

under the railway viaduct and down the track to Goytside Farm.

4 Turn right again as you pass the farm buildings. The track briefly returns to the river before the metal bridge. The ground beyond the bridge is often muddy.

5 Cross Pott Bridge and enter Goytside Meadows Local Nature Reserve through the kissing gate. There are several paths through the reserve, but our walk continues along the valley bottom and on through a second kissing gate and into a second field.

6 Cross this field on the path. (Sometimes the path can be a little indistinct but veers away from the hedge on the left at a shallow angle, heading for duckboards across a marshy stretch of ground. *In season you will see Marsh Marigolds in bloom, and the meadows are home to a variety of seasonal butterflies and day flying moths.*)

7 Cross the marsh on the duckboards, and having passed through the gap on the hedge, begin a gentle climb through another field rich in wildflowers when in season. The path around either end of the duckboards can be muddy.

8 The path goes through another kissing gate. Beware mud. The grassy slope ahead climbs quite steeply. *Halfway up there are two benches where you might want to rest and catch your breath. Just in front of these benches are three standing stones which are a sundial marking the line of longitude (2 degrees west.) Down its whole length from Scotland to the South Coast, New Mills is the only town on this line of longitude.) There are good views of the railway viaduct from here.* Having caught your breath, continue uphill to another kissing gate, possibly with mud.

9 Through the gate, Turn right on the canal towpath. The walk follows the canal towpath for about a kilometre and a half (just over a mile), passing the marina on the far side of the water. With mill buildings to both sides of the canal, and shortly after the marina, pass under the bridge for Albion Road. *The Mill on your immediate right, beyond the bridge, now houses Swizzels, the manufacturers of 'Love Hearts', 'Drumsticks' and 'Parma Violets' sweets amongst many other varieties.*

10 Carry on along the towpath to the next bridge, keeping a watchful eye (and ear) out for cyclists and dog walkers.

11 Lower Greenshall Lane crosses the canal at this point and we leave the canal here to follow the lane downhill. Caution is essential on this track as the rocks and stones are very uneven. The track takes you under a railway bridge before meeting Waterside Road on a hairpin bend.

12 Carry straight on down Waterside Road. There is a narrow footpath to one side of the road which it is advisable to use where you can as the road is a popular shortcut for local traffic which can be travelling at speed. *Part way down the road, there is a 'scrape' on the right hand side which is often home to a variety of ducks and waders.* The bridge across the River Goyt is on two sharp bends.

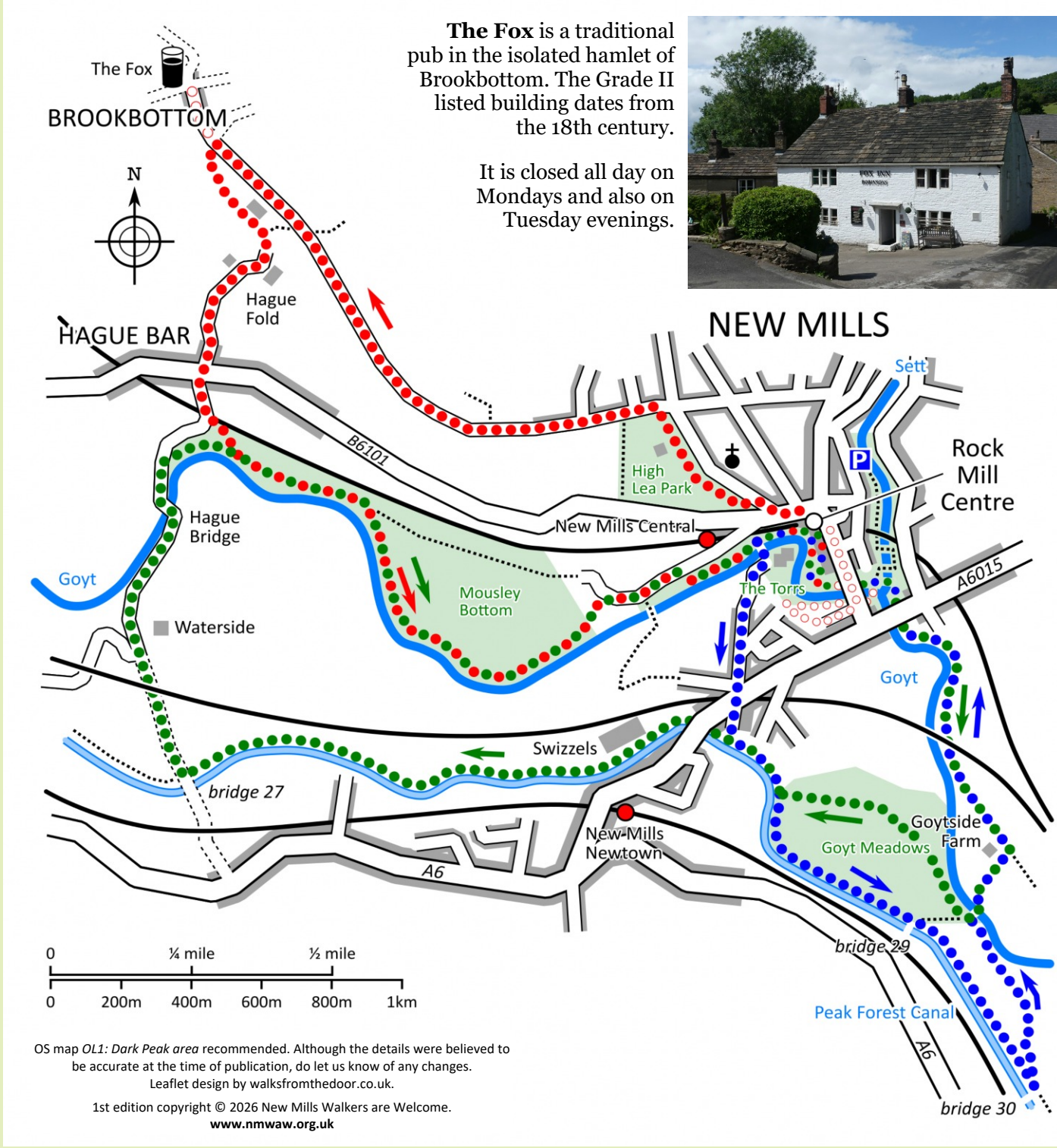
13 A public footpath on your right hand is signed, shortly after the bridge. **Turn right** onto the path for a short stretch through woodland, beside the River Goyt, and the path then opens up onto meadows. Keeping the river on your right, continue across the meadow. *(A little way in, there is a pond hidden away behind a hedge. Dragonflies can be seen here in season, and there is limited seating as well. See above in Walk 1 for information about Mousley Bottom Nature Reserve and the long-distance footpaths.)*

14 Follow the path round to the right. Passing through the gate marked Mousley Bottom Nature reserve, continue on this wooded path, with the river for company.

15 Meet the lane and houses at Mousley Bottom. **Turn right along Station Road,** keeping the industrial buildings on your left,

16 Leave Station Road and bear right on the track along the River Goyt, heading east towards New Mills. The footbridge that you pass can take you up to Torr Vale Mill where you might find the cheese shop and bar tempting. Otherwise, **continue straight on across the Millennium Walkway, then take the long flight of steps back up to the Rock Mill Centre for a well-deserved sit down and a cup of coffee.**

NEW MILLS
The first Walkers are Welcome town
in the Peak District



Other walk leaflets from New Mills Walkers are Welcome

The following leaflets in this series are available from the Rock Mill Centre, or can be downloaded from www.nmwaw.org.uk:

- **Goytside Meadows** (1¾ miles) – an easy ramble to a local nature reserve
- **Lantern Pike from Rowarth** (5 miles) – climb to a local viewpoint
- **Edith Nesbit Literary Trail** (9½ miles) – explore the landscapes that inspired *The Railway Children*
- **A secular walk round the Churches of New Mills (past and present)** – discover New Mills' places of worship, past and present
- **Parish Boundary Walk** (18 miles) – a challenge walk that can be split into shorter sections using public transport
- **Access to The Torrs Riverside Park** – including guidance for those of restricted mobility
- **Rail Ale Trail** (6 miles) – a station-to-station walk around the licensed premises of New Mills
- **The Mills of Newtown** (1½ miles) – a short walk to look at the sites of mills now in New Mills that were formerly in Cheshire
- **The Mills of New Mills** (2¼ miles) – a stroll around the mills of New Mills as it was when the River Goyt was the county boundary



Rock Mill Lane, New Mills, SK22 3BN
open 10am–4pm Wednesday to Saturday, plus Bank Holidays
www.rockmillcentre.org

LEAFLET 10

Three short circular walks from the Rock Mill Centre



NEW MILLS

Directions are in **bold**, with points of interest in *italics*.

Walk 1: New Mills–High Lea– Brookbottom–Hague Bar

Outline: 3 miles. Starts and finishes on Rock Mill Lane, just behind New Mills Bus Station. It includes High Lea Park (which has a children’s playground), High Lea Road/Brookbottom Road, Hague Fold and Hague Bar (where the Waterside Park also has a children’s playground). It returns via Mousley Bottom Nature Reserve and The Torrs Riverside Park. There is an option to visit the Fox Inn at Brookbottom on the way.

Difficulty: An easy stroll with short lengths of steep or rough tracks. Stout shoes recommended. Keep children and dogs under control.

1 Pause to look down over the wall, or from the viewing platform on the cobbled track nearby, into The Torrs, ‘The Park under the Town’. *Torr Vale Mill, a former cotton mill, its weir and the Millennium Walkway are below you in the gorge.* Turn right towards the bus station. Keeping it on your right, walk a short distance to meet Hague Bar Road, the busy road to Marple. **Cross it, bear left and almost immediately bear right** up St Mary’s Road. Cross this road and **enter High Lea Park. Immediately turn right** and follow the paths up through it, passing High Lea Hall on your left to meet High Lea Road. *(The hall was formerly the home of a print mill owner.)*

2 **At High Lea Road, turn left** and continue along it. It becomes Brookbottom Road. *This is an ancient packhorse route between Manchester and Buxton. Across the valley to the south see ‘Swizzels’ sweet factory (home of ‘Love Hearts’), and the routes of the Peak Forest Canal and three railway lines: the express line between Sheffield and Manchester and the Buxton–Stockport and Sheffield–Manchester lines for trains which stop in New Mills. Along the top side of this road were coal pits driven into the hill side which produced coal to heat homes and mills in the town.*

3 **At the crossroads, where unmade lanes come in from the left and right just before the road descends to Brookbottom,** *pause to admire the views west over Manchester and south to Lyme Park.*

4 To continue your walk, **bear left** down the unmade track *(Optionally, carry on to the hamlet of Brookbottom and the Fox Inn, marking the boundary of Derbyshire. Return to the crossroads when ready to continue the walk.)* Follow the track down through Hague Fold to the crossroads at Hague Bar. *Pause to look and listen to wildlife on this ancient hollow way, used by pedestrians, horses and carts for centuries.*

CAUTION: steep lane with a busy road at the bottom.

5 **Meet the main New Mills–Marple Road at Hague Bar.** *This was originally a turnpike road. The toll house is on your right at the junction.* Carry on straight across the main road to find Waterside Park and a car park on your left within a short distance, just after crossing the bridge over the Manchester–Sheffield railway line.

You are now about halfway through your walk.

6 **From Waterside Park, descend the path to meet the River Goyt.** Turn left and walk east along the path through the Riverside Park towards New Mills. *This is part of the Midshires Way, a long-distance footpath which links the Ridgeway to the Trans Pennine Trail and the European Long-Distance Trail network.* Continue straight on keeping to the footpath closest to the river. *Note the Midshires Way and Trespass Trail signposts on the way. The path goes through Mousley Bottom Nature Reserve. Also, part of the Steel Cotton Rail Trail.*

7 **Meet the lane and houses at Mousley Bottom.** Turn right along Station Road. *Note the long low house to your left, which was an ancient cruck barn.* Keeping the industrial buildings on your left, bear right on the track along the River Goyt, heading east towards New Mills. Carry straight on through The Torrs Riverside Park.

8 **Continue straight on, over the Millennium Walkway. To return direct to New Mills Bus Station,** take the steep stepped track to the left.

Note the former Torr Vale Cotton Mill across the river and the ways in which the power of the river was used to drive it. See the remains of houses and mills.

9 **To detour into the old industrial heart of New Mills,** continue under Union Road Bridge (which is about 30 metres high) to the confluence of the Rivers Sett (from Kinder and Hayfield) and Goyt (from above Buxton). *See the remains of old routes and mills. At the river junction is ‘Archie’, the Archimedes Screw. It has been developed by a Community Benefit Society and has generated power from the river to help run the local Co-op shop since 2008.*

10 **To return to New Mills Bus Station,** retrace your steps from Archie and **either** return under the Union Road bridge and take the steep stepped track to the right **or**, just before going under the Union Road Bridge, bear left over the bridge and continue up the cobbled track to The Rock Tavern pub. Turn sharp left along the footpath between the houses and the Torrs Gorge, It becomes a track. Continue until you meet the busy Union Road. Turn left and you will shortly arrive back at New Mills Bus Station.

Walk 2: New Mills–Newtown Marina–Swing Bridge–Goytside– The Torrs

Outline: 2¼ miles. Kinder Scout can normally be seen from the canal towpath, and there is considerable history along the way.

Difficulty: Generally an easy walk, though there are two steep flights of steps to navigate. Most of the paths are gravel and level, with one short section across open fields, and an awkward squeeze stile to

1 From Rock Mill Centre, behind the bus station, take the track and steps down into the Torrs. At the bottom of the steps, turn right, following the track round to the Millennium Walkway, some 40 metres distant. *The Millennium Walkway is about 165 metres long and when finished, it completed both the Goyt Way and the*

Midshires Way, two long-distance paths through New Mills. Continue over the walkway.

2 **Cross the River Goyt on the footbridge.** Walk up the steps with care as they are both steep and narrow. At the top of the steps, Torr Vale Mill is on your left hand. *The Mill worked cotton for over two hundred years uninterrupted, and it currently houses a cheese shop and a bar, where you might want to pause briefly.*

To continue the walk, **turn right.** Walk up the path and onto Torr Vale Road. *The cottages on your left were built by the Mill to house some of their workforce.* Keeping the recreation ground on your right hand, walk on up Wirksmoor Road. Carry straight on to Albion Road.

3 **Cross Albion Road using the pelican crossing, then face left and turn almost immediately right onto Victoria Street.** Walk up Victoria Street to the canal. *The remnants of Victoria Mill are on your left as you reach the canal. Facing you is New Mills Marina, to the right of which is Wirksmoor Mill, both of which were built by Robert Hibbert in the mid-19th century.*

4 **Turn left onto the canal footpath.** Walk about a kilometre to the swing bridge over the canal. *Along the way, on your left hand, the 17-arch railway viaduct will come into view. Built in 1902, this piece of track joins the Manchester to Buxton line with the Manchester to Sheffield line. Also visible are the spires of St George’s Parish Church and the Church of the Annunciation. Beyond, a distant view of Kinder Scout forms the backdrop to the town.* About halfway along the towpath between Victoria Street and the swing bridge is the bridge at Bank End *which brings an ancient track over the canal.*

5 **At the swing bridge, turn left down the track towards Carr Farm.** *Carr comes from a term of Old Norse origin (kjarr) meaning a waterlogged, boggy, or marshy area.*

6 **Before you reach the farm, a path comes off to the left, heading across the field.** Take this footpath, with views of the River Goyt below. This stretch can be muddy. At the far end of the field is an awkward squeeze gate which leads to three separate paths. The path to your left leads back up to the canal, ahead of you is Goytside Meadow Local Nature Reserve.

7 **Take the right-hand path over the River Goyt.** *The metal bridge is the most recent replacement of earlier*

footbridges dating back to at least the 16th century. Follow the path to Goytside Farm. Look out for llamas in the fields.

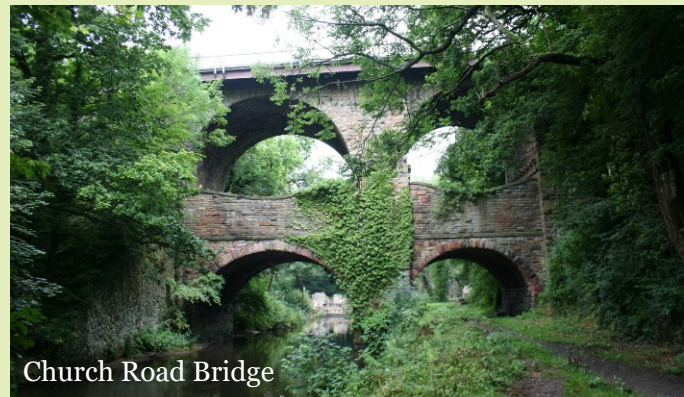
8 **At the junction of paths, turn onto the track on your left.** Follow the gravel track through fenced fields and under the railway viaduct mentioned earlier. Follow the river until a path leaves the track on the left.

9 **Take this path, beside the river.** With the Goyt on your left, and under a canopy of trees, *you approach the old leat, identified by a metal ‘gate’ that would have been operated by the ‘waterman’. The leat took water from the River to power Torr Mill. Your walk continues along the bed of the leat and under the Church Road Bridge. The bridge dates from 1834, though the lower arch was built in 1888 to support the pillars.*

10 **Cross the River Sett on the wooden Millward Memorial Bridge,** *built to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Union Road Bridge and named after Dr Millward, who did much to improve the housing stock in New Mills. The ruined mill ahead is what is left of the six storey Torr Mill, destroyed by fire in 1912. Housed in the old wheel pit for the mill is the community owned Torrs Hydro Scheme, the first of its type in the UK, and powered by a reverse Archimedes screw locally known as ‘Archie’.*

11 **Keeping the River Goyt on your left,** pass under the Union Road Bridge, *built in 1884 to provide the first high-level crossing of the Torrs, the gorge below the town that is nearly 100 feet deep.*

12 **Shortly after the bridge, a flight of steps on the right** will lead you back to the Rock Mill Centre and a welcome seat and a cup of coffee.



Church Road Bridge

Walk 3: New Mills–Goytside Farm–Canal–Waterside Road– Hague Bar–Mousley Bottom– Millennium Walkway

Outline: 4 miles. The walk takes you through farmland and two nature reserves, (Goytside Meadow Local Nature Reserve and Mousley Bottom Nature Reserve), along the bank of the Peak Forest Canal and the bank of the River Goyt and through stretches of our industrial heritage. Keep an eye open for herons, dippers and kingfishers as well as butterflies and dragonflies in season.

Difficulty: The walk has a variety of terrains ranging from the flat and easy canal towpath to rugged tracks, muddy fields and a long flight of steps. It should take around two hours, depending on how frequently you stop to stare.

1 **From the Rock Mill Centre, walk down the cobble path,** then down the steps to the bottom.

2 **Turn left** and proceed into the Torrs, *the sandstone gorge that lies at the heart of New Mills. Carved out in the last ice age, the gorge is nearly 30 metres in depth. Widened by builders quarrying stone, the Torrs houses the remnants of several mills, and evidence of workers houses in some places.* Walk through the Torrs and under the Union Road bridge, the high-level bridge that spans the Torrs.

The remains of Torr Mill can be found just beyond the bridge, and Torrs Hydro, the community owned hydro scheme, can be found within the ruins. The Hydro generates enough electricity to power the Co-op supermarket.

3 **Carrying on past the hydro scheme, cross the River Sett on the Wooden Millward Memorial Bridge** *(See above – Walk 2).* Walk down the path and under the Church Road Bridge. Stay on this path with the River Goyt on your right hand. Where the path joins a track that comes downhill from your left, **turn right.** Continue