



St Thomas' Church (right) has a superb elevated position at the end of a ridge that is also the site of an Iron Age hillfort (only rediscovered in the 1990s). The church has a medieval tower on Norman foundations, though the nave was mostly reconstructed in the 18th and 19th centuries. Inside is a Norman font carved with animal designs. The 14th-century pulpit has been claimed to be the oldest wooden pulpit in England, possibly the world, and is carved from a single block of oak. In the churchyard are the remains of an Anglo-Saxon cross (later converted into a sundial) and the supports for the village stocks.

The grave of **Thomas Brierley** (d. 1855) at Mellor church is inscribed in a variety of masonic 'pigpen' ciphers.



Mellor Cross was erected by the Marple Council of Churches in the 1970s and there are fine views from its surrounding open space. It lost its top in a gale in 2015 but was subsequently replaced.



Floodgates Cottage was the sluice-keeper's cottage for the mill at Roman Lakes. It also served as a toll house and tearoom. Goytcliffe Viaduct was built in 1865 for the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway.

Roman Bridge is misnamed: it was actually built in the 17th or 18th century as a packhorse bridge. Such bridges were built with low parapets or (as here) none at all, to avoid fouling the panniers of the pack animals.



Three Walks from The Royal Oak



Linnet Clough & Mellor Church

2 3/4 miles: moderate

An exploration of Mellor village, with superb views from the church.

Roman Lakes

3 1/2 miles: moderate

Into the Goyt valley, with a high-level return offering fabulous views to Manchester and beyond.

Roman Bridge & Mellor Cross

6 miles: fairly strenuous.

A fine and varied walk with lots of historical interest, lovely countryside and superb views.

Linnet Clough and Mellor Church

2¾ miles: moderate

Allow 1–1½ hours. Several stiles and moderate climbs and descents, with some road walking; paths may be muddy and uneven in places.

1 Turn left from the front door of the pub, and keep left past the war memorial along unmade Parkside Lane. **2** Turn left into Old Hall Lane. **3** After 150m, a path on the left offers a shortcut past a fishing lake to step **6**, but it is boggy and slippery in places in all but the driest of conditions, and may be overgrown. For the easier (but longer) route, carry on down the roughly surfaced lane to the bottom of the hill. **4** Turn left and follow the track uphill. **5** After 600m, pass a stile on the left (the other end of the path mentioned in step **3**). **6** Continue uphill to Linnet Clough scout camp. **7** By PNFS sign no. 461, turn left into the scout camp and pass the car park overlooked by a statue of Baden Powell. **8** Continue through the camp complex then, by the Lynmouth Chalet, turn left on a waymarked and fenced-off path between the low ropes course (left) and kart track (right). **9** Turn right past the end of the kart track to a barrier into woods, and descend to a footbridge over a small stream. **10** Climb out of the wood and over a stile into paddocks. **11** Keep to the left side of the two paddocks, separated by stiles, then follow the obvious path past PNFS sign no. 464 down to Damsteads Farm. **12** Turn left past the farmhouse then immediately right along a driveway, with the house on your right and a stream to your left. **13** As the driveway swings right and heads uphill, turn left over a footbridge and into a field below another house. **14** Walk up the bottom of the field to a gate and cross the stream, climbing the fenced path beyond up to the main village street. **15** Turn right and walk uphill, passing a bus turning circle on the left after 200m. **16** After a similar distance, turn left into Church Road. **17** Follow the road down to the stream and then uphill. **18** Towards the top of the hill, pass the Mellor Centre on your left, then at the top turn left into the churchyard. **19** By the church door, take a path on the left that descends some steps and leaves the churchyard. **20** Follow the obvious path down the slope to a kissing gate and thence to Knowle Farm. **21** Follow the farm road left and downhill until you cross the stream again at the valley bottom. **22** Follow the road uphill past Mellor Primary School. **23** When you reach the main village street, turn right to return to the Royal Oak.

Roman Lakes (3½ miles: moderate)

Allow 2 hours. Significant ascent and descent, with a couple of stiles and a flight of steps. Some paths may be uneven or muddy.

1 Turn left from the front door of the pub, and keep left past the war memorial along unmade Parkside Lane. **2** Turn left into Old Hall Lane. **3** Beyond the last of the houses, follow the stony lane down to the bottom of the hill. **4** Turn right by farm buildings, then left along Lakes Road, signposted to Roman Lakes. **5** Pass the main lake on your left, then the entrance. **6** Walk under Goytcliffe Viaduct and past the weir (right) and Floodgates Cottage (left). **7** Continue above the river past

another house on the left, ignoring the right turn over Roman Bridge (though a short detour to view the picturesque packhorse bridge is worthwhile). **8** Follow the track as it leaves the Goyt and passes under the railway. **9** Continue through and beyond Windy Bottom Farm. **10** At the next path junction, turn hard left below a grassy slope and follow the narrow bridleway uphill within the trees. **11** Cross a fairway on the golf course and continue uphill to the end of a driveway. **12** Turn right past the house called The Shielan. **13** At the next junction, turn left, uphill again. **14** Pass the buildings of Cross Gates Farm until you meet a perpendicular driveway. **15** Turn left and follow the metalled track across the top of the golf course until it descends to meet the road by the clubhouse entrance. **16** Turn right along the road towards Tarden Farm. **17** When the road bends right, take the path straight ahead between the farmhouse (left) and barn (right). **18** Climb a stile at the end of the farmyard into a field and follow the left-hand wall downhill. **19** Climb another stile and descend the steps to PNFS sign no. 464. **20** Turn right then follow the driveway as it curves left past Damsteads Farm on the right. **21** When you meet the main village street, there is a chance of a quick roadside return to the Royal Oak by turning left. But for the full walk, follow the narrow footpath opposite between gardens. **22** Descend steeply through trees to a footbridge and follow the path up the short climb on the other side. **23** Turn left along a driveway and follow it gradually back down to another bridge over the stream. **24** Follow the road uphill past Mellor Primary School. **25** When you reach the main village street, turn right to return to the Royal Oak.

Roman Bridge and Mellor Cross

6 miles: fairly strenuous

Allow 3–4 hours. Significant ascent and descent. Some paths may be uneven or muddy.

Follow steps **1–6** of the **Roman Lakes** walk, left.

7 Beyond a house, turn right and cross the Goyt via the narrow Roman Bridge (actually a 17th- or 18th-century packhorse bridge). **8** Bear left on the other bank, and by a mounting block ignore the path on the right and continue on the lower path. **9** Pass between a couple of cottages and follow the drive uphill to the B6101 in Strines. **10** Cross carefully and walk up Plucksbridge Road, passing the end of Barlow Wood Drive on the right. **11** When the road bends right, take a path on the left, which climbs to the towpath of the Peak Forest Canal. **12** Turn left, away from bridge 21, along the canal towpath. **13** After half a mile, pass Turf Lea lift bridge (bridge 22), staying on the towpath. **14** Shortly afterwards, turn left at PNFS sign 495 (signposted 'Strines'). **15** Descend steps to a track below an aqueduct and turn left. **16** Pass Peers Cottages on the left. Shortly afterwards, you can either continue down the track or take a permissive path through a kissing gate on the left into Springfield Copse, a Woodland Trust property. **17** Either way, when you reach the B6101 again, cross into Station Road. **18** Cross the River Goyt beyond the end of Printers Drive and pass 'Bruce's Clock'. **19** Skirt to the right of a lake with an

island with a dovecote, and pass Strines Hall. **20** Climb a cobbled section to the station entrance, then bear left under the railway. **21** Turn immediately left along a driveway waymarked as a bridleway. **22** Passing a number of entrances, follow the track up to Lower Cliffe Farm then continue right of the farm to a junction by The Cottage. **23** Turn right and climb to Higher Cliffe Farm. **24** Just beyond the farm, before the track starts to descend towards Brook Bottom, turn left at a footpath sign into a field. **25** Walk up the side of the field and turn left through a gate. **26** Climb the bank on the right above a poultry shed through patchy heather and rocks. **27** In the top right-hand corner of the field, beyond a footpath sign, follow a short walled section then keep along the wall uphill to a stone stile by a gate at the top. **28** Turn right and follow the path between fence and wall up to a stile into a driveway. **29** Follow the driveway uphill to Higher Capstone Farm; cross the driveway and follow the path (indicated by a large 'FOOTPATH' sign) that climbs behind the house along the edge of a wood. **30** At a junction with another green lane, turn left. **31** Join a road and carry straight on, past Three Chimneys cattery, to the junction below Mellor Cross. **32** Turn left past a large modern barn and descend a metalled access road. **33** Shortly after Bull Hill Farm on the left, opposite a driveway, turn right at PNFS sign no. 432 onto the golf course. **34** Follow the path along the top of the course with a wall on your right. **35** At a path junction, turn right over a small concrete footbridge and climb a stile into a field. **36** Walk down the right-hand edge to a stone stile next to a gate into a lane. **37** Turn left and follow the road round to the right. **38** At a T-junction, turn right. **39** When you meet the main street in Mellor, turn right past the Devonshire Arms and then immediately left, marked 'Unsuitable for motors'. **40** Follow the track downhill then climb between houses up to Church Road. **41** Turn right.

Now jump to step **18** of the **Linnet Clough and Mellor Church** walk for directions back to the Royal Oak.



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Beth and Matthew would love to welcome you to the Royal Oak, a charming local country pub nestled in the heart of Mellor. Since 1790, it has been the village's focal point, offering warmth and hospitality to all who visit. Cosy up by our welcoming open fire, or enjoy a refreshing pint in our large beer garden with breathtaking views of the surrounding hills. Muddy boots and muddy paws are always welcome here—we can't wait to see you!