

The Pack Horse Inn

A warm welcome awaits everyone at the Pack Horse Inn, nestled in the hills above New Mills on the edge of the Peak District and offering twelve quality 4-star accredited en-suite bedrooms.

For the tourist or business visitor, the Pack Horse is conveniently situated within easy reach of Stockport, Manchester and Sheffield. The various attractions of the Peak District are on the doorstep.

Rooms

Over the years the Pack Horse has become a very popular place to stay for both business and pleasure, so seven additional bedrooms have been added. The original five rooms were converted from the barn adjacent to the main building and retain some of the original oak beams. The new rooms comprise four Superior rooms and three Executive rooms situated in the main building. All rooms are non-smoking and all are en-suite.

Bar

The friendly locals bar boasts three hand-pulled ales, alongside a good selection of world beers and wines.

Traditional bar meals and snacks are available or for a more formal meal there is a comfortable dining-room which overlooks the patio area — a pleasant place to eat and drink in the warmer weather. In the winter, the bar area has two welcoming log fires.

Menu

We, at the Pack Horse, pride ourselves on the quality and variety of our menu. Our food, where possible, is sourced locally and we cater for all tastes and appetites — from a tasty sandwich in the bar to a formal meal in the dining room. Daily specials are displayed on the chalkboards.

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Opening hours

Open from 12 noon, serving food and drinks all day.

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The **Millennium Walkway**, built at a cost of £525,000 and opened in 1999, featured on the 44p Royal Mail Millennium stamp. It carries the Goyt Way through the Torrs Gorge below the massive retaining wall of the railway opposite Torr Vale Mill.



Mellor Cross, recently restored after losing its top, was erected by Marple Churches Together in the 1970s and commands a fine view over Manchester and the Cheshire Plain. Edith Nesbit immortalised the surrounding area in *The Railway Children*.



The **Peak Forest Canal** (pictured here near Disley) runs for 15 miles from Dukinfield to Whaley Bridge. Two lock-less halves are separated by the 16 locks of the Marple Flight. The engineer was Benjamin Outram and the canal opened in 1796.



The junction of Black Lane and Primrose Lane is marked by a large block of stone in the wall, thought to be a **medieval cross base**. It may be associated with the abbey at Basingwerk, who owned this area in the Middle Ages and built several similar crosses.



The **"Roman Bridge"** at Strines is in fact an 18th-century packhorse bridge. Packhorse bridges are typically less than 6 feet wide, with no (or low) parapets to avoid fouling the panniers of the ponies that once used them. The bridge is Grade II listed.



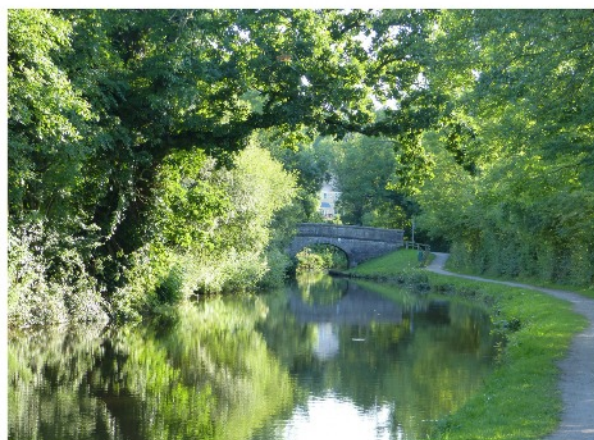
The **Sett Valley Trail** is a 2½-mile cycle- and bridleway from Hayfield to New Mills, following a former branch railway line that opened in 1868 and closed in 1970. The Pennine Bridleway follows the Trail for a mile between Hayfield and Birch Vale.



Lantern Pike provides superb views to Kinder Scout and Manchester, indicated by a topograph dedicated to Edwin Royce (of Rolls-Royce fame). The hill is owned by the National Trust and its name probably indicates the former location of a signalling beacon.



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The Peak Forest Canal near Strines



New Mills from Spring Bank

Map of Routes

five walks and a bike ride from



The Pack Horse Inn

New Mills, Derbyshire

Whitle 1¼ or 1½ miles: Easy	Lantern Pike 5¼ miles: Moderate
Cobden Edge 3¼ miles: Fairly easy	Roman Bridge 6 miles: Strenuous
The Millennium Walkway 4¼ miles: Moderate	New Mills & Strines 6½ miles: Moderate

For an all-day walk of around 11½ miles, follow steps **1** to **21** of the **Lantern Pike** route as far as Watford Bridge on the Sett Valley Trail, continue along the SVT to New Mills following steps **13** to **20** of the **Millennium Walkway** route, then at the end of the Millennium Walkway join the **New Mills & Strines** route from step **18** onwards.

Whitle (1¼ or 1½ miles: Easy)

An easy stroll, featuring fine views up the Sett valley to Kinder Scout, and a pretty hamlet of old cottages and farmhouses.

Allow 1 hour. One moderate climb; wet grass after rain.

1 Exit the top car park via the gate at the rear, and walk up the field, before bearing left to the public footpath along the wall. **2** At the top of the field, join a short walled path to the right of a castellated house that leads out to Castle Edge Road. **3** Turn left. **4** When the road bends left, turn right up the driveway of Castle Edge Farm. *(For a slightly shorter walk, stay on the road and rejoin the route described here at step 12.)* **5** Walk past the farmhouse and go through a gate, then at the end of the barn on your right, turn left through a hand-gate beside a field gate. **6** Turn right and walk along the top of two fields. **7** In the third field, beyond a wooden step stile, bear half left to the corner of a wooded garden marked by a large stone. **8** Turn left here, along the side of the wood. **9** At the bottom of the field, a stile on your right leads out to a driveway. **10** Turn left past a large pond and walk down to a gate, then follow the drive round to the left until you reach the road. **11** Turn right. **12** Turn left into Apple Tree Road opposite the track to Shaw Farm, by New Mills Golf Club. **13** After 60 yards, turn left onto the golf course at a public footpath sign. **14** Follow the wall on your left across the course to a gate into a walled green lane. **15** Follow the lane to Whitle. **16** Bear right between the cottages and through a gate. **17** Cross the stile opposite and walk down between fences to join the track beyond. **18** Walk down the track to the road, and turn left to return to the Pack Horse.

Cobden Edge (3¼ miles: Fairly easy)

A scenic walk over the hill behind the Pack Horse, featuring wide westward views over Manchester and the Cheshire Plain.

Allow 2 hours. A couple of moderate climbs and one rocky descent; wet grass and mud may be encountered after rain.

1 Exit the top car park via the gate at the rear, and walk up the field behind the Pack Horse, before bearing left to the public footpath along the wall. **2** At the top of the field, join a short walled path to the right of a castellated house that leads out to Castle Edge Road. **3** Turn right, past a stable on the left. **4** At a crossroads of tracks at the corner of a wood, turn left. **5** Pass Knapkin Piece Farm on your right. **6** Ignore a footpath on the left, continuing along the track to a junction at the top of the hill (marked by an old cross base in the wall on your right). **7** Turn left and follow a wide walled track to the top of the hill. **8** Descend the rough track to the road below Mellor Cross. **9** Take the

metalled drive opposite (past a large modern barn on the right) and descend past Shire Barn on the left with a golf course on the right. **10** When the track bends left to a property, turn right by a metal barrier. **11** The track descends steps to a crossroads of paths, where you turn left past a large upright rock. **12** Follow the narrow descending path to emerge between stone cottages onto a level track. **13** Turn left and follow the track, which narrows beyond the last house. **14** When you meet a wider track by The Cottage, bear left (uphill). **15** Just after Higher Cliff Farm at the top of the hill, turn left and leave the track onto a signposted footpath, bearing half-right and slightly uphill to a stone stile in the top corner of the field. **16** Walk up the field to a gate into a track. **17** Pass Shaw Farmhouse then turn right along the entrance track before the slurry pits. **18** Bear left beside the edge of the golf course out to the road by the clubhouse. **19** Cross the road and go straight on (Apple Tree Road).

Now follow steps **13** to **18** of the **Whitle** walk (above) for directions back to the Pack Horse via Whitle.

The Millennium Walkway

4¼ miles: Moderate

A moderate stroll down into New Mills, returning via the spectacular Millennium Walkway and a pretty riverside park.

Allow 2–3 hours. Some rocky paths, and mud and wet grass may be encountered after rain. One long climb out of the Goyt valley.

1 Turn right and walk down the road from the Pack Horse towards New Mills for 150 yards. **2** Opposite the track to Whitle on your right, turn left over a slab stile next to a gate. **3** Walk down the side of the field to gate, then continue to a stile into a drive. **4** Follow the drive ahead of you through a gateway, then turn right over a stile. **5** Turn left over a stone stile where two walls meet, then turn right and walk down the right-hand side of the field to a gate into a track in front of another farm. **6** Turn right and walk out to the road. **7** Turn left and walk down to a T-junction. **8** Cross over and turn right. **9** Take the next left (Watford Bridge Road), crossing the River Sett. **10** Pass a works entrance on your right, then take the second right into an industrial estate. **11** Take a path on the left after the first industrial unit, which leads to the Sett Valley Trail. **12** Turn right. **13** Follow the Trail for quarter of a mile or so until you reach a road. **14** Cross straight over and descend a slalomng section. **15** Partway up the other side, climb a flight of steps on your left to another road; take the metalled path opposite, behind the surgery and Leisure Centre car park. **16** Pass under an overbridge and cross the river. **17** Before the mouth of the old railway tunnel, turn left down steps to the riverside. **18** Pass under a railway viaduct, then cross the river via a footbridge on your left. **19** Follow the opposite bank then recross at the confluence of the Sett and Goyt. **20** Walk past Torrs Hydro and the weir, and pass under the Union Road viaduct. Take either of the lower paths (ignoring the steps on the right up to the Heritage Centre). **21** Cross the Millennium Walkway and continue along the riverside path, ignoring the foot-

bridge to Torr Vale Mill and a path up to the station on your right. **22** Join the road at an informal parking area by some industrial buildings and take the left-hand fork (Mousley Bottom). **23** Beyond a row of new houses and before a brick-built house, take a metalled track on the left that leads through a gate and back to the river. **24** Beyond a second gate you enter Mousley Bottom Nature Reserve. **25** Follow the river for three-quarters of a mile. **26** As you approach Hague Bar, the meadows end and the river runs close to the steep wooded bank on your right. Leave the river within these woods, following a Goyt Way fingerpost up a steep path, stepped in places, that zig-zags up the hill through the trees. **27** When you emerge into the car park at Hague Bar Picnic Site, turn left out to the road. **28** Turn right over the railway bridge and walk up to the main road. **29** Cross over into Hague Fold Road, a no-through road. **30** Walk up the lane to Hague Fold Farm, and follow it round to the left past Higher Hague Fold Farm. **31** The road becomes a narrow walled track before meeting the Brook Bottom road. **32** Cross straight over into a rocky byway marked “Unsuitable for motor vehicles”. **33** Climb the hill and pass the turning to Shaw Farm on your left, with the golf course over the wall on your right. **34** When you reach the road by the clubhouse, cross over and go straight on (Apple Tree Road).

Now follow steps **13** to **18** of the **Whitle** walk (above) for directions back to the Pack Horse via Whitle.

Lantern Pike (5¼ miles: Moderate)

A rewarding walk to a fine local viewpoint, returning via the Sett Valley Trail, a disused railway line.

Allow 3 hours. Some rocky paths, and a couple of moderate climbs. May be muddy in places after rain.

1 Turn left and walk up the road from the Pack Horse towards Mellor. **2** Ignore the footpath heading off to the right along the drive of Windy Ridge, but take the next turning on the right, a walled byway that leaves the road obliquely and descends gently with views to Lantern Pike and Kinder Scout. **3** When you reach the road, turn right (down-hill) and walk down to the bottom of the valley, passing several farmhouses. **4** Beyond the stream, follow the road uphill to a triangular junction. **5** Take the no-through road ahead, and walk past Aspen-shaw Hall. **6** Beyond Feeding Hey the road, no longer tarmacked, continues uphill to meet another similar track at a T-junction. **7** Turn left and follow the track to a fork. **8** Take the right-hand track, which descends to cross a small stream, then climbs gradually to a gate. **9** Walk down the left-hand side of the field to the corner, where six routes meet. **10** Follow the Pennine Bridleway sign towards Hayfield, which follows a track across the field, bearing right towards Lantern Pike. **11** In the far corner of the field, go through the gateway and follow the walled track beyond. **12** Take a path uphill through the heather on your right and follow it to the topograph at the summit of Lantern Pike. Beyond the topograph, follow the ridge as it descends to a wall. **13** Turn sharp left and follow a stony path downhill along-

side the wall to return to the Pennine Bridleway. **14** Turn right and follow the track, which shortly joins a metalled driveway and leads steeply downhill past Sunny Side to Sitch Lane. **15** Take a few steps to the right then turn left, still following the Pennine Bridleway, down the drive to Hegginbottom Farm. **16** When the driveway goes round a hairpin bend to the left, take the bridleway straight ahead and follow it down to the road at Spinner Bottom. **17** Turn left and cross the River Sett. **18** Turn immediately right, beside a motor repairer’s premises. **19** Follow the drive to the gates of another industrial premises, where you turn left along a narrow path that follows the fence then bends left to the Sett Valley Trail. **20** Turn right and follow the Trail for 500 yards to Wilde’s Crossing. **21** Continue for a similar distance and cross High Hill Road, continuing along the Trail beyond. **22** Cross Watford Bridge, then turn right off the Trail along a path that runs alongside an industrial unit. **23** Turn right to exit the industrial estate. **24** Turn left and cross the River Sett to a T-junction. **25** Turn right and follow the road for 100 yards, then cross and turn left up Watford Road. **26** Follow the road round a left-hand bend and continue uphill with houses on both sides. **27** Opposite Parkway, turn right into Watford Lane. **28** Pass a house on your left and go through the gates of Will Hey Farm. **29** By the house, turn left through a way-marked gate and walk past a paddock and then up the left-hand side of a field. **30** In the top corner, turn left over a stone stile where two walls meet. **31** Follow the wall then cross a stile on your right into a driveway, which you follow through a gate on your left. **32** When the drive meets another, cross the stile opposite, and head for the right-hand corner of the field beyond. **33** Go through a hand-gate and walk up the right-hand side of the field to the road. **34** Turn right and follow the road for the short distance back to the Pack Horse.

Roman Bridge

6 miles: Short but fairly strenuous for bikers

A scenic hike (also suitable for mountain bikes) along ancient trackways to a packhorse bridge over the River Goyt.

Allow 1–2 hours by bike, 3–4 hours on foot. There are a couple of short road sections, and some challenging steep and rocky sections where inexperienced riders may prefer to dismount.

1 Turn left and ride up the road towards Mellor. **2** When you reach Broadhurst Edge Plantation, turn left up a rocky track along the side of the wood. **3** At the top, go straight over and ride past Knapkin Piece Farm. **4** At the top of the hill, turn left onto another stony track. **5** Climb to the hilltop then descend steeply past Mellor Cross to the road. **6** Cross over and ride down a metalled drive. **7** When the drive bends left into a dwelling, turn right at a metal barrier. **8** Descend the steep, twisting bridleway (stepped in places), crossing another path and then passing a small quarry. **9** After a narrow section you reach a crossing track. Continue straight ahead down a curving, tree-lined track to pass a stone-built house and garage. **10** At the next track, turn right, and shortly follow the bridleway round a left-hand bend at

the edge of a golf course. **11** Descend the narrow bridleway, crossing part of the golf course (care!) to a junction of tracks. **12** Turn right and ride down past Windy Bottom Farm and under the railway. **13** At a stone-built house, dismount and turn left to cross Roman Bridge. **14** The bridleway curves left to a house, then climbs the metalled drive to the road. **15** Turn left and follow the B6101 through Strines village, turning left after half a mile onto Station Road. **16** Descend to and cross the River Goyt, then climb a cobbled section to the station entrance. **17** Bear left under the railway arch, then turn immediately right up a rough track marked “Unsuitable for motors”. Climb for half a mile to emerge by the Fox Inn at Brook Bottom. **18** Turn right and follow the lane for 150 yards, then turn left up another rocky byway marked “Unsuitable for motors”. **19** This climbs to the golf course then levels off beyond Shaw Farm (off-route to the left) to reach the road. *If you’re on foot, follow steps 13 to 18 of the Whitle walk (above) for a short-cut across the golf course.* **20** Cyclists should carry straight on past the clubhouse (Apple Tree Road) and descend to the first houses of New Mills. **21** Turn left and ride up the short climb on a potholed road to the hamlet of Whitle. **22** Dismount and go through the gate on your right into a short fenced section on grass, before passing through a hand-gate into another rough driveway. **23** Ride downhill to Mellor Road, and turn left to return to the Pack Horse.

New Mills & Strines (6½ miles: Moderate)

Stroll down into New Mills via pretty Whitle, cross the spectacular Millennium Walkway, then climb to the Peak Forest Canal, before descending to cross the Goyt and then climbing back to the Pack Horse via Brook Bottom, another attractive hamlet.

Allow 3–4 hours. Some rocky paths, and a couple of climbs. Short sections may be muddy after rain, or overgrown in summer.

1 Turn right and walk down the road towards New Mills for 150 yards. **2** Turn right through a gate and follow a farm track up to Whitle. **3** When the track bends right into Whitle Farm, go through the hand-gate ahead of you and walk between fences up to a wall stile beside a gatepost. **4** Turn left and follow the rough road down to its junction with Apple Tree Road. **5** Cross straight over past the 30mph sign into Whitle Road. **6** When the road bends left, take a driveway on the right with a public footpath sign. **7** Follow the drive as it winds behind a cottage then climbs slightly to Beardhough Farm. **8** At the farm entrance gate, turn left down some steps (waymarked) then head right to pass below the farm. **9** Beyond a gate the path contours pleasantly through rough grassland towards a housing estate. **10** Just after a gate and stile, but before you reach the first house, turn immediately left on a narrow path that may be slightly overgrown. **11** Cross a broken wall by a small bench and bear half-right down the hillside, passing a spring on your left partway down. **12** When you meet a narrow cobbled path (caution: slippery when wet), turn left and walk down to the road. **13** Turn right along Spring Bank past the church (now an arts centre) and almshouses, and continue past the

Town Hall into the town centre. **14** Follow the main street to a roundabout at the end. **15** Bear right here, then cross over into Rock Mill Lane. **16** Pass between the Heritage Centre on your left and the Torr Vale Mill Viewpoint on your right, then keep right, down the steps descending steeply into the Torrs. **17** At the bottom, turn right and cross the Millennium Walkway. **18** Almost immediately, turn left over a footbridge across the Goyt. **19** Follow the path beyond as it winds up through the buildings of Torr Vale Mill. **20** Follow the entrance road round to the right, past a recreation ground on your right, to join Wirksmoor Road. **21** Continue ahead to cross Grove Street, then cross the main road into Victoria Street, opposite. **22** At the end of the road, join the canal towpath, turning right to pass under the main road. **23** Walk past Swizzels Matlow’s Brunswick Mill works and continue along the canal through woodland. **24** Pass under bridge 27 and continue along the towpath, shared temporarily with a driveway. **25** Beyond bridge 26, the houses of Disley appear on the opposite bank. **26** Bridge 25 is a swing bridge, beyond which the towpath returns to rural tranquility with views over the Goyt valley. **27** Beyond a lifting bridge (24) you again share the towpath with a metalled driveway, which you leave to pass under bridge 23. **28** After a further quarter-mile you cross an aqueduct. Shortly afterwards, leave the canal and double back down some steps to the track below the aqueduct. **29** Turn left and walk downhill past a cottage to the B6101 road in Strines. **30** Cross straight over into Station Road and walk down past the former printworks. **31** Skirt a large pond with an ornamental dovecote on an island, and pass Strines Hall. **32** Follow the road up the cobbles to the station entrance, where you bear left under the railway bridge. **33** Turn immediately right, up a rough track marked “Unsuitable for motor vehicles”. **34** Follow the track uphill for half a mile to emerge by the Fox Inn in Brook Bottom. **35** Cross straight over and climb a driveway to a house, where a permissive path bypasses to the right of the garden. **36** Continue up a fenced and stepped path to a stile, beyond which you turn immediately left and descend steeply through the trees to a footbridge. **37** The path climbs to a track, where you turn right and walk past Shaw Farmhouse. **38** Keep left of the slurry pit, with barns on your left, to a stile into a field. **39** Head for the top right-hand corner of the field, where you will find a green PNFS sign (no. 334). **40** Walk along the right-hand edge of the next field to a stile, then continue in the same direction with the trees surrounding Stony Piece Farm behind the wall on the right. **41** At the end of the wall, by a large upright stone on the corner, ignore a path off to the left, instead aiming half-left towards the visible buildings of Castle Edge Farm. **42** After a stile in the top corner of the field, walk along the top of a couple of fields, then turn left through a hand-gate at the end of the barn. **43** Turn right to pass the farmhouse and follow the driveway out to the road. **44** Turn left and walk up the road to the house called “The Castle”. **45** Turn right beyond this property, down a signposted footpath that leads between walls to the top of a narrow field. **46** Follow the field down to the Pack Horse, where a gate in the rear fence gives access to the top car park.