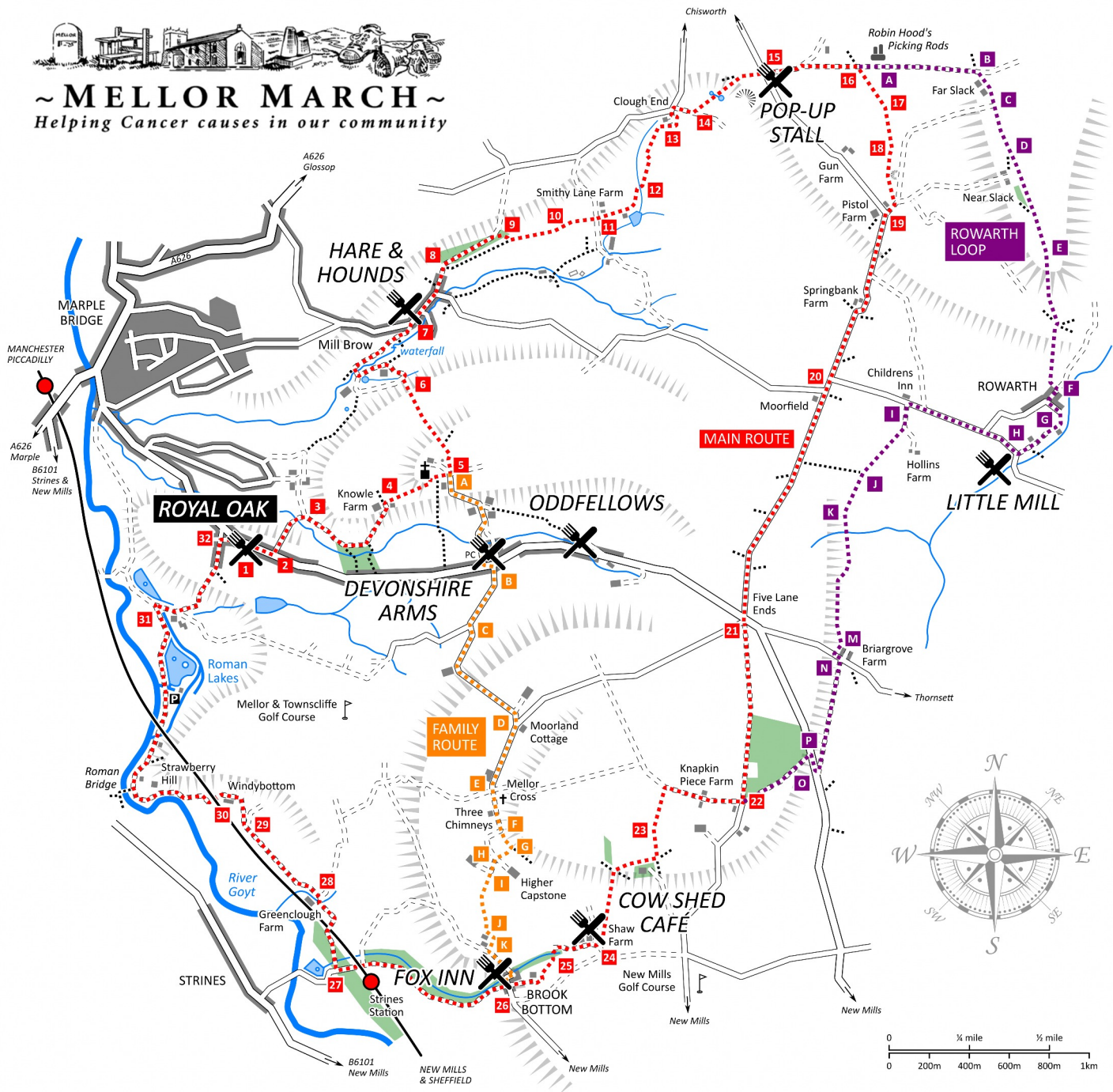




# ~ MELLOR MARCH ~

Helping Cancer causes in our community



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The Mellor March starts from the Royal Oak on Longhurst Lane, Mellor. It is a circular route and you can start from any point. However, **please register at the Royal Oak first.**

This leaflet should be sufficient to guide you around the route, but the book *Twelve Mellor Walks*, available in local bookshops, would be of great use on the walk.

The March started in 1995, with the intention of getting as many walkers to take a part in the whole or any part of the walk. From a slow start of 50–60 participants it has grown over the last few years to now, where we register over 500 walkers per year.

Every penny raised is donated to a cancer-related charity and wherever possible we try to ensure that the monies go to a specific cause.

The walk takes you from the village pub (The Royal Oak) up to Mellor Church, where on a clear day you can see as far as North Wales, the Cheshire Plain, Liverpool and all the surrounding countryside. From there you drop down into the village of Mill Brow where the local pub awaits you with bacon butties and a hot (or cold) drink. It's then onto the wilds of Ludworth Moor with yet even more spectacular views before you descend to the Goyt Valley for a stroll along the River Goyt which takes you past the Roman Lakes and back up to the Royal Oak, where food and drink await the weary walker.

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For more information, see our website:  
[www.mellor-march.org.uk](http://www.mellor-march.org.uk)

You can donate through JustGiving:  
[www.justgiving.com/mellormarch](http://www.justgiving.com/mellormarch)

# MELLOR MARCH ROUTES

## Main Route

**1** With your back to the pub, turn right and walk up Longhurst Lane past the 20 mph speed-limit signs. **2** Turn left down Knowle Road (signposted Mellor Primary School), passing Mellor Sports Club on the right and the school on the left. **3** Cross a stream and follow the road through Slack Wood, passing a left-hand turn to Townscliffe Lane, until you reach Knowle Farm. **4** From the farmyard, take the footpath on the right uphill across fields to reach Mellor Church via a flight of steps.

*From the church, the **Family Route** (see below) takes a short cut to Brook Bottom, reducing the distance to 5½ miles.*

**5** On leaving the churchyard, turn left over the stile in front of the old Hearse House, passing the roundhouse on your left. At the end of the field cross the stile by the gate and turn left, following the public footpath sign to Greenhill. Follow the path downhill, crossing two stiles, to reach a track by a gate. **6** Swing right and left above some duckponds, then pass the buildings onto a metalled drive. **7** At the entrance to Primrose Mill cross the stream and swing round a right-hand bend, following the drive uphill to the Hare and Hounds at Mill Brow. **8** Turn right, then shortly afterwards turn left into Gird Lane. Walk past the former chapel and continue along the rough track beyond the last house. **9** When the track bends left, take a footpath over a stile on the right. Cross the field beyond diagonally to a stile in the corner and walk along the bottom of the next field. **10** Follow a fenced track to reach a road by Smithy Lane Farm and take the track opposite. **11** Follow the track above the trout farm, a lake on the right-hand side. The path curves to the left and crosses a stream by a muddy ford. **12** By two trees, fork to the left and remain close to the line of the gorse bushes to your left. Look out for a stile hidden behind a holly tree in the corner of the field, before the remains of a wall; cross the stile and turn right to a further stile. **13** Skirt the fence around Cloughend Farm crossing two more stiles, the second into the farm drive. Exit the drive to the road, then turn immediately right onto a track. **14** Follow this track for about 80 yards then, just after two lines of pylons, turn left over a boulder bridge onto a narrow path between wire fences. As you head uphill, cross a footbridge between two ponds and pass a small old quarry on your right. Keep along the fence to reach Gun Road. **15** Cross the road onto a broad track. When the track forks, turn right through a wooden gate. Follow the wall straight on and look for a stile on your right. (If you reach Robin Hood's Picking Rods, you've gone too far.)

*At the stile you have a choice. The **Rowarth Loop** (see below), although adding a few extra miles, has the advantage of passing a further refreshment stop at the Little Mill Inn.*

**16** Once over the wall, head diagonally across the field in the direction indicated by the sign on an indistinct path, crossing a small drain then keeping to the higher ground. **17** Cross a stile to the right of two gates,

then bear right to meet the wall. **18** Look out for a wall stile on a corner, then beyond the stile bear left, passing a shallow grassy quarry, to reach a ladder stile on your left. Cross and turn right towards Pistol Farm. **19** At Pistol Farm turn left and follow the road for about a mile, skirting Springbank Farm on your right, then passing a turning to Rowarth on your left, and a turning on the right by the former Moorfield Arms pub. **20** Continue along the road until you reach Five Lane Ends. **21** Cross directly over onto Pole Lane, a rough track. Follow the lane past a hidden reservoir in the wood on the left. At a cross roads, turn right. **22** Pass Knapkin Piece Farm then look out for a stile on your left by two metal gates (Peak and Northern Footpaths Society sign no. 482). Cross the stile and walk straight across the field to a stone stile; beyond this follow the wall on your left. **23** Cross another stile and head towards a large boundary stone. Turn right here following a stone wall then a fence beyond the trees. Cross another stile then turn left towards Shaw Farm, keeping to the left of the field. Enter the farmyard and pass a couple of barns to reach the entrance. **24** Cross to a gate opposite, keeping along the wall in front of the farmhouse. Beyond a further gate keep to the wall, with a small wooded valley to your left. Just before a gate, cross a stile on your left, down a few steps into the wood. Cross a small wooden bridge then follow the path down to the stream, which you cross on another footbridge (with a footpath sign pointing in the opposite direction). **25** Walk up the other side of the valley and turn right through a stile. Walk downhill along a fenced path, then briefly divert left round the garden, along a permitted path (white arrow). Follow the drive down to the Fox. **26** From the Fox car park near the telephone box, follow the track downhill marked Goyt Way. Go under the railway bridge and pass Strines Station. **27** After a short stretch of cobblestones, turn right by Strines Hall, following a bridleway uphill towards Greenclough Farm. **28** By the farm, cross a stream and follow the Goyt Way on your left. When the track splits, keep to the Goyt Way on the right (slightly uphill). **29** Stay alongside the railway, ignoring a signposted bridleway on your right. **30** Pass Windybottom Farm then go through the tunnel under the railway to meet the River Goyt. Beyond Roman Bridge (on your left) you go under the railway viaduct, then pass Roman Lakes on your right-hand side. **31** At the junction with Lakes Road, turn right for a short distance and then turn left following an uphill path opposite the Old Hall. **32** At the top of Old Hall Lane, turn right back to the Royal Oak.

## WELL DONE – TIME FOR A WELL-EARNED REST!

### Family Route

**A** At the far end of the churchyard, turn right and walk down the road, past the Parish Centre, then climb to the main village street. **B** Turn left to the Devonshire Arms, then cross into Gibb Lane on the right. **C** After ¼ mile, turn left at a junction (Whetmorhurst Lane). **D** After about ½ mile of steady climbing, bear right at a farm entrance then turn right at a T-junction by Moorland Cottage. **E** Follow the lane for ¼ mile past a couple of farms to a crossroads below Mellor Cross. Follow the lane ahead of you, passing below the cross, to Three Chimneys Cattery. **F** Beyond the cattery, when the driveway turns

right, follow the green lane ahead. **G** After 80 yards, turn right at a gate with a footpath sign and follow a walled path that descends below a small wood and above a house. **H** On reaching a driveway, turn left past the entrance to Higher Capstone Farm. **I** When the drive swings right, take the footpath straight ahead, over a stile by a gate. The path drops down to a further gate, where you go down a couple of stone steps and follow the wall downhill. **J** Leave the wall at a footpath sign and pass below a small quarry and down a slightly rocky descent to a stile beyond a poultry barn. Turn right to meet a byway. **K** Turn left and follow the byway through Brook Bottom to the Fox Inn to rejoin the Main Route at step **26**.

### Rowarth Loop

**A** Continue along the track, past Robin Hood's Picking Rods. **B** Turn right at a stile and pass Far Slack Farm. **C** Cross a stile by a metal gate and walk alongside a fence towards Near Slack Farm. **D** Take the left-hand path, keeping to the left of the fence, as you approach the farm, passing above the farm and a small conifer plantation. **E** At the end of the field cross a stile in the corner. Follow the path through the little hills downhill to Rowarth, crossing a stile partway down and finally passing between gardens to a metalled road. **F** Turn right for 50 yards then turn left. **G** Walk down the road, picking up a limestone chipping footpath on the right beyond the phone box that leads down the side of the White House. Follow the path past a smallholding to the Little Mill Inn. **H** From the Little Mill walk up Hollinsmoor Road to the Children's Inn, passing the end of Goddard Lane on the right. (*At this stage, you can walk up the road to the former Moorfield Arms, turning left to rejoin the Main Route at step 20*). **I** Otherwise, to continue on the Rowarth Loop, turn left down a track towards Hollins Farm. Before you get to the farm, cross a stile on your right next to a metal gate and follow the track. Walk along the right-hand edge of the field beyond to a Public Footpath sign on your right. **J** Ignore the right-hand turn and keep straight on over a stile by a gate and along the edge of the next field until the field edge kinks right. **K** Leave the field edge and walk straight across the field past some piles of rubble to a footbridge and stile concealed behind some gorse bushes. **L** Climb the bank opposite and head towards a wall stile to the left of a gateway directly in front of you. Beyond the stile, follow the wall on your right-hand side, skirting a series of damp depressions in the field, the last by a old gateway. **M** In the right-hand corner of the last field before the gardens of Briargrove Farm, cross over a stile on your right and head up half-left to another stile out into the road. **N** Turn left downhill for a short distance, then turn right (opposite the entrance of Briargrove Farm) into a stony walled trackway. **O** On reaching Mellor Road, turn right and walk uphill for a short distance. **P** Leave the road to follow a trackway on your left, along the edge of a wood. On reaching the road at the top of the track, go straight across onto a Restricted Byway to rejoin the Main Route at step **22**.



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