

## Ollersett Hall and Gibb Hey

Sett Valley Trail to Birch Vale then up and round the eastern side of New Mills. Distance approx 4 miles. Time 3 hours with frequent stops. Grade easy/ moderate A level walk along the SVT then an easy climb up to Gibb Hey Farm. Cobbled tracks, quiet farm lanes and fields. No difficult stiles. One small section on Marsh Lane (quite busy road) to walk along.

Refer to Heritage Trail booklet for history of old mills and railway.

1. From the centre turn left to Torrs Riverside Park. Walk down the steps into the deep gorge, known as the Torrs. Turn left at the bottom and walk under the Union Road Viaduct. At the site of Torr Mill and after looking at the Archimedes Screw (nicknamed Archie installed June 2008) at the confluence of the rivers Sett and Goyt, bear left and follow the path around onto the Sett Valley Trail. (marked on the rock above as SVT).
2. Where the path splits at the railway bridge bear right, following the River Sett. Walk up a slight incline, climb the steps straight ahead then turn right. You are now on the route of the old railway (New Mills to Hayfield opened in 1868 closed 1970).which emerged from the tunnel on your left.
3. Walk over the river bridge and under the road bridge, labelled Sett Valley Trail and pass the leisure centre and medical centre on your left. The railway went through this ground and at the far end near the road you can see the arch of the tunnel. Cross the road (Church Lane) and rejoin the trail on the other side. Walk down some steps and turn right onto a zigzag path up to St Georges Road. Cross the road and continue the trail on the other side.
4. Stay on the main trail through the woods ignoring all the side paths for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile. Cross the next road (High Hill Road) (left takes you down to Thornsett) and continue on the trail. On your left you will see Carr Meadow with its explanatory board.
5. At the cottage next to a former level crossing turn right up a cobbled lane. Look to the left for an excellent view towards the Kinder Scout plateau and the white shooting cabin.
6. At the main road (New Mills to Hayfield) turn right and when you reach the end of the houses cross the road and follow the footpath sign uphill, with Birch Vale cricket field on your right.
7. At Gibb Hey the paths diverge. Ignore the first right hand track and follow the main semi-tarmac track as it bends to the left and then bends right at the old cottages going slightly uphill. Higher Gibb Hey Farm is at the top and keeping the buildings on your right go through a metal farm gate into a field (at the time of writing there were no footpath markers). Go straight on, keeping the barbed wire fence on your right.
8. At the end of the fence go through a narrow metal gate on your right; next to a green Public Footpath sign.
9. Turn left, over a stone stile next to a gate, then bear right downhill to Ollersett Hall Farm. As you go through the farmyard note the datestone above a barn door on your right. There was a lot of rebuilding from wood to stone around the time of the late 16th and 17th Century. The initials refer to the Bradbury family who lived here for many generations. The nearby Ollersett Farm was the site of the stables for the hall which were demolished in the 1880s.
10. After the farmyard, bear left towards a metal gate with a stone stile next to it. Follow the curved track down hill past another public Footpath sign and walk down to the road.
11. Cross Laneside Road and take the footpath opposite (between house nos. 92 and 94). Bear right following the track past the former Laneside Farm.
12. When you reach a paved track go straight across to a narrow signed footpath with New Mills School playing field on your left. At a bend in this path there is a good view up the Goyt Valley towards Furness Vale and the hills beyond
13. When you reach a tarmac track, turn right and walk down to Marsh Lane. Turn left and walk for about  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd mile on the pavement, ignoring 2 footpath signs on the right-hand side of the road. At the end of the houses there is a third footpath sign, turning right towards the railway line (this is the New Mills to Sheffield line)
14. Go through the tunnel under the line and down to Goytside Farm (there has been a farm here since at least the 17th century). Turn right and you are now on the Midshires Way (a 225-mile route between Buckinghamshire and Stockport, coincident with Goyt Way; 10 miles Whaley Bridge to Compstall). Look out for llamas as you walk towards the railway viaduct. Under it you enter Torrs Riverside Park.

15. Where the track divides, take the smaller path on the left (the other one takes you up to a Co-op food store on Church Road) following the River Goyt. Walk under the double bridge towards the Millward Memorial Bridge –in memory of a local doctor who was instrumental in opening up the overgrown Torrs into the place you see today-. Turn left under the bridge and retrace your steps back to the Heritage Centre

Any problems encountered on this walk please contact the Heritage Centre 01663 746904 and any feedback greatly encouraged.

