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WALK 8 THE MILLS OF NEWTOWN

A short walk to look at
the sites of mills now in
New Mills that were
formerly in Cheshire

Torr Vale Mill



Site of Albion Mill



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NEW MILLS

Walk 8: The Mills of Newtown

1½ MILES (ONE WAY) – ALLOW ONE HOUR.

A short walk with one stepped descent. The return distance via Union Street is 2¼ miles.

- 1** Starting behind New Mills Bus Station, take the steps down into the Torrs. Reaching the bottom of the steps, turn right and follow the path over the Millennium Walkway, taking time to look at Torr Vale Mill on the opposite bank of the River Goyt.
- 2** Continue along the path beside the Goyt until you reach Station Road. Bear left along the road for roughly 100 metres where you will find steps leading down to a footbridge which will take you over the river and an old leat.
- 3** Continue on this path, and Grove Mill appears on your right. Reaching Grove Street, turn left up the hill. A park appears on your left, with the sweet factory on the right. Now disappeared without trace, an old rope walk once stood where the railway line now runs, parallel to the factory.
- 4** At the junction of Grove Street and Wirksmoor Road (which gets its name from the Warks Moor, the original name for the area,) you can see an alleyway or ginnel opposite. Take this path to the end on Jodrell Street, noticing the last building on your left, the Arts Theatre.
- 5** Turn right onto Jodrell Street which will bring you to Albion Road, which you need to cross with care. Turn right again, then take the first road on the left, Woodside Road, with the old Co-op bakery building on your left.
- 6** At the end of Woodside Road, on your left is Woodside Mill. Climb the short flight of steps ahead of you and emerge on the towpath for the Peak Forest Canal and your first sight of New Mills Marina. Turn right. The remaining outbuildings for Victoria Mill can be seen on your right.

7 Before you reach the canal bridge, turn right onto Victoria Street which will bring you back to Albion Road. Turn left and Brunswick Mill is on the other side of the road.

8 Cross the canal, and the old location of Albion Mill is marked by a plaque in the wall opposite.

9 Take the next road on your left, Hibbert Street. At the end of the street, the building on your left is Warksmoor Mill, whilst facing you is New Mills Marina.

10 Now turn right along Redmoor Lane. Ahead of you, after roughly 50 metres, you will see steps leading up to the bridge that will take you over the railway line. Taking this path will bring you out onto a car park with the final mill, Redmoor Mill, on your left.

To return to the start point, retrace your steps to Albion Road, walk downhill to the traffic lights at the bottom of the hill and turn left onto Union Road.

About the Mills

A Torr Vale Mill: built in 1788 and closed as a cotton mill in 2000, a longer association with cotton than any other mill in Europe. Now houses a cheese shop, bar, and holiday lets as well as the owner's own company.

B Grove Mill: built in 1791/3? Dimensions of 25 yards by 10 yards over four floors. Involved in the cotton trade until purchased by Swizzels Matlow in 1977.

C Art Theatre: now beautifully restored to its former Art Deco glory by a dedicated band of volunteers.

D Woodside Mill: built in 1872 for candlewick manufacture and cotton spinning until 1961, when it was rebuilt after a fire. Currently occupied by Castex.

E Victoria Mill: built between 1860 and 1867 for candlewick manufacture then later cotton waste. Closed 1983 and burnt down 1986 when the main building was demolished. Outbuildings now occupied by various firms.

F Brunswick Mill: housed cotton spinners between 1872 and 1883 when it burnt down and was rebuilt. Returned to cotton spinning until 1940. Swizzels Matlow brought their sweet manufacture here from London in 1940.

G Albion Mill: built as a cotton mill in 1859 and converted to the manufacture of abrasives – emery and glass paper – in 1872. Demolished in 2021.

H Warksmoor Mill: built in 1850 by Robert Hibbert, who gave his name to the street and suggested the name 'Newtown' for the area. Candlewick manufacture initially, then cotton spinning until 1935 since when it has been put to various uses.

I New Mills Marina: recently renovated and now houses two holiday cottages, a caravan park, Torrside Brewing as well as the marina.

J Redmoor Mill: Built in 1916 for cotton doubling. Premises closed as a mill in 1981. Now occupied by various businesses including a snooker club and children's soft play area.

Further reading

The Mills of New Mills by John V. Symonds, published by New Mills Local History Society.
www.nmlhs.org.uk

Cotton Mills and Printworks on the River Goyt and its Tributaries by Stephen Lewis, published by Florence Publishing. ISBN 0993055303

Further images

Picture New Mills has a catalogue of approximately 25,000 historical photographs of New Mills and environs. www.picturenewmills.org.uk