

W1 Goytside Meadows

Distance: 1¾ miles / 1 hour
Terrain: An easy ramble with one short steep climb and two steep flights of steps.
Parking: Town centre.
Start and Finish: Rock Mill Centre, Rock Mill Lane, SK22 3BN
Rock Mill Lane, New Mills SK22 3BN

A ramble through New Mill's Goytside lovely meadows.

- 1 Turn left from the Rock Mill Centre and go down the steps. On reaching the bottom of the steps, turn left.
- 2 Pass under the Union Road Bridge. The path brings you to the remnants of Torr Mill, within which is the Community Hydro Scheme. Walk beside this to the wooden bridge – the Millward Memorial Bridge – which will take you over the River Settle.
- 3 Follow the path, keeping to the path beside the River Goyt, and pass under the Queens Bridge and the railway viaduct in turn. This brings Goytside Farm into view.
- 4 At Goytside Farm, there are three possible tracks to follow. Just beyond the farm buildings, turn right, signed as Goyt Way by the red sign on the post to the left of the track. Follow the path until it brings you to the metal bridge across the River Goyt.
- 5 Cross the river and Goytside Meadows is beyond the fence on your right. Enter the nature reserve through the gate. The Pasture Path takes you up the hillside on your left. (If the weather has been wet, the Meadow Path, which lies ahead of the gate across the meadow, might be slightly less muddy.)

- 6 Follow the path uphill to the gate. Through the gate, the path threads its way across the side of the hill. Reaching the top of the hill, you have a choice. The more obvious gate will continue the Pasture Walk.

Alternatively, slightly above and to the left lies another gate which will bring you out onto the canal towpath. If you choose this option, turn right out of the gate.

- 7 Continuing the Pasture Path brings you to another gate which lies at the top of the hill and also brings you onto the canal towpath. Turn right.

Walk along the canal until you have nearly passed the marina. (You will pass a bench by the side of the towpath, and ahead of you a bridge crosses the canal by the Swizzels Matlow works – breathe in and you may just detect the sweet smell of their products.) Turn right.

- 8 A short stretch of road brings you to Albion Road. Your way lies directly ahead, but for the sake of safety, use the pelican crossing which you will find a few metres from the junction on your left.
- 9 After crossing Albion Road, follow Wirksmoor Road, veering right at the junction with the private road and continuing on until you reach the Rock Tavern and garage.
- 10 Again, you have a choice. You can take the track down into the Torrs again. Or, if energy is running low, take the footpath (Hurst Lea Road) which runs along the top of the Torrs and brings you out beside the former police station on Union Road. If this is your choice, turn left on Union Road and proceed uphill to the centre of town again.
- 11 Going down the track brings you back into the Torrs. The bridge at the bottom crosses the River Goyt. Turn left once you've crossed the river, and the steps back up to the Rock Mill Centre are 50 metres away on your right-hand side.

Climb the steps and reward yourself with a cup of tea or coffee in the Rock Mill Centre or town centre café.

W2 Historic New Mills

Distance: 1 mile / ½ hour
Terrain: Surfaced paths and roads throughout, and can be completed in ordinary footwear
Start: Rock Mill Centre, Rock Mill Lane, New Mills SK22 3BN
Finish: Spring Bank Arts Centre, Spring Bank, New Mills SK22 4BH
Parking: Town centre and Thornbrook Road.

The Heritage collection is now housed in High Lea Hall which is where a diorama of the town as it was in 1884 can be found.



- 1 Having left the Rock Mill Centre, take a few moments to look out over Torr Vale Mill and the Millennium Walkway alongside the River Goyt. The oldest part of the mill complex is the Old Mill facing you, built around 1790. Torr Vale Mill is the only building in New Mills to be listed at the second highest grade, II* due to its national significance; being an important example of the complete evolution of the cotton spinning industry.
- 2 Now turn right and walk along Rock Mill Lane behind the bus station, the location of Torr Top Hall, the first known site of worship in New Mills when the Society of Friends held their meetings here. The Hall was dismantled to make way for the Union Road and Bridge which linked the two halves of the town New Mills and Newtown in 1884.
- 3 Cross directly over Union Road at the end of Rock Mill Lane and walk on to the junction with Rock Street. Here, turn right and continue downhill, crossing Torr Top Street and down the cobbled path to the platform. The view over the River Settle, with the Midland Railway Bridge to your right, is compelling. Railways played an integral part in the building of the town, as did the canal and the various toll roads allowing manufacturing industry wider access to the markets were all essential to the town's financial well being. The viewing platform was originally the floor of the stables in which the chain horses were housed. These horses were used to control the lowering of goods into the Torrs, acting as a brake to slow the descent of wagons which would otherwise have run out of control.
- 4 Reversing your steps up the cobbled path, note the former weavers' cottages on your left hand. Turn right onto Torr Top Street, noting the plaque on the wall opposite which commemorates Torr Top Tunnels WWI trenches named after Torr Top. The original sign is in the New Mills Heritage Centre which is opening soon.
- 5 Carry on up Torr Top Street, past the old St Albans Public House and the outdoor market to Market Street. Crossing over Meal Street, almost immediately turn right again onto High Street within metres. Walking along High Street, you pass a row of late Victorian shops and then a white building (Number 24) which was formerly the Dog and Partridge pub. Shortly after, you come to a public footpath down a flight of steps which will take you back down to Meal Street. The path leads behind the old Manchester and County Bank building.
- 6 The cobbles of Meal Street are uneven, and the irregularity of the roadway indicates that the road is prone to subsidence, which is why the properties on one side of the street, overlooking the River Settle, have not survived. Here, though, is a great view of Beard Mill, also known as Goddard Mill and Hyde Bank Mill. Now apartments, this former cotton mill was built adjacent to a cloth or fulling mill driven by water built in 1767. The cotton mill was just one of many mills built along the rivers Settle (originally called the Kinder) and Goyt to take advantage of the power of water. During the 1860s, 1870s and 1880s Beard Mill was owned and occupied by Mariana Thornley, whose initials can be seen on the mill chimney.



- 9 Turn left along Meal Street where you will pass the rear entrance of the George Hotel. Initially, Meal Street was called New Street, and then later was called Th'Under Road possibly because of the sound of carts on the cobbles as an easier route for horses pulling heavy loads uphill than High Street. At the end of Meal Street, turn left up High St for a few yards and pause to look at the Masons Arms public house. It was from here that the Mercury Coach to Stockport ran, twice weekly, before the advent of the railways put an end to the business. A plaque on the rear wall of the car park was once mounted above the pub's front door.
- 10 As you walk downhill, you pass the Christian Revival Church on the right. Originally built as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, the building was the first home of the pulpit seen at the start of the walk in the Rock Mill Centre.
- 11 At the bottom of the hill, stop and look around. The bridge over the River Settle conceals the remains of a medieval packhorse bridge, the arches of which can still be seen from certain angles.
- 12 To your right, and running parallel to the river, there used to be a roadway, called Brookside. On the opposite bank of the River Settle, the large building (Woodside Garage) is a former cotton mill (Salem Mill) built in the late eighteenth century. Next to it, the flat topped building is the site of the very first mill in New Mills. It was a corn mill owned by the Duchy of Lancaster and known as the New Mill having been rebuilt in 1391. The town's name can be traced back to this first mill.
- 13 Slightly to the right, a ridge overlooks the river, and the Methodists built St George's Chapel on the promontory as the chapel on High Street had become too small. This second chapel opened in 1808, to be followed by five more churches during the first half of the century, demonstrating the rapid growth of the town during this period. On your left hand, the junction of High Street and Dye House Lane housed a sequence of public houses The Bulls Head, The Pineapple, The Grapes, The Cock, all now closed and best commemorated by the Drunkard's Reform, the end house in the row with a plaque explaining the name.
- 14 Now walk up Dye House Lane to the Junction with Mellor Road, Bridge Street and Spring Bank. The location of yet more pubs can be seen from here, the former White Hart which is prominent on the corner, and the Bridge Tavern which is now a private residence.
- 15 Turn left onto Spring Bank, walking up the hill past the Sunday School now a private house and the location of Spring Mount Chapel now a pair of semi-detached houses to Spring Bank Arts. Once the Anglican Church of St James the Less, this Pugin style building was converted into a community arts centre. Next to the building are the almshouses which, like the church, were built by Mrs Mary Mackie. If the Arts Centre is open, pop in and have a look round. The ceiling alone is worth the visit, and there are other delights inside.
- 16 Walking on you will pass the Adult Education Centre, formerly Spring Bank Board School and Mackie Library. The views here are magnificent, the viewpoint tells you the names of the various hills and farms you can see with Kinder Scout, the dominant mountain. To return to the Rock Mill Centre, continue along Spring Bank and Market Street, passing New Mills Town Hall (built 1871, tower added 1875) along the way.



W3 Edith Nesbit Literary Trail

Distance: 9½ miles / Allow 5 hours
Terrain: A lengthy circular walk from Rock Mill Centre, mostly on roads and well-defined paths and tracks, but with some significant ascents and descents.
Parking: Town centre.

It is believed that Edith Nesbit, author of *The Railway Children*, set her famous book around Strines Station and the railway line between Marple and New Mills. The contrasting landscape of isolated hilly upland with industrial activity in the valleys appears to have inspired the author in her writings.



New Mills to Thornsett

- 1 Starting at Rock Mill Centre, turn left down the steps into the Torrs, then turn left under the arches of the Union Road Bridge.
- 2 Pass to the left of Torrs Hydro and take the upstream (left-hand) of the two footbridges over the River Settle.
- 3 Climb the steps to Hyde Bank Road and turn left.
- 4 At the entrance to New Mills Leisure Centre, turn right and right again, down steps onto the Sett Valley Trail.
- 5 Turn left and walk past the Leisure Centre and Medical Centre before crossing Church Lane.
- 6 Follow the path through the dip up to St. George's Road, cross over the road, and continue on the trail, with the housing estate on your right and the river on your left.
- 7 Continue on the trail, passing over Watford Bridge Road, until the next gate at High Hill Road, where you come off the trail. Turn left along the road where you will see a sign for Thornsett, passing a row of houses and a cemetery on the right-hand side.
- 8 Ignoring the road to the Trading Estate, turn right up into the hamlet of Thornsett.

Thornsett to Aspenshaw

- 9 Passing the Printer's Arms, a row of cottages, a converted church and another row of cottages, turn left into Stich Lane and continue up the hill past an area of woodland concealing a small disused quarry on the right.
- 10 Take the next public footpath on the left, through a metal gate towards Bank Head Farm. Pass the farmhouse and go through the middle of the three gates facing, and walk along the path by the side of the wall on the left.
- 11 Go over the second stile you encounter in the corner of the field and walk towards the nearest house you can see – New House Farm.
- 12 Walk past the gate, turn left over the stile and pass the front of the house. Bearing left and keeping to the footpath, head towards Aspenshaw Cottages.
- 13 Go over the stile opposite the cottages and turn left passing Aspenshaw Hall.
- 14 About 200 yards past Aspenshaw Hall there is a small green island at a road junction. At this junction walk straight on into Briargrove Road. This is mainly uphill.

- 15 Walk past Blake Hall on the right-hand side until you come to the junction with the main New Mills to Mellor Road.
- 15 Turn right towards Mellor, walk for about 100 yards and then turn left into the macadam road.
- 16 Pass Cannon Hill Farm on the left-hand side and then Moreland Cottage at a road junction.
- 17 Bear left up the hill passing Paradise on the left-hand side.
- 18 Just after Paradise a track cuts across the road at right angles. Cobden Cross is on the skyline to the left. Ahead of you is the roofline of the Three Chimneys. Walk up the steep hill to Three Chimneys the house.




Three Chimneys to Strines

- 19 From Three Chimneys, retrace your steps to the junction opposite Paradise. Take the first road on the left.
- 20 Pass Bull Hill Farm on the left-hand side and the golf course on the right-hand side, where the road becomes a rough track. Keep straight on down the track running alongside the wall for a short way.
- 21 Turn left through an old gatepost, with a view including the site of the former Strines Printworks. Pass through a cluster of cottages (The Banks).
- 22 Turn left and continue straight ahead, along a narrow pathway bordered by fences.
- 23 The path ends at The Cottage. Take a sharp right and follow the path downhill to Strines Railway Station.
- 24 Walk under the bridge and follow the road until you get to the B-road between New Mills and Marple.

Strines to New Mills

- 25 Cross the main road and walk up the track opposite towards the canal.
- 26 Just before the aqueduct take the stile on the left-hand side and walk onto the canal. Turn left and continue on the canal passing bridges 23 to 28.
- 27 Pass Brunswick Mills and turn left onto Victoria Street, opposite the marina.
- 28 Walk down Victoria Street and turn right onto Albion Road.
- 29 Keep walking until you come to the traffic lights. Turn left onto Union Road.
- 30 Just before you come to the roundabout at the top of Union Road, turn left onto Rock Mill Lane and arrive back at Rock Mill Centre.

 **please note:** more information and detail on this trail can be found in the leaflet of the same name.



New Mills Walkers are Welcome
created the original series of leaflets describing these walks in and around New Mills. Further walking leaflets are available at the Rock Mill Information Centre or downloadable pdfs via the website.

 www.nmwaw.org.uk

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New Mills Walkers are
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www.visitnewmills.co.uk
For more information on the
town, please visit the website:


- 5 walks from 1 mile to 12 miles
- quality restaurants, pubs, shops and cafes
- a fascinating industrial heritage
- other activities including cycling and climbing

New Mills is semi-rural, blending in the heritage of mining and mills, with outstanding views of the Kinder Plateau, the town is a gateway to the Peak District, nearby Lyme Park, the canal network and the rest of Derbyshire. Heritage, first noted for coal mining, then for cotton spinning, bleaching and calico printing. New Mills was served by the Peak Forest Canal, three railway lines and the A6 trunk road - a fascinating history.

'With dozens of interesting sites to visit, New Mills always finds a place in your heart.'



walks around
New Mills
the town with a heart



New Mills is a scenic, thriving town in the High Peak with a great community spirit. There is amazing countryside, restaurants, traditional pubs, shops, a splendid variety of activities to do and a wide range of events throughout the year.

 more info: www.visitnewmills.co.uk

W4 Churches of New Mills

Distance: 1.5 miles / 1 hour
Terrain: Roads.
Parking: Town centre.

Start and finish: New Mills Bus Station / Rock Mill Centre near to Wesley's pulpit.

A secular walk around the Churches of New Mills (past and present)

1 Rock Mill Centre/Bus Station

the site of Torr Top Hall, wherein the Society of Friends held meetings as early as 1685 until the building of the Meeting House in Low Leighton in 1717

2 Church of the Annunciation

with its broach spire reaching 110 feet or 34 metres high. It was built in 1838

3 Site of Associated Methodist Chapel

built in 1838 by Cheetham and Berry and replaced by Mount Pleasant Methodist Free Chapel

4 Site of Mount Pleasant Methodist Free Chapel

which was built in 1892. Mount Pleasant closed in 1980, and the building burnt down in 1993 and the ruin is now on the English Heritage 'Buildings At Risk' Register.

5 St James the Less

converted to Spring Bank Community Arts Centre

6 Site of Spring Mount Primitive Methodist Chapel

built in 1876, which replaced the earlier Primitive Methodist Chapel on Meal Street.

7 Providence United Reform Church

It was originally built as a Congregational Church on land donated by the Stafford family in 1823

8 St George's Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

was built in 1808, when the previous church on High Street proved too small for the congregation

9 Low Leighton Methodist Chapel

built in 1955, a modest building in a style common to the period

10 Site of Low Leighton Methodist Mission

(or chapel), which was bombed in the air raid of 3rd July 1942

11 Former Society of Friends Meeting House

Now a private house, the original building dates from 1717

12 St George's C of E Parish Church

built on the creation of New Mills Parish in 1831

13 Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall

built for the Jehovah's Witnesses in 1987

14 Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

It was built in 1766 as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel

15 Site of Primitive Methodist Chapel

Built in 1827 as a consequence of the rifts that beset the early Methodist Church

16 Site of Torr Top Mission

was for those families whose clothing was too poor for St George's. The Mission opened in 1880 and closed 100 years later.

please note: more historic information and detail can be found in the leaflet of the same name.

Torr's Access

The Torr's sandstone gorge, which cuts through the centre of the town of New Mills, Derbyshire, is a geological feature of towering beauty which houses the Torr's Riverside Park (also called "the Park under the Town"), a delightful picnic area, Torr's Hydro (a community-owned hydroelectric scheme), and several elegant bridges, as well as substantial evidence of industrial heritage. Foremost amongst these treasures, the Millennium Walkway is a fine piece of modern engineering which finds itself abutting a substantial Victorian retaining wall and facing Torr Vale Mill. The mill had the longest continuous period of cotton manufacture of all the mills in the UK at 212 years.

Accessing all this beauty and heritage can be a challenge, however, as they are to be found at the bottom of the gorge, by the Rivers Goyt and Sett, and approximately 70 metres beneath the level of the roads. There are several access points, all of which can present separate challenges, but the effort will be rewarded with some breathtaking scenery to explore.

This leaflet explores some of those access points with a view to helping you make your choice as to the most suitable way down for you.

1 Rock Mill Lane Steps

Here, the Torr's are at their highest point. The descent starts with a short cobbled slope which leads down to a short but steep flight of steps. A short uneven track leads to another short flight of steep steps, and then there is a longer flight of shallow steps with extensive concrete treads. There is a solid handrail beside each flight of steps, which total 51 in number.

This access point lies closest to any bus stop as it begins within 10 metres of the bus station, down yet another (avoidable) flight of steps.

2 Station Road

The road leads down from Hague Bar Road past New Mills Central Station and on to Mousley Bottom. At the bottom a track leads back along the river and into the Riverside Park over the Millennium Walkway. Station Road is a steep single-track road which is unadopted beyond the station and whose surface has been allowed to deteriorate considerably. Parking spaces can very occasionally be found at the bottom and the track along the river is firm, wide and reasonably level.

New Mills Central Station lies midway down Station Road, as well as the lower road route, there is a direct, metalled footpath down to the river from the station, beginning with a flight of steep stone steps.

3 Torr Vale Mill

Torr Vale Mill is accessed down Wirksmoor Road and Torrvalle Road. The metalled road becomes a cinder track of good if muddy surface. As you approach the mill, the track narrows and here a steep flight of steps lead down beside the mill, onto a narrow and dark path of slightly uneven surface. The track leads to a narrow footbridge over the River Goyt, from which the Millennium Walkway can be seen to the right. Turn right at the end of the bridge.

Public transport: Nearest bus stop is on Albion Road – a walk of approximately 250 yards.

4 Hurst Lea Road

Walk down Union Road from the Rock Mill Centre. Turn right onto Hurst Lea Road just before the former police station. The road has a metalled surface to begin with, but quickly becomes uneven. Halfway along, the surface improves when the track narrows to a metalled path. At the end of this path is the Rock pub and garage. Here, turn right and walk down the track which leads into the Torr's. This track has a reasonably smooth surface, but, although the cliffs on the south side of the gorge are lower than those to the north, the gradient remains steep. This route can be negotiated with a pushchair and a little muscle power, though drainage gullies may be awkward to small-wheeled equipment.

New Mills Walks

- W1 Goytside Meadows
- W2 Historic New Mills
- W4 Churches of New Mills
- Torr's Access
- Footpath

Key:

- Church
- Post Office
- Restaurant / Café
- Public Toilets
- Inn / Public House
- Parking
- Park
- Tourist Information
- Railway Station
- Bus Stop



Torr's Access

5 Ensor Way / Co-op Supermarket

The advantage of this route is that it starts at the lowest point of all the access routes. A wide, surfaced track runs down beside Ensor Way, reaching the River Goyt at a bend. Here turn onto a much narrower track which can be quite muddy, and rendered uneven by exposed rocks and tree roots. About 200 yards along, this track follows a slight decline and turns onto the old leat which provides a smooth if muddy footing. Follow this track over the Millward Memorial Bridge into the Riverside Park. Buses in both directions stop beside the bridge that crosses the River Goyt at the top of this route.

6 Hyde Bank Road Steps

As you walk along Hyde Bank Road, an opening 25 yards along on your left leads to a path down into the Torr's. Two switchback flights of concrete steps (which can be very slippery at any time, but particularly in autumn when the leaves have fallen) are followed by a track that leads to a stone bridge over the River Sett. The handrail by the steps is substantial, though nonexistent when the route turns into the track.

The final two routes allow access the River Sett and that part of the Torr's through which the Sett flows.

7 Leisure Centre

A flight of steps besides the bridge at the entrance to the leisure centre leads down onto a metalled path (these steps can be avoided via the rear of the leisure centre car park). Follow the path under the bridge and over the River Sett. Here a fairly level and accessible path continues via the tunnel mouth opposite to Lower Rock Street, below Torr Top Car Park (see below), or another flight of steps on the left leads down into the section of the Torr's on the River Sett, though at present, due to a rockfall, Torr's Hydro and the Millennium Walkway are reached via a new bridge here. The path and steps are firm and even, though often muddy.

8 Torr Top Car Park

A steep cobbled path beside the car park (Lower Rock Street) leads down into the Torr's. The path splits partway down, the right-hand path continuing down and remaining steeply and unevenly cobbled and very slippery when wet. There is a sturdy handrail to assist. The left fork leads to a bend and steps down as per the Leisure Centre access (see above).

for more on Trails & Walks



Download to your smart phone

More details and fuller descriptions of the trails and walks featured here are available from the New Mills Walkers Are Welcome website below or by scanning the link here.

www.nmwaw.org.uk



New Mills Heritage Centre
High Lea Hall,
High Lea Park.



Mobility Scooters

Those visiting the Torr's using mobility scooters are advised to do so with great care and only in the company of others that can assist where necessary. This is particularly true of scooters with small wheels and low ground clearance as many of the slopes are not only steep but also rough and uneven.

The most suitable routes down would be via 1 Station Road or 4 Hurst Lea Road (see below). All other routes either involve steps or are too steep. The River Goyt can be accessed by a track from Ensor Way next to the Co-op car park, but the route along the riverbank into the Torr's is narrow and uneven, with a short but steep drop to the water below.

North

Scale in metres

