

## W3 Edith Nesbit Literary Trail

Distance: **9½ miles / Allow 5 hours**  
 Terrain: A lengthy circular walk from New Mills Heritage & Information Centre, mostly on roads and well-defined paths and tracks, but with some significant ascents and descents.  
 Parking: Town centre.

**It is believed that Edith Nesbit, author of The Railway Children, set her famous book around Strines Station and the railway line between Marple and New Mills. The contrasting landscape of isolated hilly upland with industrial activity in the valleys appears to have inspired the author in her writings.**



### New Mills to Thornsett

- 1 Starting at New Mills Heritage Centre, turn left down the steps into the Torrs, then turn left under the arches of the Union Road Bridge.
- 2 Pass to the left of Torrs Hydro and take the upstream (left-hand) of the two footbridges over the River Sett.
- 3 Climb the steps to Hyde Bank Road and turn left.
- 4 At the entrance to New Mills Leisure Centre, turn right and right again, down steps onto the Sett Valley Trail.
- 5 Turn left and walk past the Leisure Centre and Medical Centre before crossing Church Lane.
- 6 Follow the path through the dip up to St. George's Road, cross over the road, and continue on the trail, with the housing estate on your right and the river on your left.
- 7 Continue on the trail, passing over Watford Bridge Road, until the next gate at High Hill Road, where you come off the trail. Turn left along the road where you will see a sign for Thornsett, passing a row of houses and a cemetery on the right-hand side.
- 8 Ignoring the road to the Trading Estate, turn right up into the hamlet of Thornsett.

### Thornsett to Aspenshaw

- 9 Passing the Printer's Arms, a row of cottages, a converted church and another row of cottages, turn left into Sitch Lane and continue up the hill past an area of woodland concealing a small disused quarry on the right.
- 10 Take the next public footpath on the left, through a metal gate towards Bank Head Farm. Pass the farmhouse and go through the middle of the three gates facing, and walk along the path by the side of the wall on the left.
- 11 Go over the second stile you encounter in the corner of the field and walk towards the nearest house you can see – New House Farm.
- 12 Walk past the gate, turn left over the stile and pass the front of the house. Bearing left and keeping to the footpath, head towards Aspenshaw Cottages.
- 13 Go over the stile opposite the cottages and turn left passing Aspenshaw Hall.

### Aspenshaw to Three Chimneys


- 14 About 200 yards past Aspenshaw Hall there is a small green island at a road junction. At this junction walk straight on into Briargrove Road. This is mainly uphill. Walk past Blake Hall on the right-hand side until you come to the junction with the main New Mills to Mellor Road.
- 15 Turn right towards Mellor, walk for about 100 yards and then turn left into the macadam road.
- 16 Pass Cannon Hill Farm on the left-hand side and then Moreland Cottage at a road junction.
- 17 Bear left up the hill passing Paradise on the left-hand side.
- 18 Just after Paradise a track cuts across the road at right angles. Cobden Cross is on the skyline to the left. Ahead of you is the roofline of the Three Chimneys. Walk up the steep hill to Three Chimneys the house.

### Three Chimneys to Strines

- 19 From Three Chimneys, retrace your steps to the junction opposite Paradise. Take the first road on the left.
- 20 Pass Bull Hill Farm on the left-hand side and the golf course on the right-hand side, where the road becomes a rough track. Keep straight on down the track running alongside the wall for a short way.
- 21 Turn left through an old gatepost, with a view including the site of the former Strines Printworks. Pass through a cluster of cottages (The Banks).
- 22 Turn left and continue straight ahead, along a narrow pathway bordered by fences.
- 23 The path ends at The Cottage. Take a sharp right and follow the path downhill to Strines Railway Station.
- 24 Walk under the bridge and follow the road until you get to the B-road between New Mills and Marple.


### Strines to New Mills

- 25 Cross the main road and walk up the track opposite towards the canal.
- 26 Just before the aqueduct take the stile on the left-hand side and walk onto the canal. Turn left and continue on the canal passing bridges 23 to 28.
- 27 Pass Brunswick Mills and turn left onto Victoria Street, opposite the marina.
- 28 Walk down Victoria Street and turn right onto Albion Road.
- 29 Keep walking until you come to the traffic lights. Turn left onto Union Road.
- 30 Just before you come to the roundabout at the top of Union Road, turn left onto Rock Mill Lane and arrive back at New Mills Heritage Centre.

 **please note:** more information and detail on this trail can be found in the leaflet of the same name.



**New Mills Walkers are Welcome** created the original series of leaflets describing these walks in and around New Mills. Further walking leaflets are available at the New Mills Heritage & Information Centre or downloadable pdfs via the website.

 [www.nmwaw.org.uk](http://www.nmwaw.org.uk)