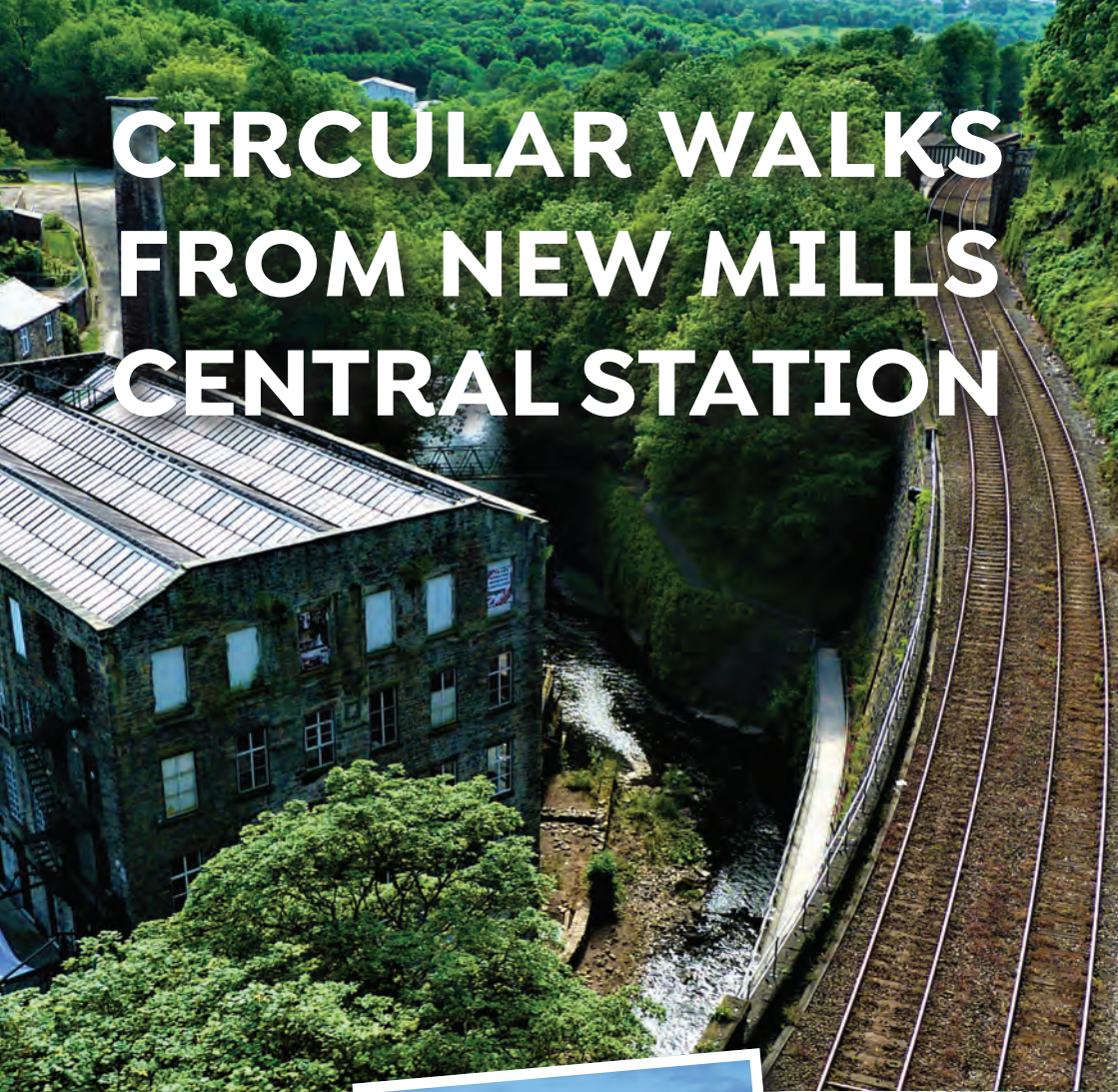


# CIRCULAR WALKS FROM NEW MILLS CENTRAL STATION



Wonderful Walks for all ages and abilities that start and finish at New Mills Central Railway station. Lots of things to do. ....and it's easy to get here by train!



This booklet was produced and printed thanks to the support of the

Community Rail Partnership (CRP) and Community Rail Network (CRN)

## INTRODUCTION

“Friends of New Mills Stations” is a voluntary ‘station adopter’ community group working to make New Mills Central Station as welcoming a place as possible for all visitors. We want people to visit New Mills by train to explore our wonderful countryside and wildlife, and to enjoy the wonderful shops, cafes, pubs, and other facilities of our friendly community. This booklet has been created to help you explore all of this.

Each of the nine varied walks start and finish at New Mills Central Station. All walks are on rights of way and suitable for most abilities. After periods of heavy rain parts of the routes may be very muddy and some of the paths are rough, so please dress appropriately, particularly regarding footwear.

Things do change so please tell us at [friendsnewmillsstations@gmail.com](mailto:friendsnewmillsstations@gmail.com) if you spot any errors or possible improvements for later editions of this booklet.

New Mills is served by excellent road and rail services from all over Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire.

For railway service timetables please use this link:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

For bus services please use this link:

<https://bustimes.org/localities/new-mills-derbys>

Thanks to everyone who helped put the walks together, including John Simpson, Jack Warner, Malcolm Booker, Andy Fox, Lesley Robertson and High Peak Ramblers.

We have made every effort to ensure that the content of this booklet is accurate. Friends of New Mills Stations and all those who contributed towards the production of this booklet take no responsibility for any injuries or mishaps occurring while using this booklet.

Please ensure that you read the description of the walk before setting out and note that some of the routes involve a number of stiles. Also, it is recommended that you carry a relevant OS map, or have access to the OS App, in case you need to make a diversion at any point. A compass and torch are also useful to carry, just in case.

We emphasise once again that appropriate clothing and footwear is required for all walks.

Finally, please ensure that you

**FOLLOW THE COUNTRY CODE AT ALL TIMES**

## All walks start and finish at New Mills Central Railway Station

	Pages
<b>Walk 1</b> <b>Mousley Bottom, The Fox, Apple Tree Road</b>	4 - 5
Dist 5.8 km (3.6 miles) – Time 1.5 to 2 hrs – relatively easy, but steep section out of Hague Bar.	
<b>Walk 2</b> <b>Newtown, Moorwood Farm, Hague Bar</b>	6 - 7
Dist 6.4 km (4 miles) – Time 1.5 to 2 hrs – easy to moderate, section of road at start.	
<b>Walk 3</b> <b>Goyt Way, Furness Vale, Newtown</b>	8 - 10
Dist 7.2 km (4.5 miles) – Time 2 to 2.5 hrs – relatively easy at start, steeper rising out of Furness Vale.	
<b>Walk 4</b> <b>Sett Valley, Ball Beard Farm, Goyt Valley</b>	11 - 13
Dist 7.5 km (4.7 miles) - Time 2 – 2.5 hrs. Bitty, not my favourite but covers a different part of New Mills.	
<b>Walk 5</b> <b>Whitle, Rowarth, Lantern Pike and Sett Valley</b>	14 - 17
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<b>Walk 6</b> <b>Peak Forest Canal, Strawberry Hill, Fox Inn</b>	18 - 19
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<b>Walk 7</b> <b>Sett Valley, Hayfield, Moor Lodge and Goyt Valley</b>	20 - 22
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<b>Walk 8</b> <b>Lyme Park</b>	23 - 25
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<b>Walk 9</b> <b>Mellor Cross</b>	26 - 27
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## Walk 1 Mousley Bottom, the Fox, Apple Tree Road

Distance 5.8 km (3.6 miles)

Ascent 131 m

Time 1.5 – 2 hours

A relatively easy walk with a fairly steep section by Hague Bar.

From New Mills Central railway station, take the road to the left of the station going downhill towards the river Goyt. There is a Pay & Display car park at the bottom of the slope. Take the path to the left of the sign Mousley Bottom. You will soon pass some relatively new stone houses, there is a track between the houses on the left which continues along the side of the river. You will pass two old gateposts and shortly see a wooden sign for “The Goyt Way” pointing left along the side of the river. Further along you will pass a sign which reads “The Ridgeway 210 miles” pointing right “TransPennine Trail 15 miles” pointing left. Don’t panic, you’re not walking that far! Keep heading along the river until you see a sign for “The Goyt Way” pointing right up a flight of steps which wind up to a car park with a children’s playground and picnic tables. To the left of the playground exit the car park and turn right onto the road which first crosses over the railway, then joins the main road at Hague Bar.



Cross over the road and take the lane directly opposite (Hague Fold Road) which climbs fairly steeply uphill. Follow the tarmacked road as it bears left and becomes a path. This path climbs gradually up to Brook Bottom Road at which point you should turn left.

Just before you reach the Fox Inn (01614271634) you should turn right on a tarmacked road following a Public Footpath sign to Clough Bank Farm. At the end of the lane take the footpath directly ahead which leads up steps and then through a gap in a stone wall. Next you come to a “V” stile on the right which you should go through and then take the path half right which goes diagonally across the field.

Go through the gap in the wall and turn left onto a bridleway. This joins a road where you should go straight on and keep on the road. Do not take the path right across the golf course nor the road left for Shaw Farm. This road crosses another but keep straight on along Apple Tree Road. At the time of writing, visitors were welcome at the New Mills golf club clubhouse. Where the road bends to the left there is a wooden sign for a footpath to the right, ignore this and continue along the road until you reach a crossroads where you should turn right downhill, passing a few houses. Keep to the right where the road goes left. Immediately before Beard House Farm take a sharp left down a few steps (ignore the rough path to the left just before this), then turn right at the gate and continue through a couple of gates and along a grass path over a field. When you reach a stile by houses on the right



**Plaque on old Police Station on Hall Street**

keep straight on, eventually passing between houses and onto a street where you should turn left, then first right along Godward Road. Next turn left onto Aldersgate to the end then left downhill passing the library on the left. You will see the old Police Station of the right with a plaque outside stating that 6 rambblers were held there after the mass Trespass. For more information about the mass trespass see the following link:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass\\_trespass\\_of\\_Kinder\\_Scout](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_trespass_of_Kinder_Scout)

At Market Street turn right and head back towards the station.



**Route 1** Red line in direction of arrows

## Walk 2                  Newtown, Moorwood Farm, Hague Bar

**Distance: 6.4 km (4 miles)**

**Time 1.5 – 2 hours**

The walk is easy to moderate, mainly on generally good paths but can be muddy after wet weather so good footwear is advisable. There is a section of road at the start of the walk, but things improve after crossing the A6.

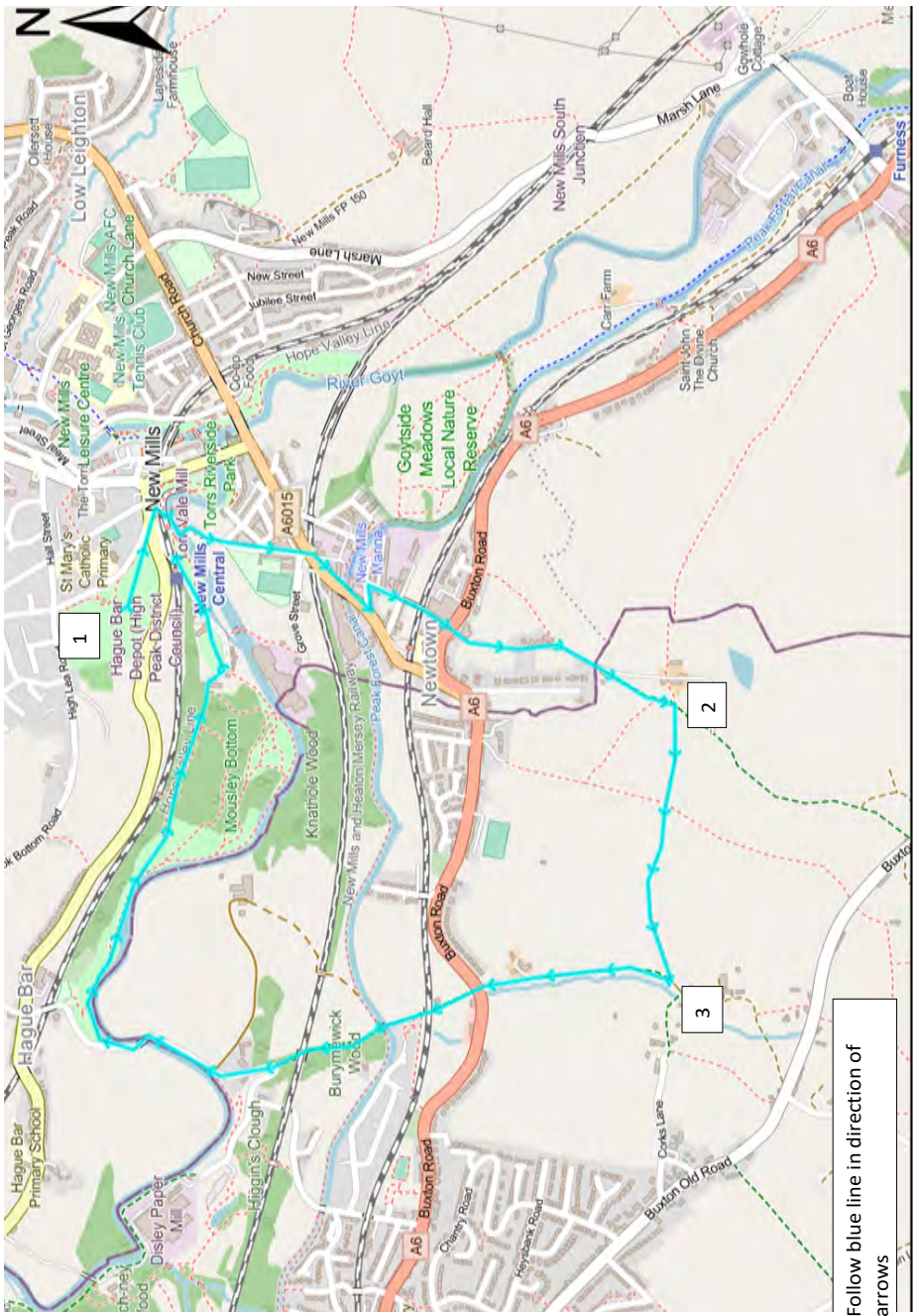
1. At the exit from New Mills Central railway station follow the sign on Station Road opposite the station pointing to the Millennium Way. Follow this path down a number of steps. At the bottom of the steps turn right, then immediately left across the metal footbridge over the Goyt. The path continues steeply up a number of steps, passing the tall factory chimney. Turn right where this path meets the road and continue along this dirt road, keeping left and not going into the car park on the right. Continue up this road, which becomes Wirksmoor Road as it joins the main A6015. Cross this busy road with care using the pedestrian lights. Keep walking uphill in the direction of New Mills Newtown Station and crossing over the canal. Take the next street on the left (Hibbert Street) then turn right after the row of houses onto Redmoor Lane. At the end of this lane follow the path to the footbridge over the railway lines and re-join Redmoor Lane. This takes you to the busy A6, which you should cross with great care. Continue up Redmoor Lane on the other side.

As you climb keep right by the Old Farmhouse and take the right fork following the blue arrow (34) past Shrigley Cottage. Pass through a gate and follow the path over a bridge made of railway sleepers. Do not follow the yellow sign (36) right but continue straight on for about another 100m to the top of the rise.

2. Moorwood Farm is up the slope to the left. Look for and take the path going off to the right. About 30m further on there is a tree with a yellow way-marker giving the direction to follow. The path goes uphill and converges with a fence on the left. Keep the fence on your left until you reach a stile over the fence, which you should cross. Further on you cross a double wooden footbridge over a stream. A path (37) crosses at right angles. Continue straight on with path 38 and you should soon get a good view towards Manchester ahead.

3. Continue along this path until you reach a bridleway crossing at right angles by a stretch of woodland. Turn right and take the bridleway downhill. There is also a permissive path running parallel which is easier to walk on. This path becomes a wider lane and eventually meets the A6 which you should cross with care. Directly opposite is Lower Greenshall Lane which you should follow downhill through a railway arch, passing a playground on the left, going over the canal and under another railway bridge and eventually joining the minor road which you should take towards Hague Bar on the other side of the valley. After crossing Hague Bridge, you will see a sign pointing right through Mousley Bottom woods. Take this path and follow it, keeping the river on your right. You will eventually pass between some houses, follow the path on the other side of the gap. You will eventually meet the road which climbs up by the side of New Mills Central Station.

Route 2



Follow blue line in direction of arrows

## Walk 3 Goyt Way, Furness Vale, Newtown

**Distance: 7.2 km (4.5 miles)**

**Ascent 21m**

**Time 2 – 2.5 hours**

Relatively easy going at start of walk, becomes steeper rising out of Furness Vale, can be very muddy in parts.

At the exit from New Mills Central railway station follow the sign on Station Road opposite the station pointing to the Millennium Way. Follow this path down a flight of steps. At the bottom by the river turn left. You will walk along the suspended walkway and pass the climbing crags on your left. Pass under the “Double-Bridge” – or more accurately “Queen’s Bridge” along Goyt Way and continue ahead towards Goytside Farm after which you should turn right at the sign back towards the river. Turn left after the bridge over the river and follow the path to Carr Farm where you come to a lane, which leads up to the canal. Before the moveable bridge over the canal (Bridge 30) turn left and continue along the canal towpath until you reach the next bridge (Bridge 31) where you should turn right onto the road to Furness Vale.



Queen's Bridge

You pass “The Crossings” pub on your left

before reaching the A6 where you should turn right. This is a very busy road but there is a Pelican crossing towards the right. You pass another pub (The Soldier Dick) and then immediately after this you should follow the public footpath sign pointing left.

There is a short lane which leads to a stile which you should cross and then you should continue straight on for about 100m up the slope. After the next stile continue slightly to the right up the slope rather than take the more obvious path half right. You should aim uphill for the top right-hand corner of the field where there is a lone tree as the path is not very distinct. There is a metal gate in the corner with a small wooden excuse for a gate which you should go through. You then come to a slightly depressed wider path (so make sure you say something nice to it). Keep on straight forward through an open field with only a suspicion of a path across. In the top right-hand corner of the field there is a small wire mesh gate which you should go through. After the gate, a lane goes left, take this lane then after 10m go through the gate on the right with the way marker.

You should head straight across this field (path not very distinct). Look over half left as you climb in height and you will see a stile/gap in the wall. Head towards this and pass through it. After this gap the path goes a quarter right where you should start to see a great view towards Manchester (although views over Derbyshire are better!). Go through the gate just to the left of a small clump of trees. After the gate keep straight on keeping the wire fence



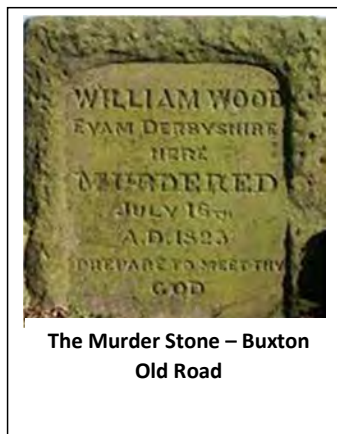
on your right. Up to your half left is Kiln Knoll which it is worth visiting to appreciate the great view that the people who built it must have had all that time ago.

Kiln Knoll Bronze Age Barrow is on the top. Any grave goods have been pilfered long ago. There could be a local connection with the naming as there were brick kilns at Furness Vale. Could be that some wag thought the remains of the barrow resembled the top of a kiln. A significant diversion of this walk would be to see the Murder Stone on the Disley to Whaley Old Road. This is not shown on the map. (Google Murder Stone – Whaley Bridge for more details).



**Kiln Knoll**

The path can be boggy over the next section. Go through the stile in the right-hand corner of the field by Redmoor Farm (which had just been painted white and looked lovely at the time of writing). Turn right after the stile passing farm buildings on your right and go downhill through the metal gate suitable for horse-riders. You pass through a few similar gates as you descend and you should say “Thank you Cheshire Council” as you go through each one. As the sunken lane can be very boggy you might want to walk along the field edges to the left.



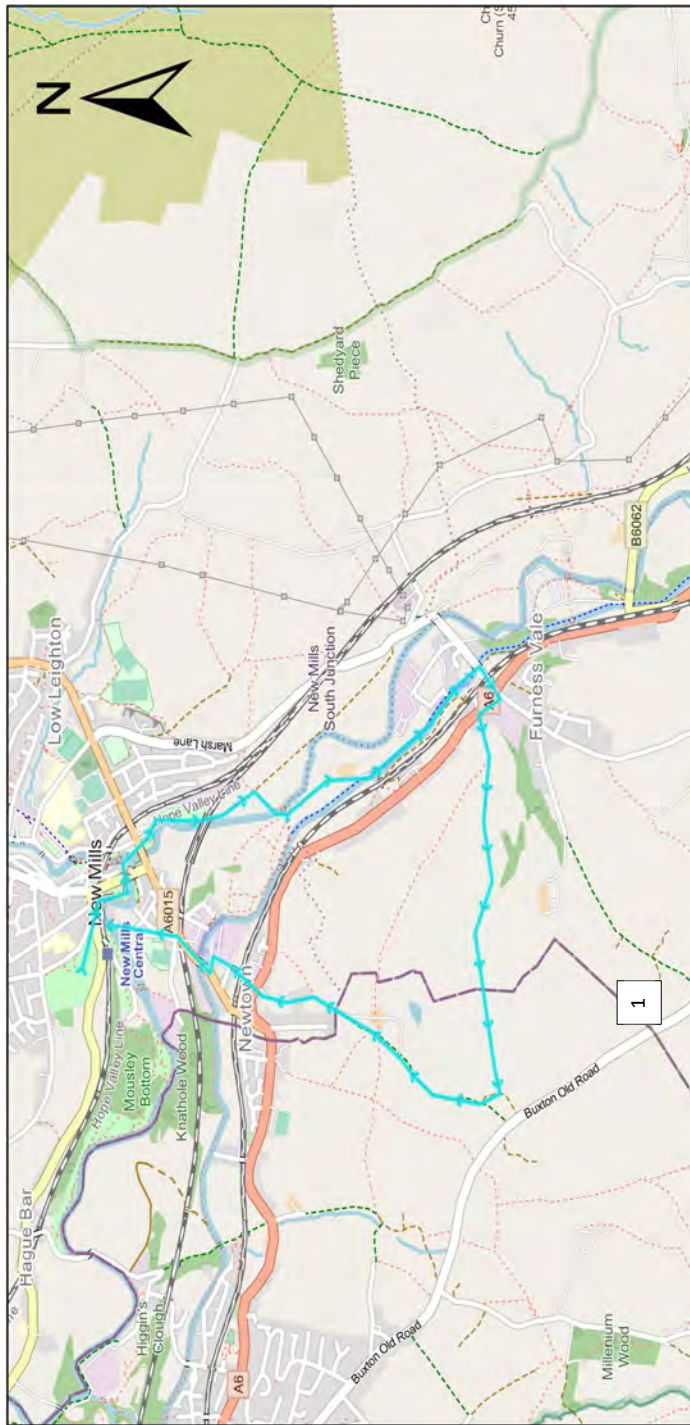
**The Murder Stone – Buxton Old Road**

Follow the blue way marker (34), do not turn right at Moorwood Farm. Keep on going along Redmoor Lane in a generally straight direction and don't be tempted to take appealing alternatives to left and right. When I came to Shrigley Cottage there was a lovely well-preserved yellow Massey Ferguson 35 tractor in the shed. Keep going down the lane until you reach the A6 which you should re-cross with great care (no Pelican here!) and take the road opposite to the left of Chalkers Snooker Club. Personally, I was quite excited to see that there was a metal footbridge not just over the railway line, but also over what would have been a reasonable

sidings area in days gone by. Next take Chapel Street to the left passing a row of terraced houses, then turn right at the main road. After crossing over the canal and railway turn left at Wirksmoor Road\*, then first right (do not go down Grove Street). Take Torr Vale Road which leads down to Torr Vale Mill and The Cheese Wheel shop (artisan cheese, craft beer, natural wine and local ice-cream – well worth a visit). Turn left by the big chimney (you can't miss it) and follow the red sign down steps over the river footbridge. Turn right and shortly re-ascend the steps back to the Station.

\*Note if instead of turning down Wirksmoor Road you continue a little further down the main Albion Road (A6015) there is an excellent Sicilian café and restaurant on the right named A Tavola – opening times vary so better to call 07478 743293 first.

### Route 3



**1 THE MURDER STONE.** On 16<sup>th</sup> July 1823 Mr William Wood, of Eyam, Derbyshire, was robbed and murdered by the roadside, between Disley and Whaley-Bridge, on his return from Manchester Tuesday's market. Mr Wood left a local pub, and was followed by three men, who beat him about the head using their own bludgeons and stones from the wall, until he was dead. The three young men went to the Golden Lion public-house in Macclesfield. They also bought new clothes and had a feast on the proceeds of their heinous crime. This drew the suspicions of some of the locals in the pub and upon examining their old clothes, found they were stained with blood. The next day the three fellows proceeded to the Greyhounds public-house, in Oak-street in this town, and called for some liquor. The landlord observed that they were wearing new clothes and had plenty of money in their pockets. He suspected that they had committed a robbery and called for the police. By the time the police arrived, two had left, however, the third was taken into custody. Joseph Dale was tried, found guilty and hanged for the murder of Mr William Wood

## Walk 4            **Sett Valley, Ball Beard Farm, Goyt Valley**

**Distance 7.5 km (4.7 miles) Time 2 – 2.5 hours.**

The walk is easy to moderate mainly on good paths but with significant stretches of farm tracks that are very muddy so good footwear is advisable. There are short steep stretches on this generally “bitty” walk which is not my favourite but covers another sector of New Mills.

1 From Central Station walk up the road into the centre of New Mills. From the roundabout by the Pride of the Peaks pub head along Market Street. After the pub turn right down Rock Street and continue down the cobbled road until you reach a sign pointing left to the Sett Valley Trail. Keep to the higher path to the left, and after 10m you will see the tunnel on your left, this being the start of the old railway line to Hayfield. Follow the old railway line passing a leisure centre on your left then up a path which goes to the right of the track where the short tunnel has been filled in. Follow the signs for the Sett Valley trail, crossing a road (St George’s Road) where the sign reads 2.5 miles to Hayfield. Walk for about a mile along the Sett Valley trail until just before overhead electricity cables cross over the trail. This is also at the end of a row of houses on your right.

2 Take the path to the right, through a gate then across a minor road. Walk along Derby Road opposite then take the path straight ahead of you keeping the houses to your right (this can be muddy and strewn with litter) Turn left at the main road then after about 150m cross the road with care and follow the “Public Bridleway” sign along a farm track which passes to the right of Gibb Hey. Further on the track passes to the right of Gibb Hey Cottage where you should turn right along a partly metalled road. You pass another farmhouse on your right. Pass through a gate and then keep to the left of the next gate keeping the wire fence to your right.

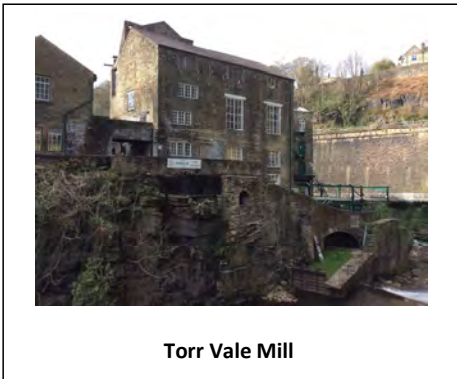
Go through the gate in the corner of the field, then turn left and pass over the stile at the side of the gate on the farm track. Do not take the track to the left – the gate has a sign “Keep Out”, instead follow the track which turns right towards the farm. Pass through the gate and walk between the Ollersetthall farm buildings. After leaving the farm you soon come to a fork with a sign pointing sharp left to Brownhill, which you should take. Before the next house go through the gap in the wall to the left of the gravel drive then cross the field, go over the stile in the wire fence. Keep walking in the same direction turning right just after the broken wall. When you reach a high wall continue along its length keeping it on your left

When you reach Primrose Cottage on your left turn right just before the deep “gorge”. This path leads you down to a footbridge over the stream. Turn right onto the track and then left at Laneside Road

The lane climbs steeply uphill. When you reach a sign to Ball Beard Farm on the right follow the tarmacked lane. Before you reach the farm there is a sign for a public bridleway which forks left. Follow this path. There are two footpaths off to the right, but these should be ignored. You will pass Howcroft Farm on your right.

3 As you reach a wooden gate on the left leading up to Beardwood Farm on the slope to the left take the footpath with the wooden signpost down the field to the right and under the pylons. You will reach a tunnel passing under the railway lines. On the other side of the railway lines, you will hear the humming of the electricity station which is the reason for all the pylons. At the road turn right, immediately to a road junction where you also turn right. Shortly after a house on the left (Gowhole Farm) go through the gate onto a track –beware of marauding hens! Follow the track all the way to Goytside Farm where you meet the Goyt Way. Continue ahead passing under the railway viaduct. As the track starts to climb and move away from the river take the path to the left which follows the side of the river.

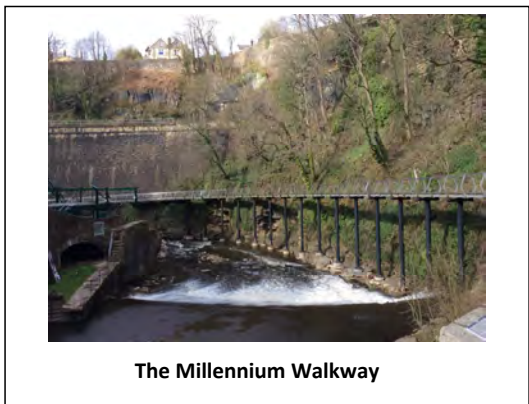
Pass under the Queen’s “double” road bridge and next cross the narrow wooden bridge at



**Torr Vale Mill**

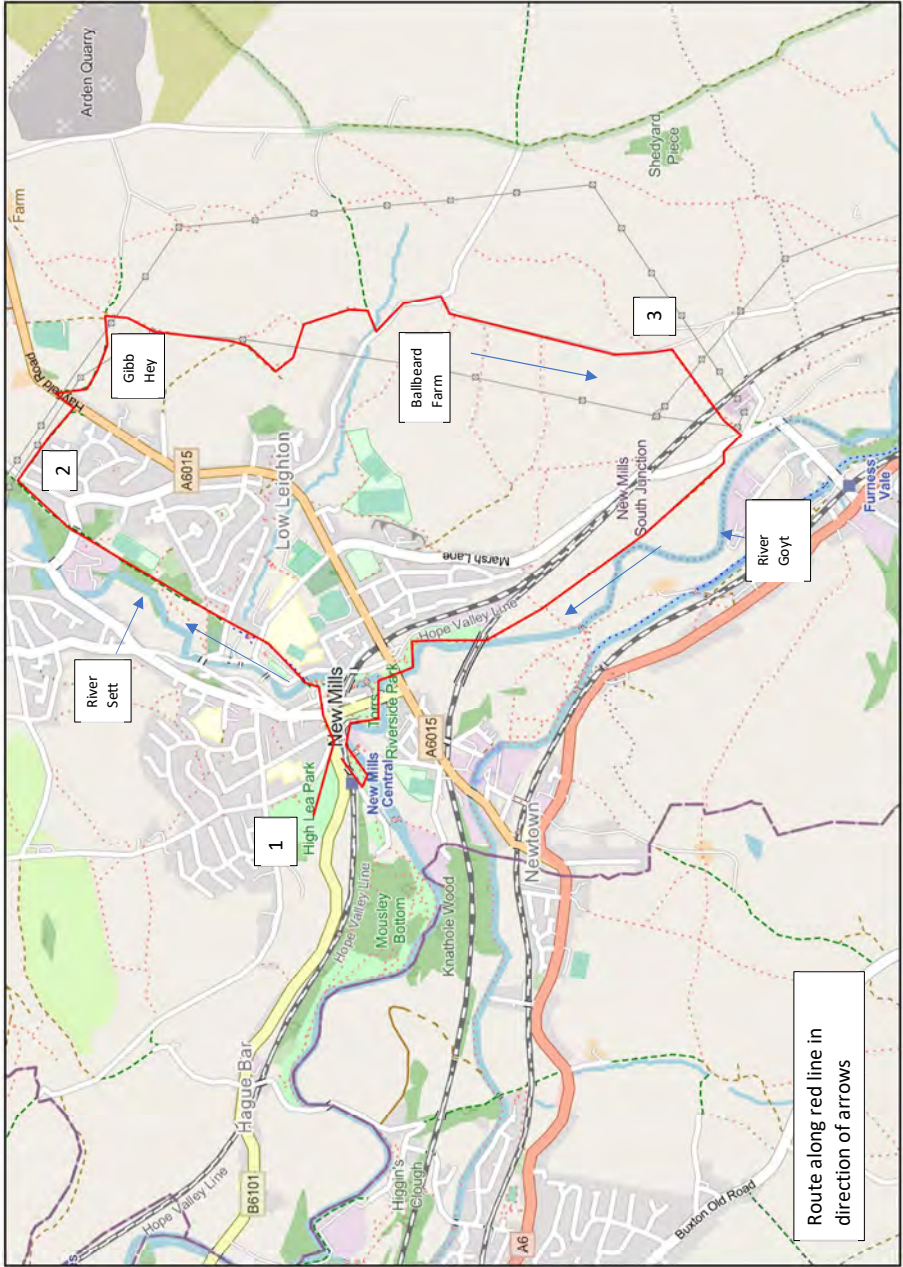
the point where the river Sett joins the Goyt. You next pass the “Torrs Hydro” and a sign which gives a description of the project. When you reach the cobbled path turn left. There is a rock face to your right which is very popular with climbers. A path leading up to the right takes you to the Rock Mill Centre. If you want to go to the station keep straight on to the Millennium Walkway. The Cheese Wheel shop is on your left on the other side of the river. There is an impressive stone wall on your right, built to

provide support for the railway lines. At the end of the Millennium Way follow the path leading up to the right to the station.



**The Millennium Walkway**

# Route 4



## Walk 5                    Whitle, Rowarth, Lantern Pike and Sett Valley

**Distance 12.8 km (8 miles)**

**Time 4 – 4.5 hours**

The walk is moderate on good paths to start but crosses some very boggy sections. Great views along the way. Be aware that there is an alternative shorter walk if you don't feel up to ascending Lantern Pike, but the view from the top of Lantern Pike is worth it.

From Central Station walk up the road into the centre of New Mills. From the roundabout by the Pride of the Peaks pub head along Market Street for about 500m. About 50m after the old church now converted into an Arts Centre turn left up a path rising up a slope. This path becomes cobbled and can be slippery after rainfall. At the top of this path and just before reaching houses you arrive at a T junction. Turn right and continue along this path over three stiles/gates until you reach Beard House Farm on your left. Follow the path and turn right onto the approach road to the farm and then left when you reach the next road, leading uphill. Continue straight across Apple Tree Road following the sign for a public bridleway up a lane.

When you see Bower Cottage on the left you have reached Whitle. Bower House Farm is now straight ahead with a sign indicating left where walkers should go. Follow this sign but before you reach Appletree Barn go over the stile next to the gate to the right. Keep straight on towards the wall ahead and go up the steep steps over the hole at the top of the wall. After going over the wall go left along the side of the wall and over the stile in the corner of the field. This takes you onto the golf course where you should turn right keeping the wall on your right. Walk to the top of the rise and about 20m before the last yellow marker deviate half left heading to another yellow marker and then to a stile bringing you to Castle Edge Road where you should turn right. Do not follow the sign to Castle Edge Farm but continue along the road which turns right. Soon you will come to a wooden sign pointing right – this leads to the Pack Horse Inn - do not take this path but go another 150m until you see another sign pointing right just before you reach a wood. Take this rough track downhill keeping the trees on your left.

1 You will come to a fairly busy main road where you turn right and after about 150m take a sharp left following a sign for a restricted byway. Continue along this path until you come to another road, where you should turn left, then right after the house following the sign for Rowarth. Walk along this path until you reach the end of the wire fence, then turn right downhill. Again, where the fence around the house ends go through the gate and turn left keeping close to the wall.

There is a boggy section between two old gate posts, keep straight on with the wall on your left. There is a way marker and soon after a "stile" close by a gate which you should go over. There is no obvious path in the next field but keep going in the same direction and you will come to a ladder by trees which you should go over. Then go half left through a boggy area until you reach another way marker on a tree to the left of a holly bush. Again keeping in the same direction, you reach a line of bushes which you should keep on your left.



**The Little Mill - Rowarth**

Eventually go through the gate in the corner of the field onto a farm track. Go over a stile and then left onto a tarmacked lane. When you meet the next road by a house with the sign "The Children's Inn" turn right. Follow the road to the Little Mill Inn, not Goddard Lane. This can be a very pleasant spot to take a break.

(An alternative shorter route - 6.5 miles - back to New Mills can be taken from here. See \* below.)

2 Follow the road past the pub marked as a dead end with no room to turn. At a fork go right following the Public Footpath sign. After a house the road becomes a rough track steeply uphill. This "Restricted Byway" eventually meets a similar track where you should turn sharply left. After a gate across the track take a path right across the moor following the direction of a stone wall to your right. Eventually the path meets a wire fence with a gate on the right marked "Bridleway only" – take this path. After a short distance uphill at the National Trust sign follow the directions given to the summit of Lantern Pike. Due to erosion, there are clear directions of where to walk.

3 The summit is a very fine viewpoint and is well worth at least a short stay at the viewfinder. Continue on the path now downhill until you reach a cross-wall. Turn left and go steeply downhill following the wall back to the bridleway you left earlier. Turn right and pass through a metal gate.

This track is the Pennine Bridleway (PBW) and goes steadily downhill in the same direction towards the Settle valley. You cross one minor road, follow the sign opposite which states Hayfield 1.5 miles. Where the track turns sharply to the left there is a gate opposite, which you should pass through – then follow the path leading downhill. When you reach another motor road turn left and consider a visit to the Settle Valley café immediately ahead.

4 Just beyond the café turn right on the Settle Valley trail, a disused railway track, back towards New Mills. Beyond the Leisure Centre on your right follow the signs across the river and steeply uphill back to Central Station.

\*Alternative route



**Aspenshaw Hall**

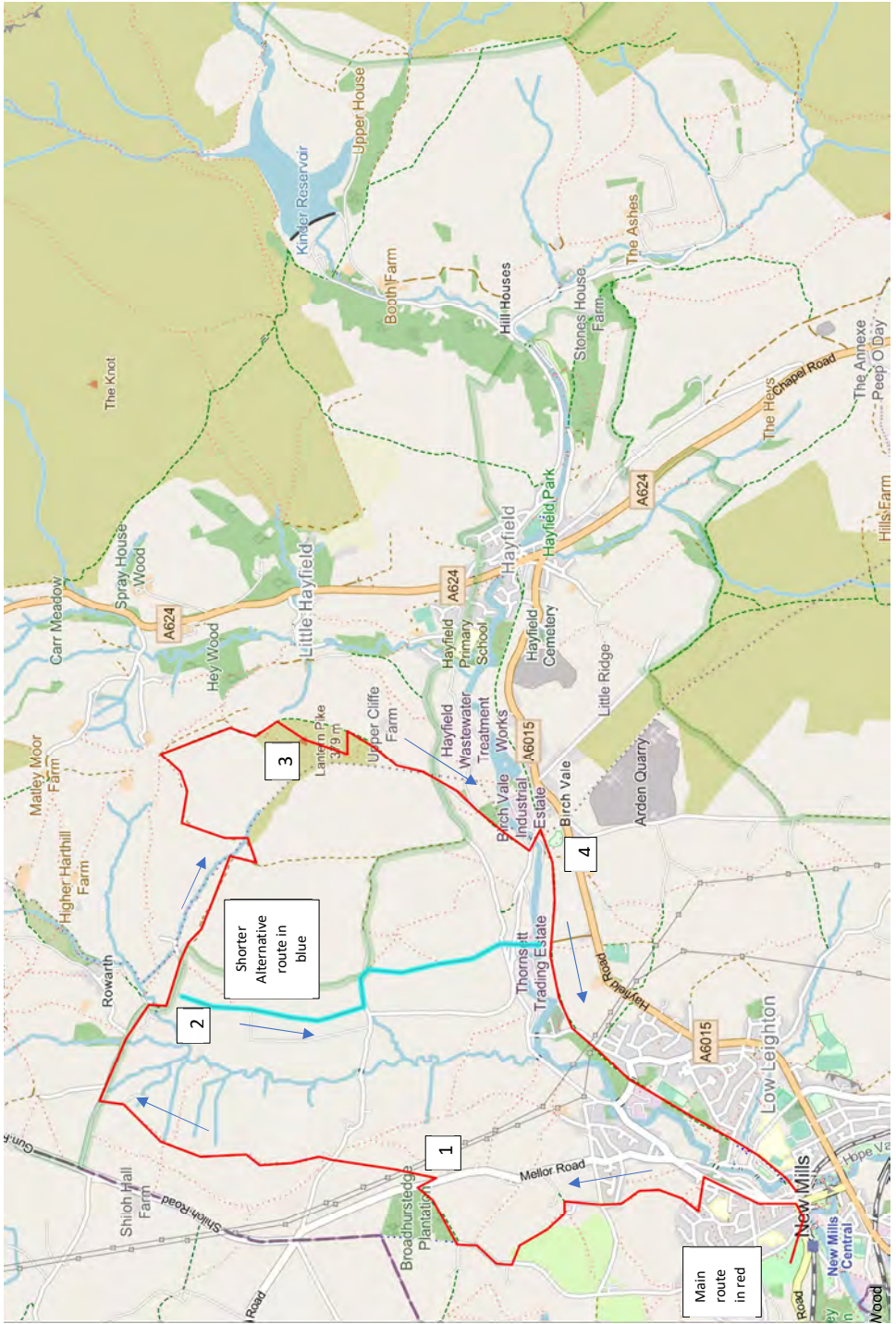
About 200m beyond the pub follow the wooden sign to the right and go through the gap by the gate. This is a muddy section. Head past the post in the middle of the field, then cross over the stile by the pond. Keep close to the fence on your left. Go through the gate and the steps over the low wall. This section is very muddy as you approach the farm. Cross over another low wall and continue between the farmhouse and sheds. Follow the signpost for a footpath between two gates, then climb the steps over a wall. Continue along the path keeping the wall on your right. There is another field and stone wall & stile to cross, then you should have a wooded slope upwards

to your left. When you reach the next road turn left. You will soon pass Aspenshaw Hall on your left with some remarkable beech trees in its grounds. Before the cottage on the left turn right following the public footpath sign over a stile. There should be an old high wall down the hill on your right.

Cross over another stile through a small wood then through a gap in the wall. Continue along a fairly boggy path through a field. After passing through another narrow gap in a wall turn left and keep to the edge of the field with the wall on your left. Continue along until you reach a gap in the wall in the corner of the field. Pass through this gap and after another 50m go through a gate. Cross another minor road, then go down a cobbled path, then some steep steps down on the right. Cross over the road and take the path slightly to the left down some more very steep steps. Turn left at the bottom and pass by the Thornsett Trading Estate factories on your right. Follow the cobbled road which crosses the Sett Valley Trail where you should turn right and continue back towards New Mills as above.



Route 5



## Walk 6      Peak Forest Canal, Strawberry Hill, Fox Inn

**Distance 11.2 km (7 miles)**

**Time 3-3.5 hours**

The walk is moderate on generally good paths but can be muddy after wet weather so good footwear is advisable. There is a section of road at the start of the walk, but things improve after reaching the canal.

At the exit from New Mills Central railway station follow the sign on Station Road opposite the station pointing to the Millennium Way. Follow this path down a flight of steps. At the bottom of the steps turn right, then immediately left and cross the metal footbridge over the Goyt. The path continues up a number of steps, passing the tall factory chimney. Turn right where this path meets the road and continue along this dirt road, keeping left and not going into the car park on the right. Continue up this road, which becomes Wirksmoor Road and joins the main A6015. Cross this busy road with care. Ahead of you and slightly to the right is Victoria Street which you should go down until you reach the canal.

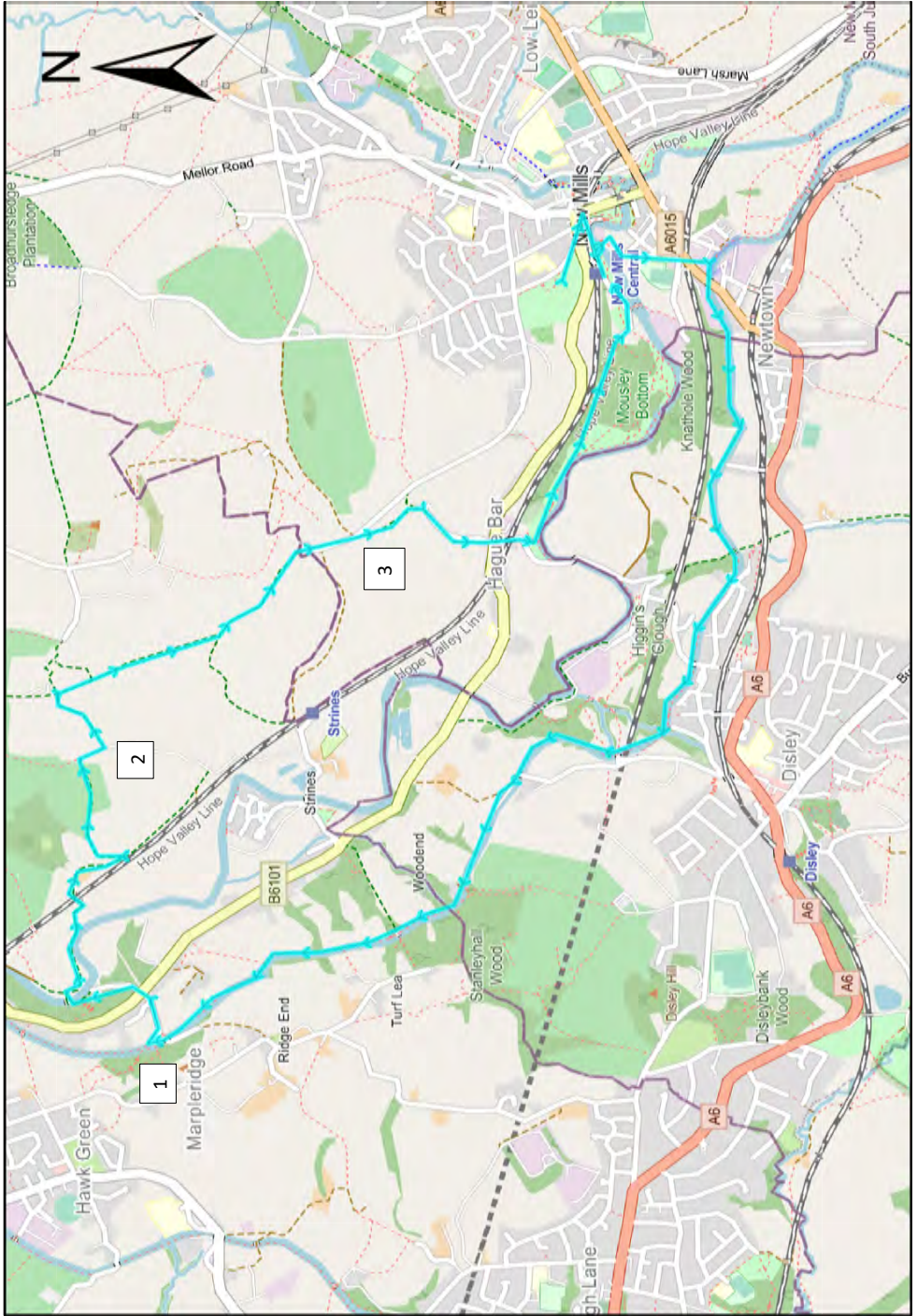
Turn right at the canal and take the towpath for approx. 3 miles until you reach bridge 21. Take the path to the right down a few steps and onto a tarmacked road. Continue downhill on the road until you meet Strines Road, which you should cross with care. Take the well-maintained bridleway opposite which leads downhill to the bridge over the river Goyt.

1 On the other side of the bridge you will soon come to a dirt track at Strawberry Hill where you should turn right. You will shortly pass under the railway line and approach Windybottom Farm. After about 150m take the path leading uphill on the left, you will have a wood on your left and a grassy hill on your right. You will cross the golf course further up the hill where you should look out for golf balls from your right! Also, this path is popular with bikers who can descend at high speed, so be warned. You will come to a path which joins on your left and has a sign pointing to Mellor Church. Turn right here and pass a house called "The Shielan".

2 After about 100m take the track to the left, and after passing a house on the right you will cross a culvert then continue along the path between two red triangles attached to posts. There is a small stable on the left. This path was fairly wet after dry weather so be prepared for a boggy section after a spell of rain.

When you meet a lane which is tarmacked going left, take a right turn passing houses named "The White House" and "Ivy Cottage" on your left. You should have good views of the valley to your right along this section. You will be joined by a lane coming up hill to your right, keep straight on until you reach Brook Bottom and the Fox Inn, which is a good place to take a rest, but check in advance that they are open as the pub is not open every day. Keep walking along the tarmacked lane until you reach a bench at the top of the rise.

3 Take the path half right heading downhill. This joins a lane which heads downhill to Hague Bar and meets the main road, which you should cross with care. Take the road opposite and cross over the railway and then walk across the car park to your left. Take the path which is on the lower side of the car park by the trees leading down the slope towards the river. Turn left at the bottom and follow the river back towards New Mills. At the end of Mousley Bottom Nature Trail you will join the road which take you up towards New Mills Central Station.



## Walk 7      Sett Valley Trail, Hayfield, Moor Lodge, Goyt Valley

**Distance 12km (7.5 miles)**

**Time 3.5 – 4 hours**

This walk is easy along the Sett Valley trail, but then climbs fairly steeply up to Ridge Top, Hayfield then crosses high moorland before descending to the Goyt Valley

1 At the exit from New Mills Central railway station follow the sign on Station Road opposite the station pointing to the Millennium Way. Follow this path down a flight of steps and turn left onto the walkway. At the end of the walkway follow the signs for the Sett Valley Trail. At the start of the trail, you will see the tunnel on your left, this being the start of the old railway line to Hayfield. Follow the old railway line past a leisure centre on your left then up a path which goes to the right of the track where the short tunnel has been filled in. Follow the signs for the Sett Valley trail, crossing a road (St George's Road) where the sign reads 2.5 miles to Hayfield. The route is fairly easy to follow all the way to Hayfield. Keep on the main track all the way.



1 From the toilet block in the Sett Valley car park in Hayfield do not cross the bypass but follow the road right out of the car park. Cross the main road and continue up Chapel Street which narrows into a track. There is a sign stating, "Access to Meadow Farm". Pass to the left of the farm and continue up a metalled road which winds uphill. After passing Ridge Top Farm there is a stile and footpath straight ahead, which you should ignore. Turn left

along the lane passing through a metal gate. Pass South Ridge Farm and cross over the stile ahead, passing the barn on your left, and crossing over the next stile. Keep straight on until you reach an old stone pillar where you should cross over the steps in the wall to the left. Turn right keeping the wall on your right and going up towards the gap in the wall in the top right corner of the field. After passing through the gap turn right onto the farm track.

Where the track turns right and goes downhill there is a gate on the left. Go through the gate and follow the track up to the TV mast. There are great views to the right and back towards Hayfield from this point. When you reach the mast there is a stile to the left. Go over the stile and make your way along a wobbly, soggy path towards a clump of trees in the middle distance.

2 When you reach the wall by Moor Lodge go over the ladder stile and then turn half right and cross over the small field. Turn left at the tarmacked road, passing Moor Lodge then taking the road on the right with a sign for Hollinhurst Farm. After about 200m you pass

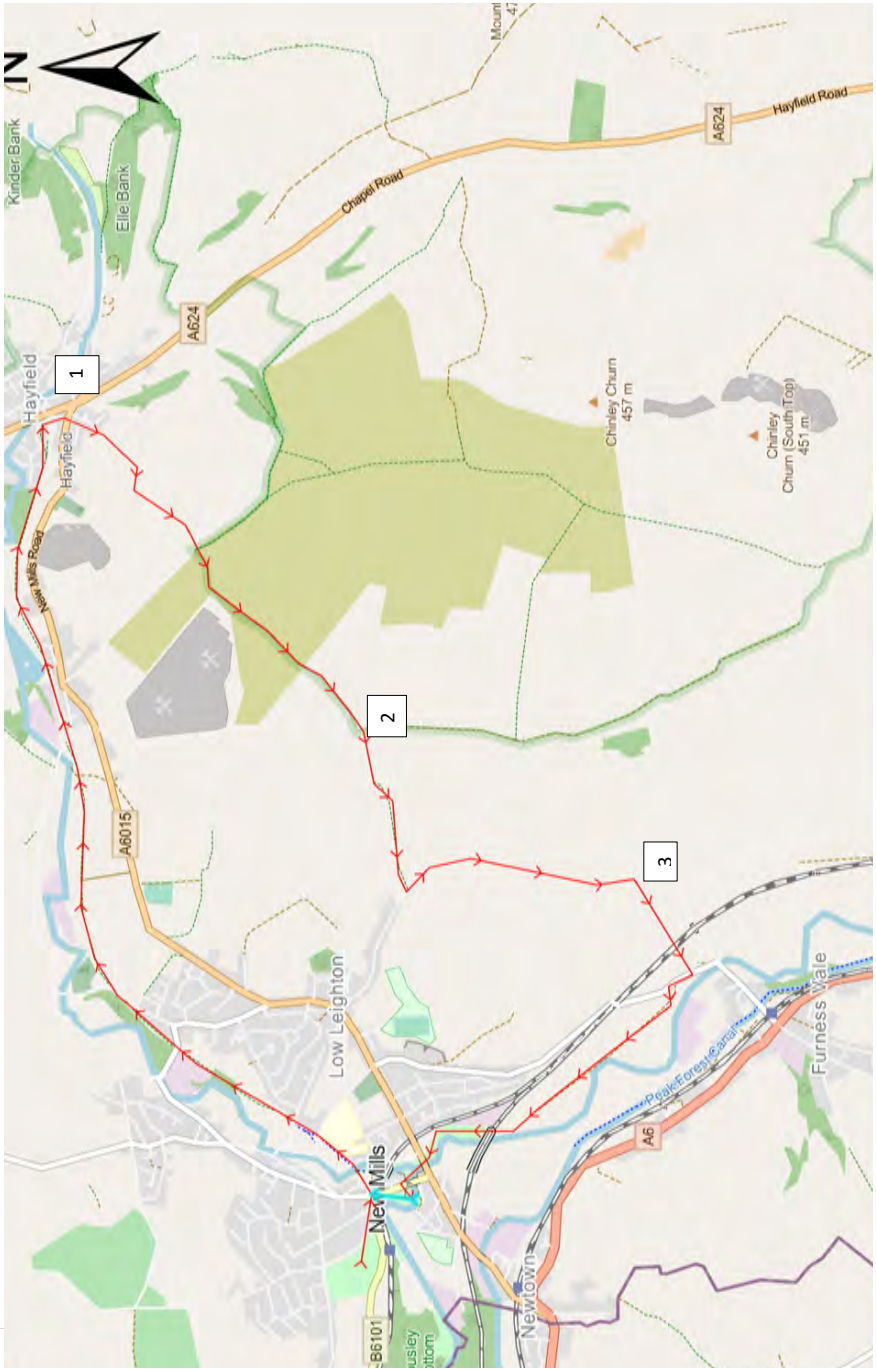
between farmhouses then along a grassy lane for a short distance until you come to a gate with a “stile” to the right. Go over the stile and continue along the path going gradually down the slope with a stream and a small wood on your right. Go over the next stile on the left side of the gate. There is now a wall on your right. Pass Primrose Cottage on your right and keep to the track until you reach Laneside Road.

Turn left at the lane, which climbs uphill. When you reach a sign to Ball Beard Farm on the right follow the tarmacked lane. Before you reach the farm there is a sign for a public bridleway which forks left. Follow this path.

There are two footpaths off to the right, but these should be ignored. You will pass Howcroft Farm on your right.

3 As you reach a wooden gate on the left leading up to Beardwood Farm on the slope to the left take the footpath with the wooden signpost down the field to the right and under the pylons. You will reach a tunnel passing under the railway lines. On the other side of the railway lines, you will hear the humming of the electricity station which is the reason for all the pylons. At the road turn right, immediately to a road junction where you also turn right. Shortly after a house on the left (Gowhole Farm) go through the gate onto a track –beware of marauding hens! Follow the track all the way to Goytside Farm where you meet the Goyt Way. Continue ahead passing under the railway viaduct. As the track starts to climb and move away from the river take the path to the left which follows the side of the river.

Pass under the Queen’s “double” road bridge and next cross the narrow wooden bridge at the point where the river Sett joins the Goyt. You next pass the “Torrs Hydro” and a sign which gives a description of the project. When you reach the cobbled path turn left. There is a rock face to your right which is very popular with climbers. A path leading up to the right takes you to the Rock Mill Centre. If you want to go to the station keep straight on to the Millennium Walkway. The Cheese Wheel shop is on your left on the other side of the river. There is an impressive stone wall on your right, built to provide support for the railway lines. At the end of the Millennium Way there is a path leading up to the right to the station.



**Route 7**

## Walk 8      Lyme Park

**Distance 12.8 km (8 miles)**

**Time 3.5 – 4 hours**

The walk is moderate mainly on good paths but with stretches across fields that can be very muddy indeed so good footwear is essential. The first part of the walk from Mousley Bottom is easy, the walk through Lyme Park (where there are facilities for drinks, food and toilets) is mainly on good paths and tracks, there is a section after the park across a fairly boggy field.

1 From New Mills Central railway station turn right down the road. At the bottom of the slope there is a Pay & Display car park. Take the path to the left of the sign 'Mousley Bottom'. You will soon pass some relatively new stone houses and then there is a track between the houses on the left which continues along the side of the river. You will pass two old gateposts and shortly see a wooden sign for "The Goyt Way" pointing left along the side of the river which you should follow. Further along you will pass a sign which reads "The Ridgeway 210 miles" pointing right and "TransPennine Trail 15 miles" pointing left. Continue along this path along the side of the river. Ignore the track leading off right to the car park. When you reach the motor road turn left and continue over Hague Bridge and along for about 300m until a track leads uphill from the point where the road bends sharply to the right. Take this track uphill, passing underneath the railway until you reach the canal where you should turn right.

2 When you reach Higgins Clough swing bridge (No 25) cross over the canal, then turn sharp left and follow the road which runs parallel to the canal uphill – this is Hagg Bank Lane. You eventually pass under the railway bridge and reach the main A6 road. Turn right here and walk to the main traffic lights. Cross over the road with care and continue up the road opposite passing the Ram's Head on your right. Turn right after the Ram's Head and walk along Red Lane. After a short distance you pass a church on your left. Continue along this lane passing some fairly substantial houses for about one kilometre until you reach a gate leading into Lyme Park grounds.

3 Take the road left at the payment collection hut, then after about 50m take the path half left which leads uphill to the Cage and which can be muddy and slippery in places. After a while you join a cobbled track which continues to the Cage. Take the left of the two tracks beyond the Cage and after about 200m take a path half left leading to the stretch of woodland. The path bends to the left and joins a better track where you should turn left and walk along with the wood on your right. You eventually come to East Lodge, where you should go through the



**The Cage**

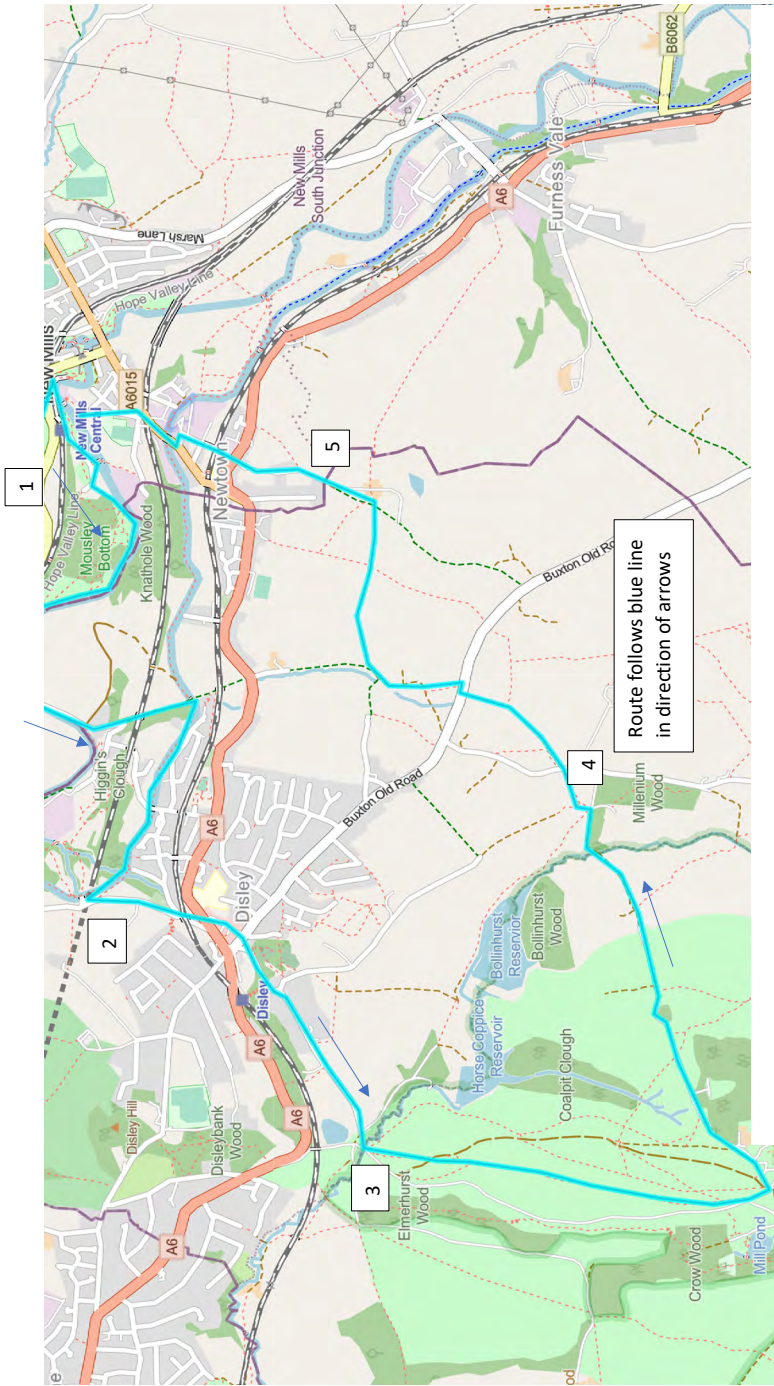
gate, and later cross a footbridge over a stream. The main bridge is marked 'Dangerous Structure' but there is a wooden bridge on its left. When you come to a sign for the Gritstone Trail, follow the sign through a gate on the left. Follow the path for about 80m until you reach a path up three steps to the right, which you should take. This section can be very muddy.

4 Cross over two stiles, then over the road (Mudhurst Lane) taking the path opposite slightly to the left. After climbing over the next stile follow the path which goes half left as per the Path 32 way marker. After the next stile the path is not very conspicuous but goes half right over the field heading up to a prominent post at the end of the stone wall. On reaching the post turn slightly to the left and walk towards the kissing gate in the wall opposite. Go through the next kissing gate and again follow the way marker for Path 32. Just before you reach the house it can be very muddy. Keep to the right of the house, pass through the gate and right up the lane a short distance to Byrom House. Turn left along the path after Byrom House and continue downhill when you meet the motor road where you turn right, passing Pear Tree Cottage. Fork right when the road deteriorates and follow Path 38. With the stone wall on your left go over 5 stiles and 2 adjacent footbridges. The next stile crosses the wire fence on your left. Take this and follow the fence ahead towards the prominent farm building which is Moorwood Farm. Just before the farm you will meet a cross-track which you should follow to the left generally downhill. This passes Shrigley Cottage on your left. Continue ahead onto the motor road.

5 When I came to Shrigley Cottage there was a lovely well-preserved yellow Massey Ferguson 35 tractor in the shed. Keep going down the lane until you reach the A6 which you should re-cross again with great care and take the road immediately opposite to the left of Chalkers Snooker Club. Personally, I was quite excited to see that there was a metal footbridge not just over the railway line, but also over what would have been a reasonable sidings area in days gone by. Continue down Redmoor Lane, do not take Chapel Street but the next left, Hibbert St. passing a row of terraced houses, then turn right at the main road. After passing over the canal and railway use the Pelican to cross the road and turn left at Wirksmoor Road, then straight ahead (do not go down Grove Street). Take Torr Vale Road which leads down to Torr Vale Mill and The Cheese Wheel shop. Turn left by the big chimney (you can't miss it) and follow the red sign down steps over the river footbridge. Turn right and shortly re-ascend the steps back to the Station.



# Route 8



## Walk 9 Mellor Cross

**Distance 7.2 km (4.5 miles) Time 2 – 2.5 hours Ascent 600 ft**

From New Mills Central Station follow the road uphill towards New Mills centre. At the junction turn left and follow the road opposite (St Mary's Road) uphill, either along the road, or more pleasantly through the park until you reach High Lea Road. Turn left and walk along this road for 3/4 of a mile with fine views over to Disley and Lyme Park on the left. Turn right up a rough lane signposted "Unsuitable for motor vehicles" (Green sign – Byway open to all traffic). If you reach the Fox pub you have gone too far. Continue up the lane until you reach a road on the left leading to Shaw farm (with the golf course on the right and green metal gate). Go along this road to the farm and just as you reach it go right through the farmyard past the slurry pit marked 'Toxic Gas!' Cross a stile on the right or go through the double gate and then walk uphill through the field with the fence on the right towards a small coppice. At the top right of the field is a gate with a green footpath sign. Beware of cows with calves in the field in springtime!

Turn left before the gate (signposted Mellor). After a short distance go over a stile on the right and up to another gate with a yellow marker sign halfway up the field on the left. Go through this and continue to a concrete farm track. Turn right and follow this up and round to the left, with great views backwards to Kinder. Do not follow the track through the opening in the wall but instead follow the wall to two stone memorial benches and a stone stile and gate.

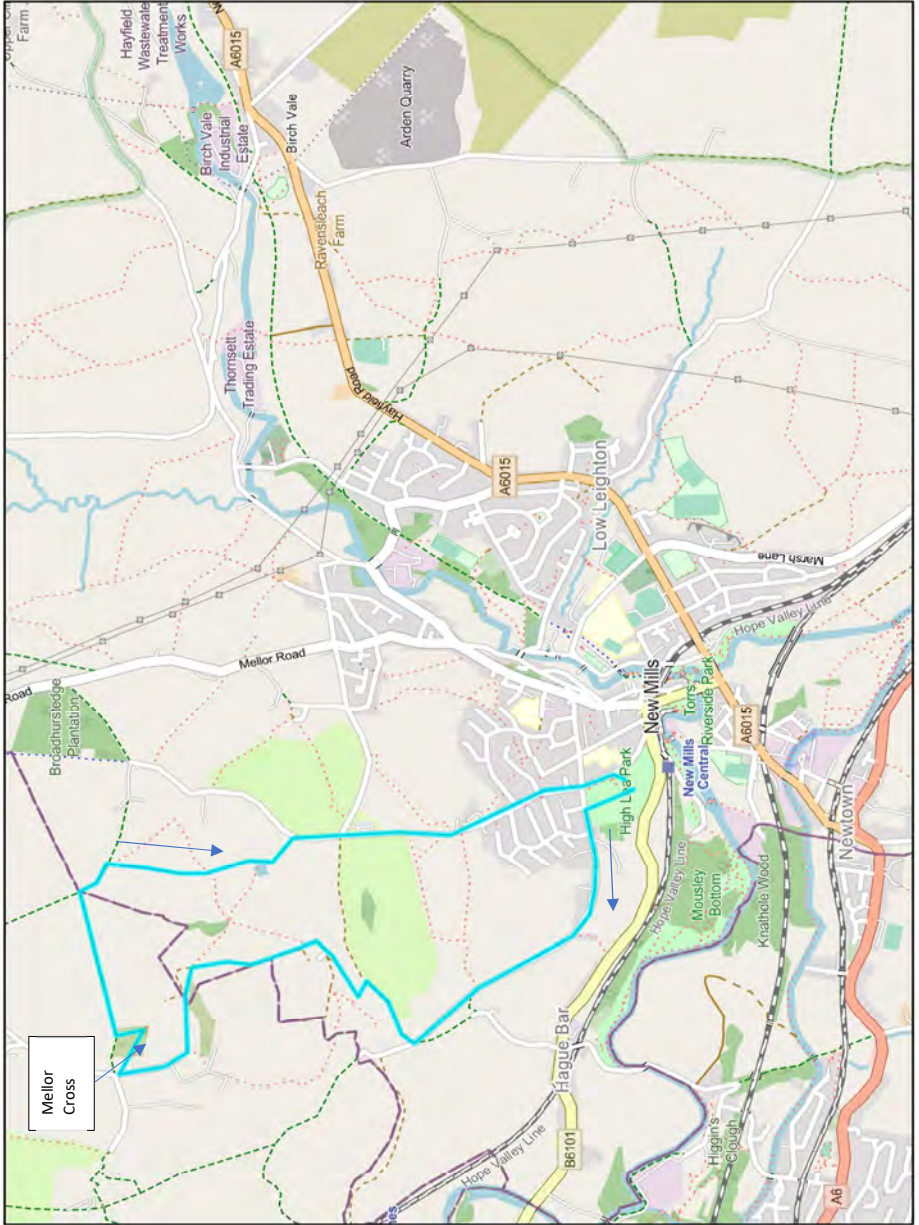


**Memorial Stones to Rachel Jane Lowe**

Go over the stile (read the poem on it by Rachel Lowe aged 10) and along the lane, past the "Three Chimneys" house, which becomes a motor road, you will see Mellor Cross up the rise to your right. Just after the cross turn right up the rough lane - Black Lane. ('No parking. Access to farm vehicles' sign). Behind Mellor Cross you can access a path to the Trig point with excellent panoramic views. On Black Lane continue to the junction with Primrose Lane where you turn right. After 100m turn right over a stile and take the right-hand path signposted Shaw Farm and Brookbottom (number 482). Initially the path is indistinct. Cross a stile over a wall and continue along a wall on the left to a further stile.

Cross it and go straight ahead over a field, going downhill, keep to the left of a wall/fence until you reach a stile on the right which you cross and reach a lane with a lake ahead. Turn left down the lane. At the end of the lane, (signposted Stoneypiece Farm) turn right and go straight on, past the golf clubhouse and back down the road to New Mills. You will return to the crossroads by High Lea Park where you should retrace your steps to the station.

**Route 9**



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