

The Little Mill Inn

The Little Mill Inn is an iconic country pub and B&B serving superb locally sourced food in the heart of the Peak District.

We hope these carefully chosen routes will help you appreciate our beautiful surroundings and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return to the Little Mill Inn.

Menu

We're proud of everything that goes into our delicious, homemade dishes. Wherever we can, we look to source our ingredients locally and are proud to support British food and farming. For example our meats are either from local Rowarth farmers or Mettrick's, a local award-winning family butcher. Our team of young and talented chefs are also constantly on the lookout for fresh and tasty seasonal produce to create exciting (ever-changing) new dishes for you. Most herbs and a selection of our vegetables are grown in our own organic kitchen garden.

Accommodation

Our five bright and modern B&B rooms have everything you need for a comfortable, relaxing getaway. Our self-catering apartment has everything you need for a longer stay, and sleeps five persons.



THE LITTLE MILL INN

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a path uphill through the heather on your right and follow it to the topograph at the summit of Lantern Pike. Beyond the summit, follow the ridge as it descends to a wall. **11** Turn sharp left and follow a stony path downhill alongside the wall to return to the Pennine Bridleway. **12** Turn right and follow the track, which shortly joins a metalled driveway and leads steeply downhill to Sitch Lane. **15** Turn right and follow the road to its summit. **16** Turn right along the track to Wethercotes Farm, and continue along the track beyond the farm buildings. **17** At a junction with another byway, turn left and follow the descending track. **18** Join the metalled road at Feeding Hey Farm and continue past some cottages and then Aspenshaw Hall. **19** Shortly before you reach the public road, take a footpath on the right up a short flight of steps. Cross a stile and follow the footpath beyond, along a wall at the bottom of a wooded bank. **20** Beyond the wood, continue along the sunken wall to Thornsett Fields Farm, where there is an awkward stone stile down to the farmyard. Walk past the farmhouse. **21** Beyond the farmyard, which may be muddy, follow a footpath straight ahead across fields until you reach a road. **22** Turn left and walk down the lane to the Little Mill Inn.

Coombes Rocks and Cown Edge

5¼ or 7½ miles: Fairly strenuous

A walk including three gritstone edges, all with fabulous views: Coombes Rocks overlook the village of Charlesworth; Cown Edge is a partly quarried edge with views to Kinder Scout, and Lantern Pike is a well-known local summit.

Allow 4 hours. Rocky sections, moderate climbs and numerous stiles.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left. **2** Just beyond the car park, turn right along a concrete drive past two houses. **3** Pass Brookside Cottage on your left at the end of the drive and continue along the rocky path ahead until you reach the village green in the centre of Rowarth. **4** Follow the road to the left past the telephone box then, at the corner of the village green, turn right by Anderton House. **5** After a short distance, take a narrow fenced footpath on the left between two gardens that shortly leads to a stile. **6** Follow the path ahead uphill and across an area marked by old quarries to a stile and a junction of paths. **7** Continue in the same direction up the ridge (signposted "Cown Edge") between gorse patches and more signs of historic small-scale quarrying. **8** At a wall, cross a stile and continue ahead. **9** Follow the broad grassy path that leaves the field boundary on the left and continues through a series of gates and stiles until you reach a stony, sunken bridleway. **10** Ignore the path over the stile ahead, instead turning left for a short distance down to a gate. **11** Turn right through a hand-gate onto access land and follow a path along a field edge, down to a stile and then up to the brink of Coombes Rocks. **12** Turn right and follow the cliff-top path, eventually passing a strip of low conifers on your right beyond a stile. **13** Beyond the trees, continue along the top of the crags. At the second stile in the fence on your right, level with a broken wall leading to a second block of conifers,

leave the cliff edge onto a sunken grassy track. **14** This passes to the right of a low mound (a Bronze Age cairn) then descends past an old quarry on the left. **15** Bear right by a stile and continue along the slope below more quarries, descending gently towards Rocks Farm. **16** By a sheepfold sheltered by a large boulder, bear left down to a stile and then down steps to the farmhouse. **17** Turn left along the farm drive, and continue past the buildings of Higher Plainsteads Farm on your right. **18** Just before you reach Monks Road, turn right over a step stile in the wall on your right and cross a field to another stile in the bottom corner. **19** Ignoring the driveway to your right, follow the metalled lane opposite. **20** After 550m, when the road bends right, take a path ahead through a gate in the wall onto Matley Moor. **21** An obvious path leads through heather to a gate into the walled Pennine Bridleway. **22** Turn left through a gate and follow the narrow bridleway to Matley Moor Farm. **23** Keep on along the track ahead, past the entrance to Bullshaw Farm on the right.

At a meeting of six paths, for the longer route, follow the Lantern Pike walk from step 8 onwards.

24 For the shorter route, go through the gate on your right and follow the path along the right-hand edge of the field, then climb to a gate. **25** Continue along the walled track downhill to cross a small stream at the bottom of a plantation, then climb slightly to a junction. **26** Turn sharp right and follow a rocky path downhill, which bends left and levels off. **27** The path then descends more steeply down a rocky, tree-lined holloway to Laneside Farm. **28** Follow the road ahead beyond the farm, back to the Little Mill Inn.



Coombes Rocks form an impressive and little-visited rocky bowl below the historic Monks Road, with a superb cliff-top footpath and exhilarating views over Manchester to Winter Hill, the Cheshire Plain and the Clwydian Hills.

Hayfield is a pretty gritstone village on the River Sett. It was the starting point for the Mass Trespass to Kinder Scout in 1932, a key event in the access movement.

These riverside cottages opposite the church are known as the **Bear Pits**.



Kinder Reservoir and Hayfield

10½ miles: Fairly strenuous

A varied all-day hike with close-up views of Kinder Scout.

Allow 5–6 hours. Several moderate climbs and descents. Includes stiles and boggy and rocky ground; Although route-finding is generally easy, the higher sections may be bleak in winter.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn left. **2** Just beyond the car park, turn right along a concrete drive past two houses. **3** After about 50m, turn right at a footpath sign and cross the brook via a footbridge over a small weir. **4** Bear left up the bank beyond, then swing right up the left-hand side of the field, with a small stream on your left, looking out for a footbridge after about 150m. **5** Cross the bridge and bear right, up the hill, towards Long Lee Farm. The path passes to the left of the farm, which includes four listed buildings. **6** At the top of the hill, beyond the farm, cross a wall stile in the top right-hand corner of the field, then turn right to another stile in the next corner. **7** Once over this stile, turn left, away from the farm, and follow the wall on your left. **8** After 150m, at a Peak and Northern Footpath Society signpost, cross the stile over the wall on your left. **9** Bear right, but do not follow the obvious track along the wall, now on your right; instead, the path gradually descends the hillside obliquely to a stile and another PNFS sign in the far wall. **10** Beyond this stile, cross a tussocky field to a broken wall then drop left to cross a boggy stream. Follow a vague path beyond, crossing another boggy patch, then bear right to the top corner of the field, where a hand-gate leads to the meeting of six ways. **11** Turn left through another gate and take the walled driveway opposite, which leads downhill and skirts to the left of Blackshaw Farm. Follow the metalled drive downhill to a junction, where you bear right to cross a stream and continue past Brookhouses up to the A624. **12** Turn left and follow the vergeless main road with care for 450m. **13** Leave the main road at Carr Meadow, turning right through a gate. **14** Cross the footbridge over the stream on your right and climb the bridleway through heather beyond. The track follows a wall on the right, then strikes out across the open moor to a ford in a shallow valley. **15** After a boardwalk over a boggy area you reach a junction of paths below the white-painted shooting cabin. Follow the path opposite, signposted "Edale via Jacob's Ladder". **16** Keep straight on at a sign marked "Bridleway"; this corner-cutting path descends gradually to join a footpath running below, then continues along the contour above a wall, later replaced with a fence. **17** At the end of the fence, bear right down a rocky, eroded slope to the footbridge above a small weir at the bottom of William Clough. **18** Cross the footbridge and turn right, fording a side-stream and climbing gradually to a hand-gate. Continue above some trees and then descend past more to a gate into rough pasture. **19** Follow the path along the bottom of the pasture, fording another small stream, to a stile. Bear left of the walled woodland or cross the stile; either way you will end up at a footbridge over the stream at the bottom. **20** Cross the bridge and follow the path beyond, which

curves up the opposite bank. **21** As you approach a conifer plantation, take a vague path that cuts the corner to the left; continue, with the conifers on your right, to a gate in the wall on the right by a National Trust path sign. **22** Go through the gate and descend the slope past broken walls to a gate in the fence at the bottom, and ford the stream to a second gate. **23** Bear right and follow a track above a walled conifer plantation for half a mile, before leaving the wood to follow the track down to the road above Farlands. **24** Turn left and walk between a couple of houses. **25** Just before the bridge at the bottom, turn left up the drive to Booth Farm and follow the track through the farmyard. Continue along this track, bending left then right at one point, for half a mile to Hill Houses. **26** At Hill Houses turn right, between a long farmhouse on your right and a barn conversion on your left, onto a walled path that descends steeply to cross Bowden Bridge, a packhorse bridge. Bear left along the stream to meet the road. **27** At Bowden Bridge car park, turn left over the river again and then right, into the campsite. **28** Follow the service road and then continue past the reception building with the river on your right. This path eventually joins Valley Road, which you follow for a further ½ mile to Hayfield village. **29** Turn right and right again and walk down past the George pub and the village shop to the church. **30** Turn left before the bridge and walk past the church to the crossing over the A624 bypass. **31** Walk past the bus station and onto the Sett Valley Trail. Follow the Trail for one mile, passing a former railwayman's house, until you reach a crossing path at the end of Birch Vale Reservoir. **32** Turn right here off the Trail, and follow the footpath down the slope and across the low dam, then cross the River Sett below a weir. **33** Climb the bank beyond a stile, and walk up to the far right-hand corner of the field. A narrow (and sometimes muddy) section of fenced path leads to a stile over the wall into a farm drive. **34** Turn left and follow the driveway past some hen houses. Follow the drive round a sharp right-hand bend (ignoring the walled bridleway straight ahead) and up to Sitch Lane. **35** Turn left and follow the public road to the brow of the hill. **36** Turn right onto a byway which passes through Wethercotes Farm and continues beyond. **37** About 250m beyond the farm, ignore the byway on the left, which leads down to Aspenshaw Hall. **38** At the next junction, after a further half-mile, take the left-hand fork and follow a rocky byway as it bears left and descends the hill. **39** After a farm, join the metalled road at the bottom and follow it ahead back to the Little Mill Inn.

Shorter walk, from Bowden Bridge, Hayfield (4¼ miles)

Drive to Hayfield and take Kinder Road from the village centre to Bowden Bridge car park (follow signs for campsite).

1 Follow the road ahead from the car park, with the river on your right, for ½ mile to the sheepwash. **2** Go through the gates ahead of you and continue along the reservoir road. **3** Take the stone-pitched footpath to the left of the reservoir gates. **4** Ignore a bridleway on the left and continue along the path above the reservoir wall. At the end of the reservoir, continue beyond a weir to a footbridge over the stream.

Now follow steps 18–27 of the route described above.



FIVE CIRCULAR WALKS (and a MTB route)

from

The Little Mill Inn

Rowarth, Derbyshire



Rowarth Brook
1¼ miles: Easy

Coombes Rocks & Cown Edge
5¼ or 7½ miles: Fairly strenuous

Robin Hood's Picking Rods
3¼ miles: Moderate

Kinder Reservoir & Hayfield
4¼ or 10½ miles: Fairly strenuous

Lantern Pike
4¼ miles: Moderate

MTB Route
18 miles: Strenuous



Robin Hood's Picking Rods are among several medieval crosses that marked the boundaries of the estates of Basingwerk Abbey in North Wales.

Rowarth is an attractive hamlet in a hidden valley. It once contained five mills, the candle-wick mill occupied by the Little Mill Inn being the only one to survive. The terraced cottages were built to house the mill workers.

Anderton House (with a 1797 date-stone) is a Grade II listed building overlooking the green.



Mountain bikers on the **Snake Path** near Twenty Trees, above Hayfield. The historic right of way continues over the shoulder of Kinder Scout to the Snake Pass.



Mountain Biking Route

18 miles: **Strenuous**



Allow 3 hours. Several rocky stages and steep ascents and descents, some technical. Unsuitable for road bikes.

1 From Little Mill, turn left and follow road left, uphill. **2** Turn right (Goddard Lane) and pass car park into Rowarth village. **3** At end of terraced cottages on left, take metalled driveway straight on (left of Anderton House) and, ignoring right-hand track, climb past stables on left. **4** Turn right through gate and descend unsurfaced bridleway to ford (slab bridge on left). **5** Ascend rocky track past derelict farm to Grove House and follow surfaced road uphill beyond, past Kings Clough Head Farm. **6** Turn right onto Pennine Bridleway and follow round right-hand bend to Matley Moor Farm, continuing ahead past Bullshaw Farm. **7** At meeting of six ways, go through gate on right and head diagonally across grassy field, aiming just left of highest ground (signposted "PENNINE BRIDLEWAY Hayfield 2½"). **8** In far corner of field, follow walled track beyond gateway. **9** Pass National Trust sign and continue below heathery slopes of Lantern Pike (right). **10** Join metalled driveway by house and descend steeply to Sitch Lane. **11** Take Heggibottom Farm drive opposite. At hairpin bend, go straight on through hand-gate and descend walled bridleway to Spinner Bottom. **12** Turn left over River Sett. **13** Take Sett Valley Trail on left and follow for easy mile to Hayfield. **14** Cross A624 bypass and pass Hayfield church. **15** Turn left over River Sett and immediately right up Bank Street, then right along Kinder Road behind Royal Hotel. **16** Pass Vicarage Lane on left and Spring Vale Road on right, then turn left onto Snake Path at public bridleway sign. **17** Beyond gate at top of track, climb through fields past clump of trees ("Twenty Trees") and continue onto moorland. Proceed on obvious sandy path to junction below shooting cabin. **18** Turn left (signposted "Glossop via Carr Meadow") and cross boardwalk. Ford stream in small valley and continue across moor, descending to footbridge at Carr Meadow. **19** Track continuing ahead and right of Tom Heys Farm is technically a public footpath, though rideable. Either follow this track or turn left to A624 and turn right. **20** At junction with Monks Road turn left (signposted "Charlesworth"). **21** After ¼ mile turn left into no-through road (signposted "Back Rowarth"). **22** When road bends left, follow bridleway ahead to gate ("Cown Edge Farm"). Continue along rough tarmac drive. When drive bends left to farm, take stone-pitched bridleway on right and climb to nick in skyline. **23** Descend rocky bridleway beyond to gate, then swing left then right to farm track by Far Slack Farm. **24** Continue ahead past Robin Hood's Picking Rods, through gate then bear left to Gun Road. **25** Turn right, then left at T-junction after 500m. **26** After ¼ mile, climb to left turn into Smithy Lane (metalled no-through road) and descend to farm. **27** Bear left onto slabby bridleway uphill, then right for descent to ford. Follow rough driveway beyond to road. **28** Turn right past houses. When road bends right, take gravelly track ahead to Horsepool Farm. **29** Beyond gate, cross field (unsurfaced) to second gate; follow driveway beyond uphill to Mellor Hall. Dismount to pass

residences and Hall entrance. **30** Continue on tarmac driveway to T-junction and turn left through gate onto rough track (this is a bridleway, despite "public footpath" waymark on gate). **31** Follow track along wall up gradual climb then descend to gate and cross top of field (unsurfaced) to another rough track. **32** Follow track past Hilltop Farm and join metalled drive, then turn left into walled, rutted bridleway. **33** At Shiloh Road, turn right (for easy, shorter return, turn left, ignore turning on left then turn right back to Rowarth). **34** At five-way junction, take potholed byway ahead, passing wood and covered reservoir on left. **35** At end of wood, sharp left down rocky byway to Mellor Road. **36** Turn right for short distance, then sharp left onto bridleway. Descend to Briargrove Road. **37** Turn right down steep hill to bottom of valley. Climb to triangular junction and go straight on (no-through road). **38** Pass Aspenshaw Hall on left and continue past cottages. **39** At end of paved road, continue ahead on byway, uphill to junction with Wethercotes track. **40** Turn left up gentle slope for 700m. **41** Take left fork and bear left downhill into sporting, rocky holloway to Laneside Farm. **42** Follow metalled road beyond back to Little Mill Inn.

Rowarth Brook (1¼ miles: Easy)

An easy stroll along a pretty stream valley known locally as Little Switzerland.

Allow 1 hour. One gentle climb and two or three stiles; wet grass and mud after rain.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left. **2** Just beyond the car park, turn right along a concrete drive past two houses. **3** Pass Brookside Cottage on your left at the end of the drive and continue along the rocky path beyond until you see a red telephone box in the centre of Rowarth. **4** Take the footpath on the right, beside the old telephone box. Follow the footpath down to and along the stream. **5** When you reach a stile into a concrete track by a ford, cross a second stile opposite and continue along the left-hand bank of the stream beyond. **6** At a footbridge, keep straight on, until you reach a stony track. **7** Turn left (away from the ford on your right) and follow the rocky bridleway up the slope. **8** When you meet a metalled driveway at a gate, turn left and follow it downhill back to Rowarth village. **9** Turn left at Anderton House and retrace your steps along the Brookside Cottage bridleway back to the Little Mill Inn.

Robin Hood's Picking Rods (3½ miles: Moderate)

A breezy walk to an ancient monument, with wide views over Manchester and the Cheshire Plain.

Allow 2 hours. Mud and wet grass may be expected after rain. One moderate climb and numerous stiles.

Follow steps **1-7** of the **Rowarth Brook** walk, above.

8 When you reach a metalled driveway at a gate, turn right for a short distance. **9** After 40m, turn left over a stile at a footpath sign and climb the walled path beyond. **10** Cross another stile and continue climbing alongside a wall to yet another stile at a junction of paths. **11** After the stile, bear right up the hillside (signposted "Cown Edge") between gorse patches and old quarry pits. **12** At a wall, cross a stile and continue ahead. Shortly, the wider and more obvious path continues across the middle of the field, but keep left here, close to the wall. **13** Ignoring a stile on the left, follow a fence above a conifer plantation and pass another stile above the buildings of Near Slack Farm. **14** Continue ahead along the field boundary and cross another stile next to a field gate into the fenced track to Far Slack Farm. **15** At a junction of tracks, continue ahead past the farm buildings then follow a walled path to a hand-gate into a farm track. **16** Turn left and follow the track to the Robin Hood's Picking Rods. Just before the monument, look out on the right of the track for an unspectacular (but ancient) rock with cup-shaped depressions carved into it. **17** Beyond Robin Hood's Picking Rods, continue for 300m, looking out for a footpath sign and ladder stile in the wall on the left. **18** Cross the stile and follow the path through the rushy field beyond. **19** Climb a stile next to a farm gate by a pond and bear right towards the end of a wall, where a wall stile crosses. **20** Beyond the stile, follow the field boundary on the left, skirting a shallow pit. **21** Just short of the farm, cross a stile on the left into a farm track; turn right out to the road. **22** Turn left along the road. **23** Ignore a footpath sign on the left after 250m, then shortly afterwards turn left into a walled byway. **24** Follow the byway to Ringstones Farm. Bear right past a barn and, beyond the farmhouse, follow the metalled drive. **25** At the end of the drive, turn left and walk downhill back to the Little Mill Inn, ignoring the turning into Goddard Lane after 350m.

Lantern Pike (4¼ miles: Moderate)

A steady ascent to a heathery hilltop and viewpoint, with a steep descent and a return through farmland.

Allow 2 hours. Gradual climbs, some rough and boggy ground and a couple of stiles.

1 Turn right out of the pub and cross the bridge above the waterwheel. **2** Follow the lane to the end; keep straight on at the entrance to Long Lee (on the left) and then join the rough track beyond Laneside Farm (right). **3** Follow the sunken, rocky track up the hill. **4** Stay on the track as it levels off and bends right. **5** At a junction with another byway, turn left. **6** Follow the track down to a stream by a conifer plantation, then uphill again to a gate. **7** Beyond the gate, follow the track along the left-hand side of the field to the far left-hand corner just above Blackshaw Farm. Turn right. **8** Head diagonally across the field, aiming just left of the highest ground (signposted "PENNINE BRIDLEWAY Hayfield 2½"). **9** In the far corner of the field, go through the gateway and follow the walled track beyond. **10** By a National Trust sign, take

(continued overleaf)



The steep little valley of **Rowarth Brook** above the village is known locally as **Little Switzerland**.

The **Sett Valley Trail** follows the former branch railway line from New Mills to Hayfield, which closed in 1970.