

# WALK 5 NEW MILLS PARISH BOUNDARY

An 18-mile challenge walk that can be split into shorter sections using public transport



NEW MILLS

**88** When you meet Waterside Road, turn left and follow the road to Hague Bridge.

**89** Cross the Goyt and then cross to the right-hand side of the road and take the path signposted to Mousley Bottom and New Mills and the Torrs Millennium Walkway.

**90** Follow the riverside path through Mousley Bottom Nature Reserve, keeping close to the river whenever you have a choice.

**91** As you approach New Mills, the path joins a track which leads away from the river to meet Station Road.

**92** Walk past some newly built houses and pass the Goyt footbridge on your right.

**93** Follow the road uphill, past New Mills Central station and over the railway.

**94** At the top of the road, turn right to return to the town centre.

Below: Robin Hood's Picking Rods  
Cover: Birch Vale Reservoir



3rd edition. Route devised by New Mills Walkers are Welcome [www.nmwaw.org.uk](http://www.nmwaw.org.uk).

Maps, text and photographs by Dave Dunford, [walksfromthedoar.co.uk](http://walksfromthedoar.co.uk).

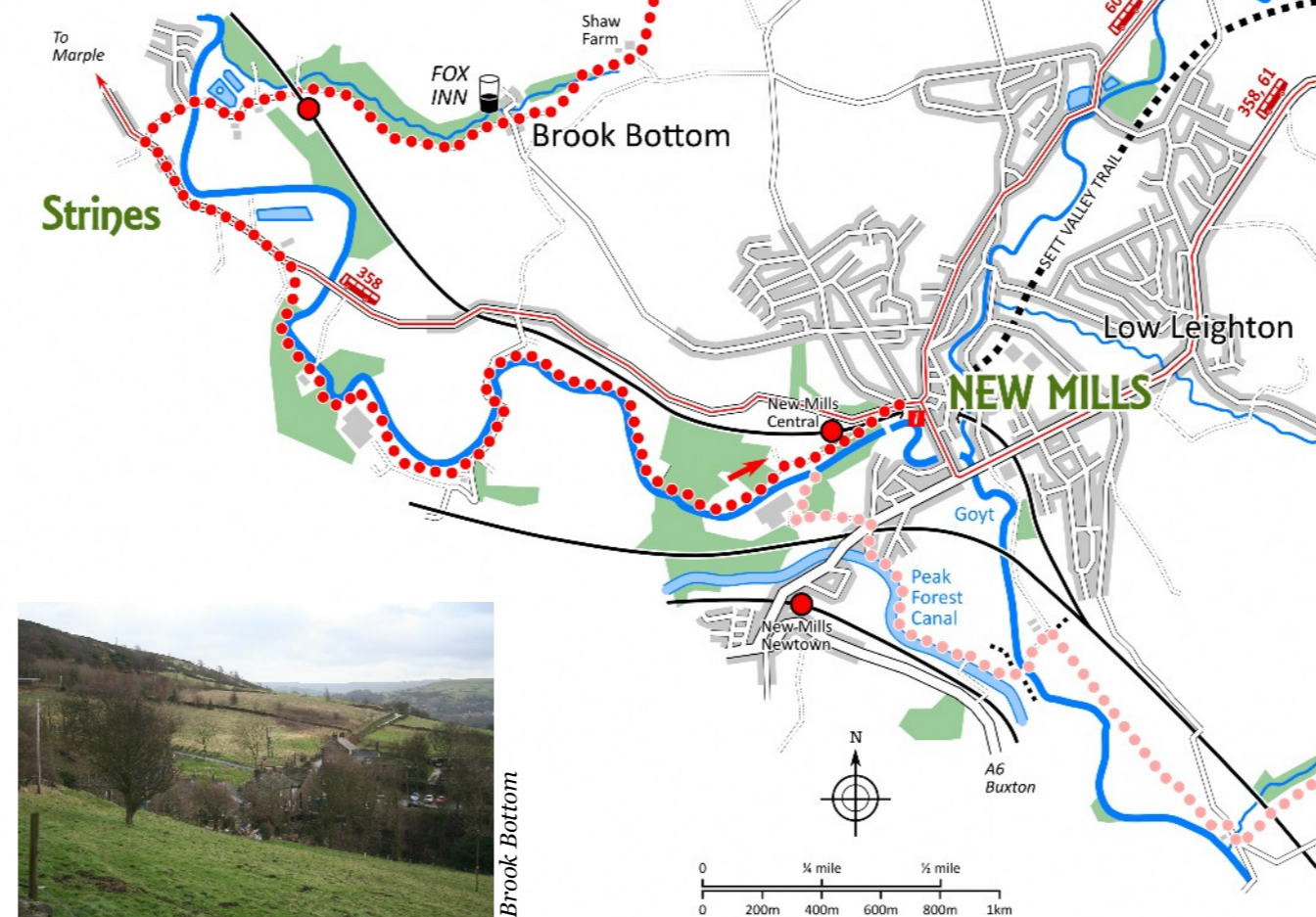
Route checked by Nicky & George Burgess, Sean Whewell & Tony Audenshaw.

Copyright © 2021 New Mills Walkers are Welcome

## MAP 2: Mellor Road to New Mills



Little Mill Inn, Rowarth



Brook Bottom

of the farmhouse. Beyond a further gate keep to the wall, with a small wooded valley to your left. Just before a gate, cross a stile on your left, down a few steps into the wood. Cross a small wooden bridge then follow the path down to the stream, which you cross on another footbridge (with a footpath sign pointing in the opposite direction).

**79** Walk up the other side of the valley and turn right through a stile. Walk downhill along a fenced path, then briefly divert left round the garden, along a permitted path (white arrow). Follow the drive down to the Fox Inn.

**Brook Bottom** is a cluster of cottages, many of them listed for heritage value, around the 18th-century Fox Inn. The single-track road from New Mills was only metalled in the 1960s.

**80** From the Fox car park near the telephone box, follow the track downhill marked Goyt Way. Go under the railway bridge and pass Strines Station.

**Strines Station** is believed to be the inspiration for the station in Edith Nesbit's much-loved book *The Railway Children*. Nesbit frequently stayed with relatives in the area: for more information see New Mills Walkers are Welcome Walk 3: The Edith Nesbit Literary Trail.

**81** Follow the cobbled road and pass Strines Hall on your left and a mill pond with an ornamental dovecote on your right. Cross the River Goyt and pass the entrance to Printers Drive.

**82** Continue along the road up to the B6101 in Strines.

For the bus stop, turn right.

## Strines to New Mills (Map 2)

**83** From the top of Station Road, turn left and follow the B6101 towards New Mills, passing the entrance to Woodend Farm on the right after quarter of a mile. As the road approaches the bridge over the River Goyt, take a bridleway into trees on the right just after another driveway entrance.

**84** After a short while the path meets the River Goyt, which it follows to the entrance to a factory.

**85** Cross the entrance to the factory and continue along the riverside with a security fence on your right.

**86** Beyond the industrial compound, bear left along the road.

**87** Turn left at a footpath sign and follow the path above the river, then descend towards a white-painted house. At the end of the garden, turn left down to the river, then turn right along the river.

path on the left after 250, then turn left along a Restricted Byway.

**64** Follow the track as it bears right towards Ringstones Farm, then follow the metalled drive past the farmhouse and out to the road.

**65** Turn right, then opposite the Children's Inn cross a stile into a field to the right of the drive to Hollins Farm.

**66** Walk diagonally up the field to the far left-hand corner. Turn left along a track past the end of a stone barn, then walk in front of the farmhouse to a gate at the far side of the garden, keeping to the left-hand side.

**67** In the field beyond, turn right around the edge of the field.

**68** Cross a stile on the right and then bear left across the field to another stile.

**69** Cross a couple of paddocks to a collection of sheds and caravans and walk between them to a hand gate.

**70** Follow the scant remains of a stone wall across the next field then keep straight on to a stile, heading towards How Green Farm.

**71** Go through a gate, then bear left to a second gate. Turn right and follow the farm drive out to the road.

**72** Turn left along the road to the five-way road junction with Mellor Road.

## Mellor Road to Strines (Map 2)

**73** Cross the road and follow the potholed Pole Lane towards Broadhurstedge Plantation.

**Broadhurstedge Plantation** is an oak and birch woodland managed by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

**74** Walk along the edge of the plantation, passing a covered reservoir.

**75** At a crossroad of tracks at the end of the wood, turn right into Primrose Lane, a farm drive.

**76** Pass Knapkin Piece Farm then look out for a stile on your left by two metal gates (Peak and Northern Footpaths Society sign no. 482). Cross the stile and walk straight across the field to a stone stile; beyond this follow the wall on your left.

**77** Cross another stile and head towards a large boundary stone. Turn right here following a stone wall then a fence beyond the trees. Cross another stile (PNFS sign 334) then turn left towards Shaw Farm, keeping to the left of the field. Enter the farmyard and pass a couple of barns to reach the entrance.

**78** Cross to a gate opposite, keeping along the wall in front

## Overview

This challenge walk is a circular route following, as closely as possible, the boundaries of New Mills parish on public rights of way. It can be completed in a single hard day's walking of around **18 miles**, or divided into two or more shorter stages using public transport to and from New Mills, as follows:

### New Mills to Birch Vale (5¼ miles)

Return: 358, 61 or 60 bus from Birch Vale (final destination Stockport, Buxton or Macclesfield respectively)

### Birch Vale to Monks Road (4¾ miles)

Outward: 358, 61 or 60 bus to Birch Vale (destination Hayfield/Glossop).

Return: 61 bus from Monks Road/A624 (see Map 1; destination Buxton)

### Monks Road to Strines (7 miles)

Outward: 61 bus (destination Glossop) to A624/Monks Road junction (see Map 1)

Return: 358 bus (destination Hayfield) from Strines

### Strines to New Mills (2¼ miles)

Outward: 358 bus to Strines (destination Stockport) or train from Central or Newtown station to Strines

The 358 (hourly, until late evening) is operated by Stagecoach, the 61 (hourly, no evening service) and 60 (two hourly, no Sunday or evening service) by High Peak.

## Refreshments

There are no shops except in New Mills, but refreshments are available on or near the route as follows:

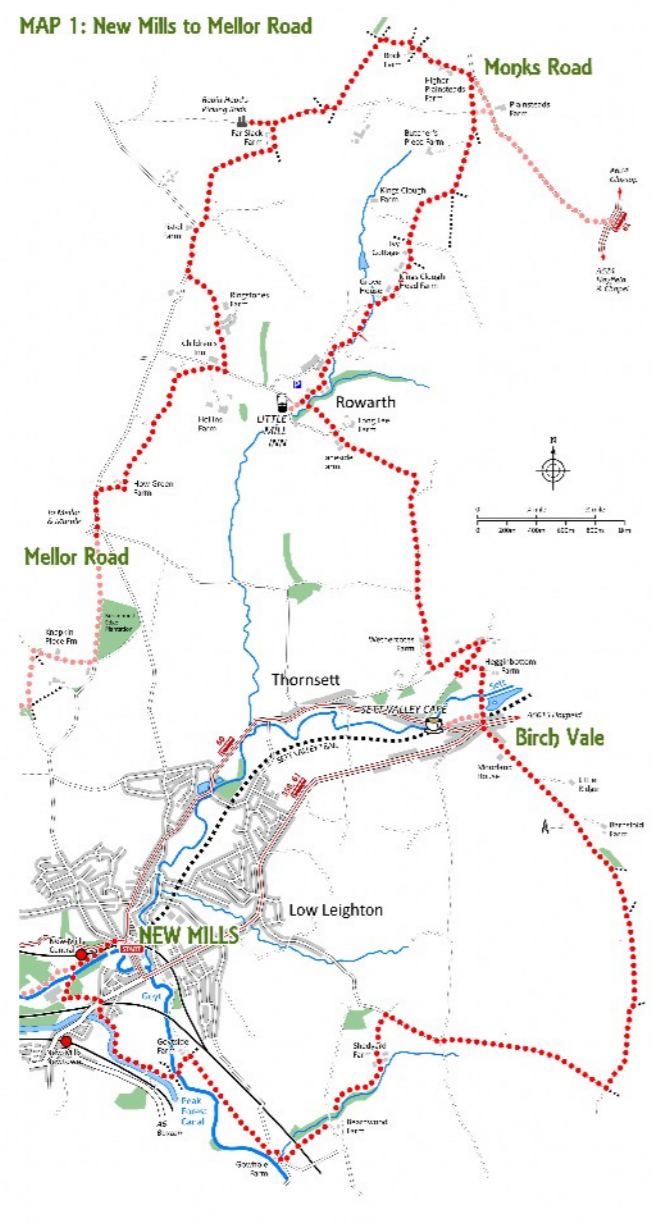
**Sett Valley Café, Birch Vale:** food and hot and cold drinks at lunchtimes (10am–2pm) seven days a week. Tel. 01663 745548.

**Little Mill Inn, Rowarth:** food from noon until mid-evening Wednesday–Monday, open evenings only on Tuesdays. Tel. 01663 747678.

**Fox Inn, Brook Bottom:** food lunchtimes and evenings Monday–Thursday, all day Friday–Sunday. Tel. 0161 4271634.

The two pubs en route called the Grouse Inn, at Birch Vale and Chunal, are both now closed.

Note that some sections of this walk are across open moorland and rough pasture which may be boggy at times. There are a couple of moderately strenuous climbs and some paths are rocky underfoot. Walking boots are recommended and clothing appropriate to the conditions should be worn. Please keep dogs on leads around livestock and close gates behind you.



## New Mills to Birch Vale (Map 1)

**1** Starting at New Mills bus station and facing Barton's shop, turn left across Rock Mill Lane then left again, into Station Road.

**2** Descend to cross the railway and pass the station, continuing downhill to some industrial premises. Keep left along the road (Mousley Bottom).

**3** Before the houses, turn left off the road and cross the River Goyt via a long footbridge.

**4** Bear right along a footpath with a factory behind the security fence on your right.

**5** When you reach the factory access road, turn left and walk uphill to the A6105 Albion Road.

**6** Cross at the pedestrian crossing, then walk down Victoria Street (opposite).

**7** On reaching the Peak Forest Canal, turn left along the towpath.

The **Peak Forest Canal** runs for 15 miles from Dukinfield to Whaley Bridge. It was built by engineer Benjamin Outram and opened in 1800.

**8** At bridge no. 29, leave the towpath and take the footpath straight ahead that runs initially parallel to the canal and then bears left downhill to the River Goyt.

The **River Goyt** rises west of Buxton and joins the River Tame at Stockport to form the River Mersey.

**9** Cross the footbridge and follow the path beyond as it turns left and right, past a house, to Goytside Farm.

**10** At the T-junction of tracks by the farm, turn right.

**11** The track narrows to a path as it runs alongside the river and then continues along a field edge with a wall on your left; after a gateway continue in the same direction, now with the wall on your right.

**12** The track bears left by Gowhole Farm onto Marsh Lane. Turn right, then immediately left into Ladypit Road.

**13** Not far from the junction, leave the road via stone steps up and onto a footpath on your left.

**14** Walk up the left-hand edge of the field, to the left of an electricity pylon, and at the end pass under the railway.

**15** Walk up the next field to a stile next to a gate, into a farm drive below Beardwood Farm.

**16** Turn left for 50 yards to cross Shedyard Clough, then leave the track onto a footpath on your right.

**17** The footpath winds up through trees with the valley of Shedyard Clough to your right, before crossing a bracken-

covered area. After a stile, the path follows a fence along the edge of the clough to a gate into Shedyard Farm.

**18** Bear left between the farm buildings, then follow the farm drive for 400 yards until you reach Laneside Road.

**19** Turn right up the road until you meet Oven Hill Road.

**20** Turn left then immediately right, along a rough track to the left of a heathery area. Beyond a gate the track continues between stone walls before emerging into a field.

**21** Follow the left-hand side of the field to a gate by a clump of trees.

**22** Continue uphill with a wall on your left to a gate.

**23** Beyond the gate, turn left along the wall.

**24** After a section with walls on both sides, you reach a gate by a wooden fingerpost. Turn left here, along a broken wall on your left.

**25** After 350 yards the path keeps on straight ahead across the open moor when the wall turns slightly to the left; ignore an indistinct path off to the right.

**26** When you meet a piece of walled woodland, follow the wall ahead.

**27** The path meets a farm track (Morland Road) below the TV transmitter – follow the track ahead down to the A6101. For the bus stop for New Mills, turn right for 75 yards.

## Birch Vale to Monks Road (Map 1)

**28** Cross the A6101 and take the narrow footpath to the right of the house opposite at the top of Station Road.

**29** For the Sett Valley Café, turn left along the Sett Valley Trail, otherwise cross straight over and follow the path along the bottom of Birch Vale Reservoir, then cross a bridge over the River Sett.

The **Sett Valley Trail** runs along the former branch line to Hayfield, which closed in 1970. The **River Sett** (once, confusingly, known as the River Kinder) runs from Bowden Bridge above Hayfield to its confluence with the Goyt in the Torrs Gorge in New Mills.

**30** Climb the grassy bank and bear slightly right, to the far corner of the field (left of a farmhouse).

**31** After a narrow, fenced-off section, which may be muddy, you reach a wall stile into the farm drive. Turn left.

**32** Walk past a small former quarry on your right, then follow the drive round a sharp right-hand bend (ignoring the descending bridleway straight ahead).

**33** Continue along the drive until you reach Sitch Lane, where you turn left (uphill).

**34** After 400 yards you reach the top of the hill. Turn right onto another farm track, signposted as a Restricted Byway.

**35** Follow the track through Wethercotes Farm.

**36** At a junction with another byway, continue straight on.

**37** After a little under half a mile, keep left at a fork, down a sunken track that bears left, levels off past a former quarry on the left, then descends and becomes rockier underfoot.

**38** The track joins a metalled lane and passes Laneside Farm on the left.

**39** At a junction with another metalled drive, turn right towards Long Lee Farm.

**40** After 40 yards, turn left over a stile by a field gate and follow the right-hand edge of the field. Ignore a footbridge on the right-hand side about halfway down.

**41** At the bottom of the field descend to a footbridge and wind through the trees to a concrete driveway.

**42** For the Little Mill Inn, turn left; to continue with the walk, turn right.

**43** The drive leads past a smallholding and narrows to a stony path, before emerging in Rowarth village.

The hamlet of **Rowarth** once had six candlewick mills. One remains, now occupied by the Little Mill Inn, with its adjacent waterwheel. A carriage from the Brighton Pullman service provides additional space.

**44** Walk up the road for a few yards then take the narrow footpath on the right, between the telephone box and the adjoining property.

**45** When the path meets a concrete drive by a ford, cross straight over onto the footpath opposite.

**46** Follow the path upstream, ignoring a footbridge.

**47** Pass a second footbridge and cross a stile, still with the stream on your right.

**48** When you meet a stony track, turn right to a ford (with a footbridge to the left).

**49** Beyond the stream, follow the track up past a ruined building on your left and up to a gate into the road at Grove House.

**50** Ignoring the farm entrance on your right, follow the road uphill past Kings Clough Head Farm.

**51** When the Pennine Bridleway joins from the right, continue along the road and then follow it round a right- and then a left-hand bend.

**52** Pass the entrance to Butcher's Piece Farm and ignore a ladder stile over the wall on your right.

**53** At a T-junction, the main route continues straight on, over stone steps in the wall. [To catch the bus back to New Mills, turn right and then right again along Monks Road to reach the bus stop at the junction with the A624. Await the High Peak 61 bus heading towards Buxton.]

**54** Having climbed over the wall, follow the wall on your left until it bends left, then strike out across the field to the far corner, where another wall stile leads out to Monks Road at the end of the drive to Higher Plainsteads and Rock Farm.

## Monks Road to Mellor Road (Map 1)

If you have caught the Glossop-bound 61 bus from New Mills, alight at the top of the hill after Little Hayfield (near the former Grouse Inn at Chunal, now closed), and follow Monks Road off to the left for almost a mile, passing the turning for Back Rowarth after ¾ mile. Rejoin the route at the entrance to Higher Plainsteads and Rock Farm.

**Monks Road** is so named because it was used by the monks of Basingwerk Abbey (near Holywell in North Wales) to administer lands in the Glossop area granted to them by Henry II. The socket of a monastic cross, the so-called Abbot's Chair, lies near the road in a corner by the entrance to Taiga Farm.

**55** Walk along the drive past Higher Plainsteads Farm to Rock Farm.

**56** Take a stone-flagged path off to the right by the farmhouse, up a couple of steps and between walls to a stile.

**57** Beyond the stile, bear left along a tumbledown wall, then turn right and head up a gap in the ridge.

**58** Follow a faint quarrymen's track up the hillside, then turn left at the top of the slope to a stile.

**59** Follow the path ahead across the moor to a stile into a rocky trackway.

**60** Turn right and descend to a gate. Bear left then right along a cinder path and follow the wall to Far Slack Farm.

A short there-and-back diversion ahead to **Robin Hood's Picking Rods** is recommended. Popular legend has it that the eponymous outlaw used these stones to bend his bow; the more prosaic truth is that they are probably the remains of an Anglo-Saxon wayside cross.

**61** Turn left along the back of the farm buildings, then turn right and join the farm drive.

**62** Follow the farm drive for half a mile out to Gun Road.

**63** Turn left along the road for 350 yards, passing a foot-