

Continue along Sycamore Road as it descends to cross the River Sett at Spinnerbottom. Just beyond the Sett Valley Café, turn right onto the Sett Valley Trail. Follow the trail for ¾ mile until you reach High Hills Road. Turn left and follow the road to a mini-roundabout, where you bear left. At the main road, turn right for a further 300 yards to:

9 THE HARE & HOUNDS (Low Leighton Road)
@hareandhoundsnewmills 01663 743646

Large Robinsons' house built originally by the local lord of the manor to house his game-shooting guests, also serving as the local magistrates' court. This refurbished Robinsons' house serves two or three cask ales from the brewery's core and seasonal ranges. Open from 5.30pm Mon to Fri and 3pm at weekends. No food.

Continue into New Mills, passing St George's Church and then, just past the Co-op, join the path on the left into the Torrs gorge below the town. Turn right at the river and cross the wooden bridge above 'Archie', the Torrs Hydro, and keep going, with the river on your left, under Union Bridge to the Millennium Walkway. Immediately after the Walkway, cross the bridge on your left and walk up some steps. On your left is:

10 THE SHRUB CLUB (Torr Vale Road)
@theshrubclubnewmills 07957 965608

A brand new bar and soon-to-be restaurant in the iconic Torr Vale Mill within the Torrs ravine. Walker- and dog-friendly and offering up Torrside Beer on keg and cask, beautifully crafted cocktails, and small plate food coming in February 2020. Open from midday Mon to Thurs, 2pm Friday and 11am Sat and Sun.

Continue up the hill to Torrvalle Road, then turn left and left again to:

11 THE ROCK TAVERN (Wirksmoor Road)
@rocktavernnewmills 01663 742885

Another refurbished Robinsons' house with a good local feel, and as close to the Torrs as you're likely to need. Two handpumps with Robinsons' beers are always available. Open from 2pm Mon to Weds, and from midday the rest of the week.

Walk up Wirksmoor Road to the main road and turn right over the canal bridge (Torrside Brewing is across to your left) to reach New Mills Newtown station.

We should briefly mention three other establishments:

12 The Fox Inn, Brookbottom (Fox Inn 0161 427 1634)

is a Robinsons' house in the hills at the very western edge of New Mills (and Derbyshire) and is on the popular Goyt Way. Two or three cask ales from the Robinsons' stable and pub grub. Open all day Fri to Sun, but often lunchtimes only Mon to Thurs; check first.

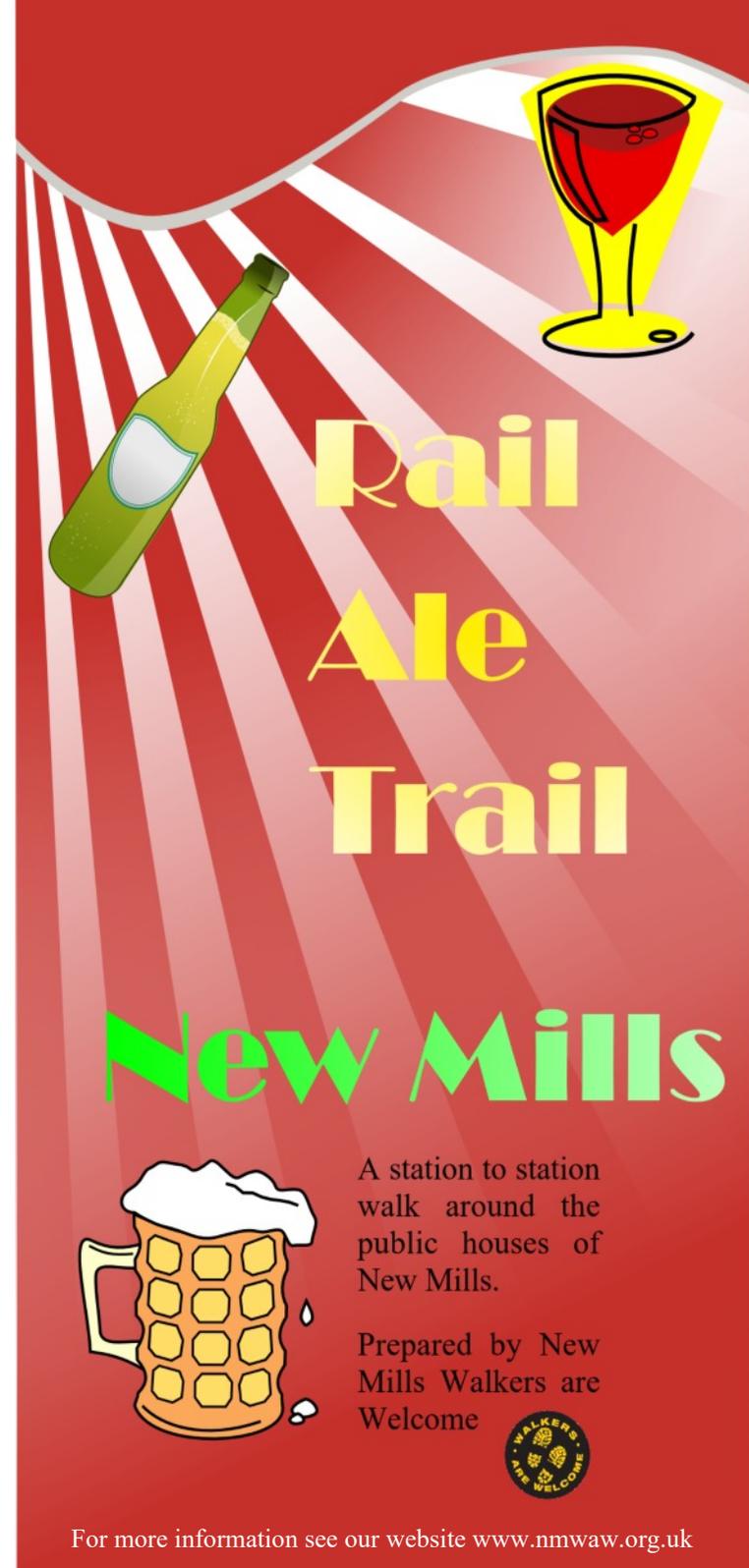
13 Little Mill, Rowarth (Little Mill Inn 01663 747678)

is at the northern end of the parish, about a mile beyond the Pack Horse. A large inn with waterwheel and children's play area, it majors on food, and usually has at least one beer on handpump, often from Jennings. Generally open from midday every day.

14 Torrside Brewing (@torrside 07539 149175)

is canal-side at the end of Hibbert Street, just below Newtown station, and, although it doesn't have a regular tap-room, its occasional weekend open days are legendary affairs.

Text and route design by Andy Screen; maps and print preparation by David Dunford www.walksfromthedor.co.uk



Rail Ale Trail

New Mills

A station to station walk around the public houses of New Mills.

Prepared by New Mills Walkers are Welcome



The walk as shown (in green) mainly follows roads as these are usually the easiest routes between the pubs. However there will be alternative routes using footpaths and bridleways, and some of these are also shown (in blue).

From New Mills Central station, it's a short walk up the hill to where you'll find the bus station, and just across from there:

1 THE PRIDE OF THE PEAKS (59 Market Street)
@PrideOfThePeaks 01663 745243

A fitting place to start as it was built as 'The Railway Hotel' in 1865 by the London & Midland Railway. The 'Peaks' is open all week from 9am to 10am to 11pm for coffee, food (including hearty breakfasts) and alcoholic beverages. Usually 2-3 cask ales which might include a Black Sheep or a Jennings often alongside something more unusual.

Across the lane from the back of the Peaks is:

2 THE PITS (off Rock Mill Lane)
Rock Mill Brewery 01663 743999

The 'no-frills' tap for the adjacent Rock Mill Brewery, The Pits is currently only open Mon and Tues 5pm to 8pm, serving three or four of Rock Mill's own ales plus a lager and cider-in-a-box. No food.

Back up onto Market Street and a few doors on from the Peaks is:

3 THE BEER SHED (47b Market Street)
@beershednewmills 01663 742005

New Mills' first micropub (and bottle-shop) and already an institution. Four handpumps and six keg lines offer an ever-changing and varied selection of light and dark beers, usually including at least one from local breweries Rock Mill or Torrside. Open 4pm to 10.30pm Weds and Thurs; from 2pm Fri, Sat and Sun. No food.

A bit further along again is:

4 THE ROYAL OAK (25 Market Street)
@theroyaloaknewmills 01663 744415

One of the surviving Robinsons' houses in New Mills, it has been recently refurbished, is bright and airy with plenty of room, and is generally open all week from midday to 11pm. Two or three of the core Robinsons' range (Unicorn, Dizzy Blonde, etc.) might be accompanied by a guest ale from elsewhere. A couple of keg ales might include one from Manchester's Seven Bro7hers. No food.

Carry on to the foot of the hill at Spring Bank and then bear slightly right down High Street, one of the original roads in the town before the expansion of the 1830s. Note the carvings by the door of the former Dog & Partridge at No 24 before dropping down the hill to:

5 THE MASONS ARMS (57 High Street)
@masonsarmsnewmills 01663 635466

When Robinsons closed the Masons' – the last of the many pubs that used to line the High Street – there was sufficient strength of feeling amongst the locals that it was re-opened as a free house by

the team behind the Printers Arms (see below). You'll still find Robinson's Unicorn, something from Storm Brewing and a couple of guests on the pumps. The pub is open all week from midday to 11pm. No food.

It's a fair old hike up (in every sense) to the next pub, which has amazing views over the top of New Mills and across to Kinder. From the bottom of High Street continue up Dyehouse Lane to the former White Hart, then across to Mellor Road. About a mile up the hill is:

6 THE PACK HORSE INN (Mellor Road)
@packhorse.newmills 01663 742365

As the name suggests, this pub has been here for a very long time, and while it is well-known for its recently expanded accommodation, and its good pub food, the ever-changing three handpumps often offer something you'll rarely see anywhere else. A couple of outside tables by the front door offer the best views but there's a large beer garden out the back which is a real sun trap. The pub is open all week from midday to 11pm.



Back down to a crossroads, bear left down Watford Road and left at the end; then about half a mile along, in Thornsett, you'll find:

7 THE PRINTERS ARMS (Thornsett)
@theprintersarmsthornsett 01663 744650

This former Robinsons' house has been a free house since around 2010 and the three handpumps will often include a Joseph Holt or a Storm beer. Opens from 4.30pm Mon to Fri, but from midday at weekends. No food (unless either of the Manchester footie teams are on the big screen!).

Carry on along the road through Thornsett for just under a mile to:

8 THE SYCAMORE (Sycamore Road)
@sycamoreinnbirchvale 01663 743561

With lovely views across the River Set, this inn is increasingly renowned for its accommodation and good food, but its three handpumps offer succour to the thirsty walker too; often one from Bradfield Brewery. Open from 5pm Mon to Fri, from midday Sat to Sun, plus lunchtimes (midday to 2pm) Weds to Fri.

WALK FROM NEW MILLS CENTRAL STATION TO NEW MILLS NEWTOWN STATION, VIA THE TOWN'S PUBLIC HOUSES, SAMPLING FINE BEERS AND FOOD ALONG THE WAY.

WHERE NEW MILLS ONCE BOASTED THIRTY-SIX PUBS, THESE DAYS THE NUMBER IS MUCH REDUCED, EVEN THOUGH THE QUALITY OF THE BEER IS QUITE POSSIBLY THE BEST IT HAS EVER BEEN. AS WITH MANY RURAL AND SEMI-RURAL LOCATIONS, MODERN LIFE HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL ON THE PUBS, WITH SUPERMARKETS, DRINK/DRIVE LAWS AND SMOKING RESTRICTIONS ALL HAVING AN IMPACT.

DESPITE THIS, NEW MILLS ENJOYS AN EXCELLENT VARIETY OF PUBS, FROM MICRO TO LARGE, MANAGED TO FREE HOUSE, AND WITH MANY PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF FOOD ALONGSIDE GREAT DRINKS AND THE FRIENDLIEST OF ATMOSPHERES.

OPENING TIMES ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING, BUT WE SUGGEST YOU CHECK FACEBOOK OR PHONE AHEAD TO MAKE SURE.

TOTAL DISTANCE AS SHOWN IS JUST UNDER SIX MILES.

WE CAUTION AGAINST DRINKING HEAVILY – RAILWAYS MIXED WITH ALCOHOL IS A DANGEROUS BREW. PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.