

## U3A 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, New Mills Boundary Walk

The 18-mile circuit around the Parish boundary of New Mills will be completed over two days – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024. (Whatever the weather). The detailed plan for the event is now complete.

In order that those wishing to participate, but feeling themselves unable to complete the entire circuit may do so, it has been divided into nine sections of varying levels of difficulty, with waypoints along the route.

Volunteer supporters are actively solicited to man these waypoints by car, to either drop off or pick up joiners or leavers at pre-arranged times, and to pass out water or other refreshments as the group walk by. If you would be willing to help, please contact Roger May by email ASAP.

START: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Participants will assemble by 09h00 in the Torrs, by the Archimedes' Screw.

GPS [53.364118, -2.000139](#) what3words [///bloodshot.golf.invent](#) [Map Point No1.](#)

Section one is a fairly easy 2 miles with just one steepish 190ft hill, via a circuitous route to Gowhole, at the intersection of Marsh Lane and Ladypit Road. Time allotted is 45mins to one hour. This is the first point at which people can join or drop out.

GPS [53.352391, -1.986182](#) what3words [///student.lunching.property](#) [Map Point No2.](#)

Section two is only a short one of around 1.3 miles, but relentlessly uphill to the intersection of Laneside Road and Ovenhill Road. A climb over sometimes tricky terrain of 500ft. Not for the faint-hearted. Time allotted 45 mins to one hour.

GPS [53.359409, -1.969844](#) what3words [///transit.invented.replenish](#) [Map Point No3.](#)

Section three is a seriously difficult climb and descent over challenging terrain and covering roughly 2.5 miles. Only to be attempted if you're sure of your abilities.

On reaching the high point, a 15 minute break for a snack and refreshment will be taken. From there, splendid views over the valley are afforded. There follows a lengthy descent into Birch Vale to the next waypoint at the Sett Valley café.

Time allotted for this section 1.5 hours.

GPS [53.378522, -1.969720](#) what3words [///cornering.cuddled.racing](#) [Map Point No4.](#)

Section four is another tester, with steady and continuous hillclimbing up to and along Sitch Lane, then right onto Laneside Road leading over the moors behind Lantern Pike, to Rowarth. The Little Mill Inn is the next waypoint, with an allotted time of one hour. 2.2 miles and 300ft of climb.

GPS [53.397548, -1.985176](#) what3words [///topics.quack.crossword](#) [Map Point No5.](#)

Section five, and another stiff climb over Matley Moor to Plainsteads Farm layby on Monks Road. 1.7 miles and 470ft of ascent taking about one hour. The last section of the day. Supporters needed to collect the walkers for the return to New Mills, otherwise a half-mile walk along Monks Road to Chunal top for the No61 bus. The layby at Plainsteads will be the starting point for Day2.

GPS [53.415739, -1.965656](#) what3words [///rollover.warm.tightrope](#) [Map Point No6.](#)

Get a good night's rest, ready for day two.

## Day Two

Section six is the last one with any real ascent to be done, and covers almost 4 miles.

Beginning at the point which was reached the previous day – Plainsteads layby.

GPS [53.415739, -1.965656](#) what3words [///rollover.warm.tightrope](#) Map Point No6.

An easier day today, with most of the route (after an initial ascent) being flat or downhill.

Assembly time will be 10h15. The reasoning for this is twofold. It's possible to take the bus

No61 from New Mills for Glossop – alighting at the end of Monks Road (Chunal Top) at 09h50.

A brisk walk along Monks Road will bring us to the assembly point by 10h05.

This obviates the need to potentially leave cars there, needing to be retrieved later.

And eliminates the need for support volunteers to make an early start.

This section of the walk will reach the next waypoint – the bus turnround at Mellor Top in an allotted time of two hours. There's the 358 bus into Marple from there at 5 minutes past every hour.

This would be a convenient point for any leavers or joiners to aim for. Estimated TOA – Noon.

GPS [53.395248, -2.003214](#) what2words [///beefed.makeup.storms](#) Map Point No7.

Time for a quick coffee in Costa before catching the 358 bus back to New Mills, if you intend to drop out at Mellor Top and catch the 385 into Marple.

Section seven, mostly flat and downhill, although the going underfoot can be uneven in places.

About 2.5 miles – time allotted one hour. An easy enough stage – mostly flat or downhill, although the going underfoot will be tricky in places. Arriving at the Fox Inn, Brookbottom.

GPS [53.374380, -2.022942](#) what3words [///minority.studs.tickles](#) Map Point No8.

Section eight: The shortest section of the circuit, downhill all the way, but perhaps the most uneven.

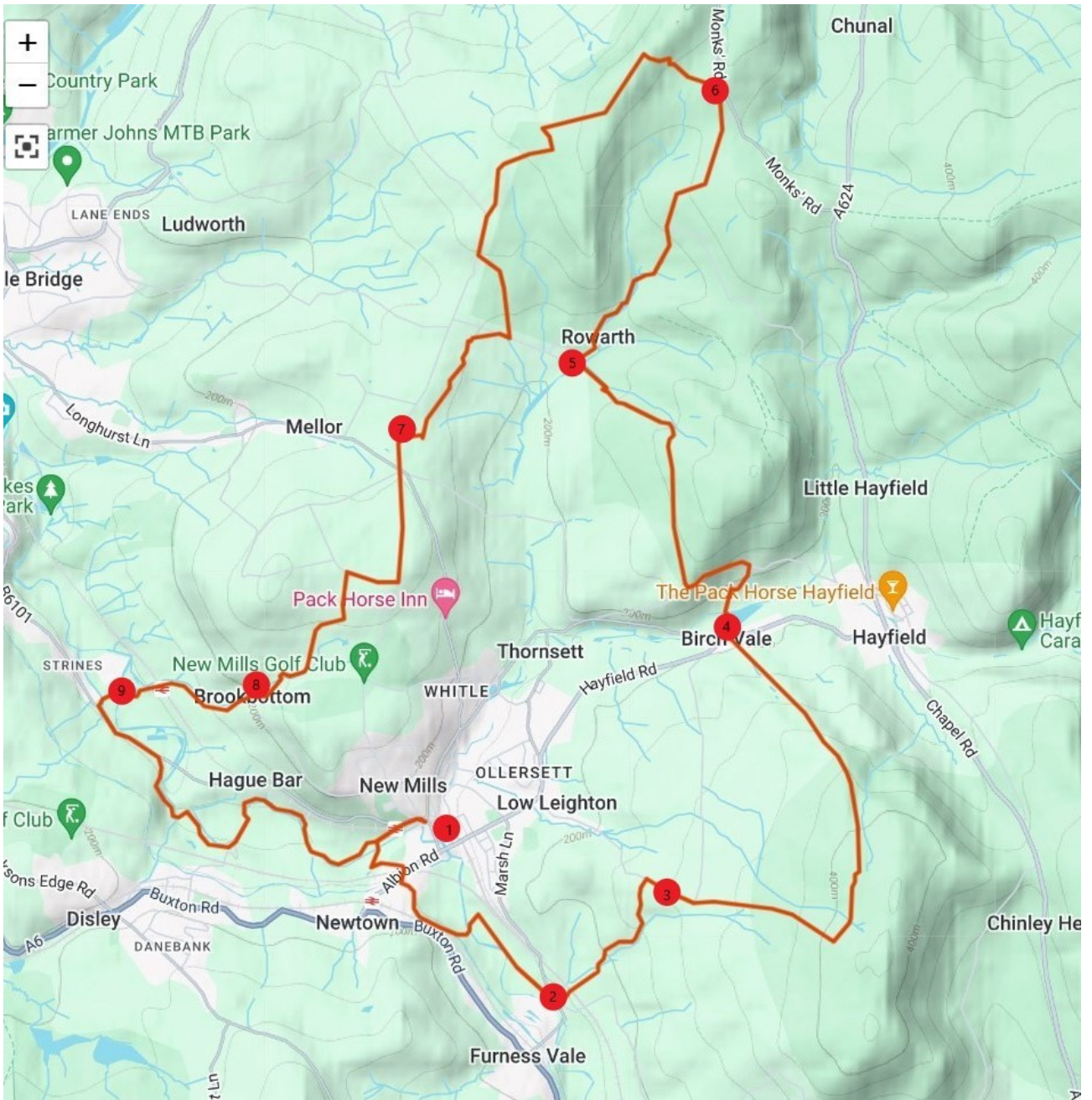
Just one mile, down a rocky woodland path, emerging by Strines station to the final waypoint by

Bruce's Clock and Dovecotes Lodge. Anyone dropping out here can catch the No358 back to New Mills from the end of Station road at 20 mins past each hour.

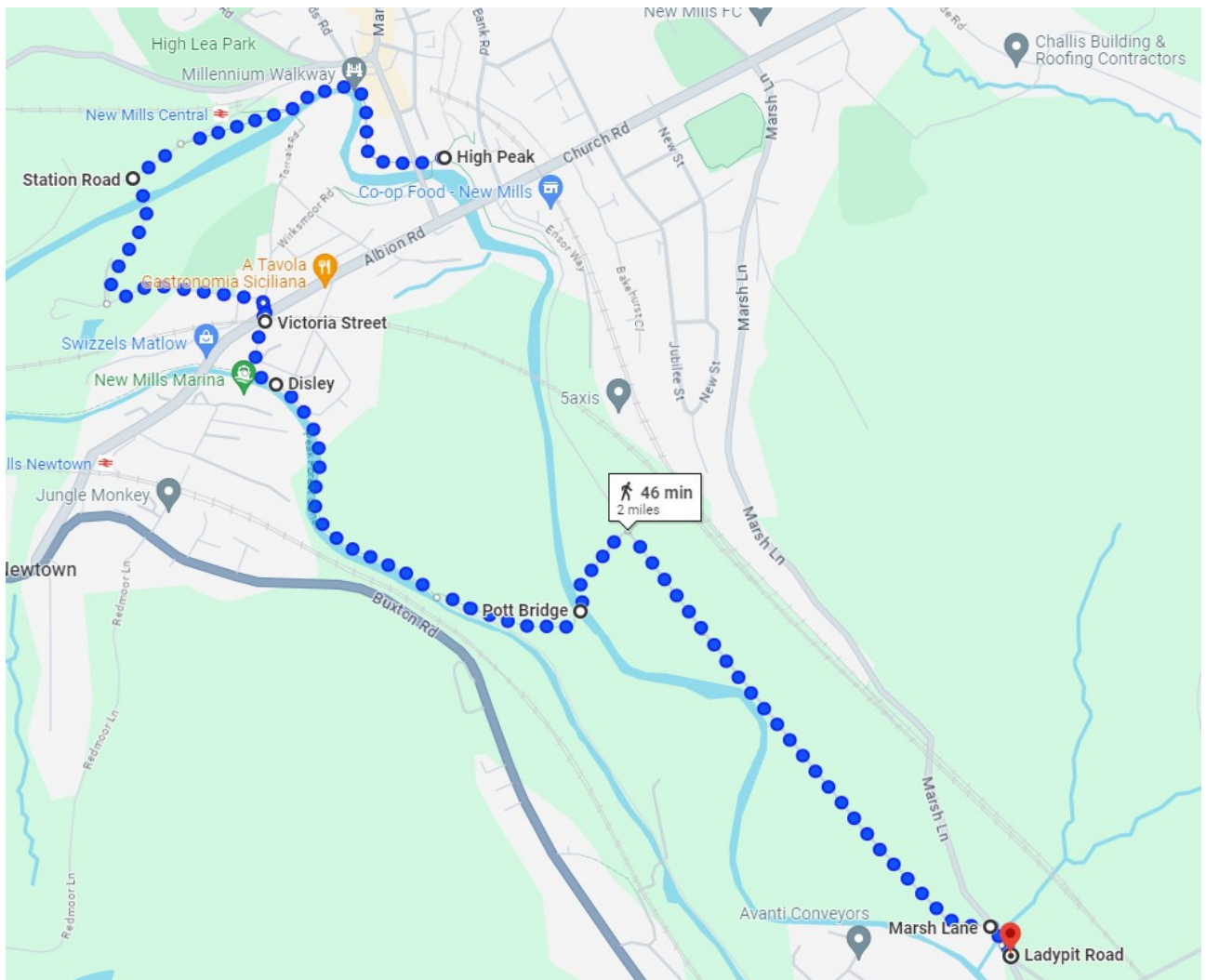
GPS [53.374781, -2.038479](#) what3words [///dashes.happier.aboard](#) Map Point No9.

Section nine: Back to where it all began. Another easy stage of just 3 miles, largely flat but uneven surfaces in places. Closely following, where possible, the River Goyt back to its confluence with the River Sett in the Torrs. This should take a little over an hour to complete.

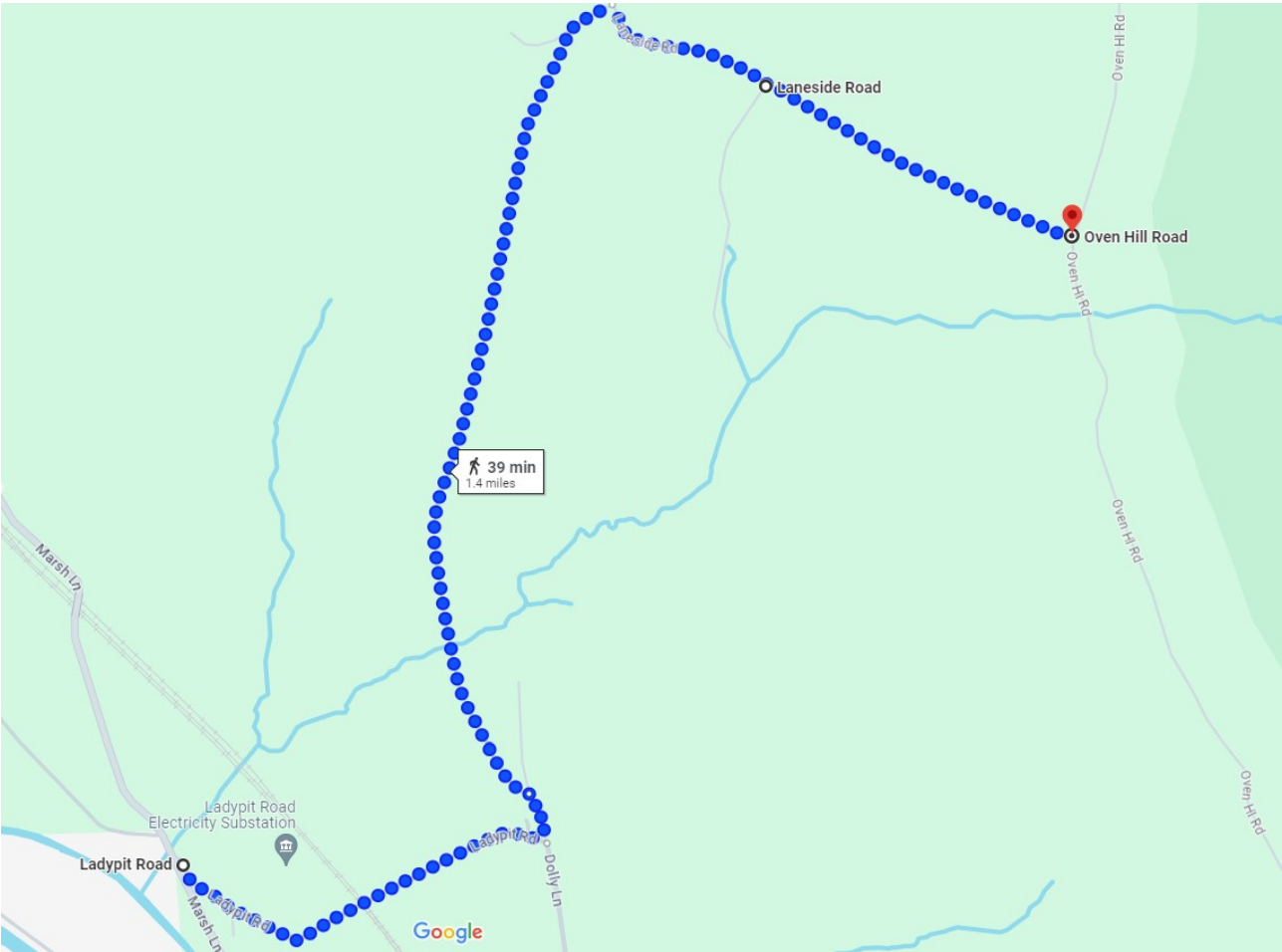
Circuit Map and Stage Maps:



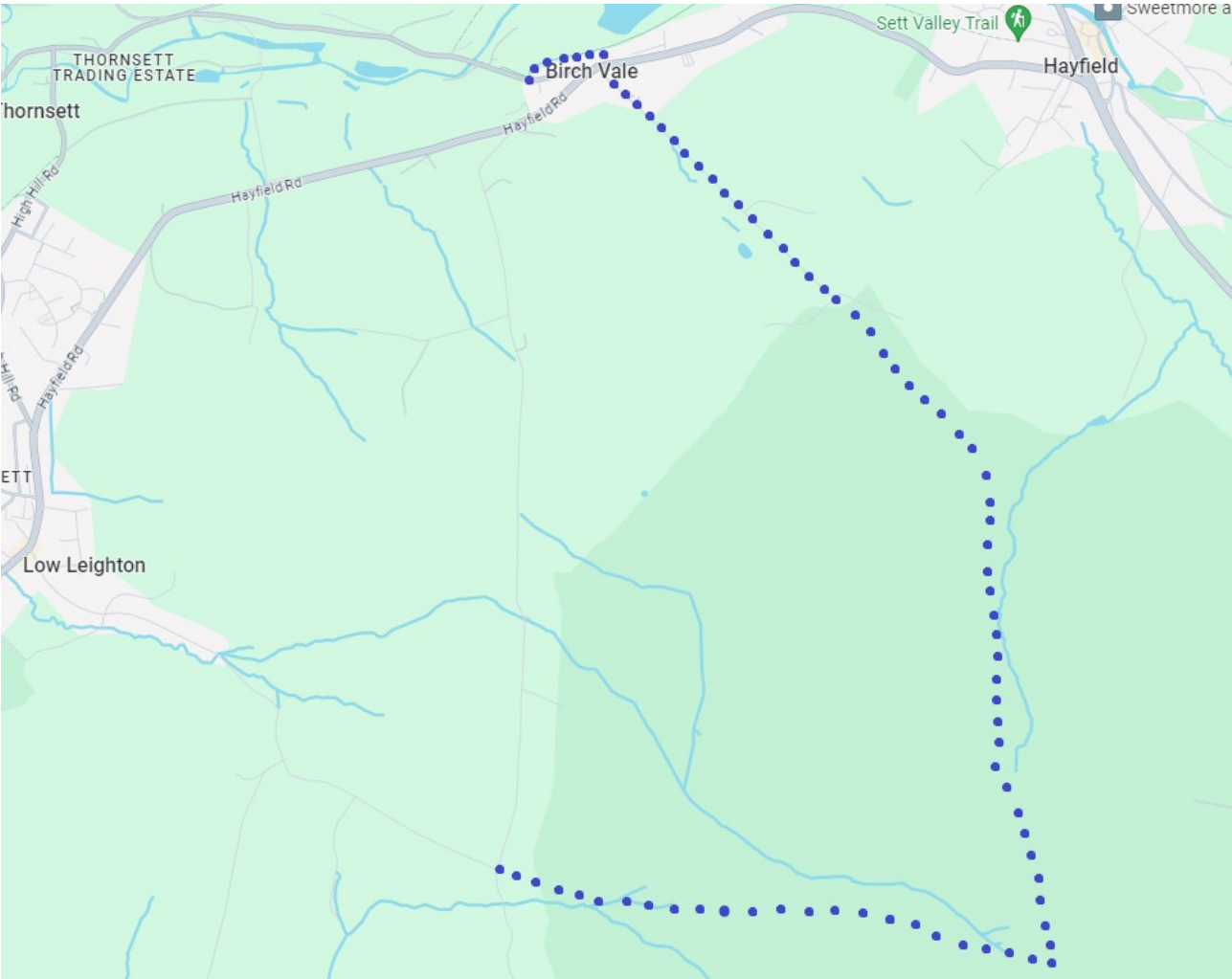
# STAGE ONE



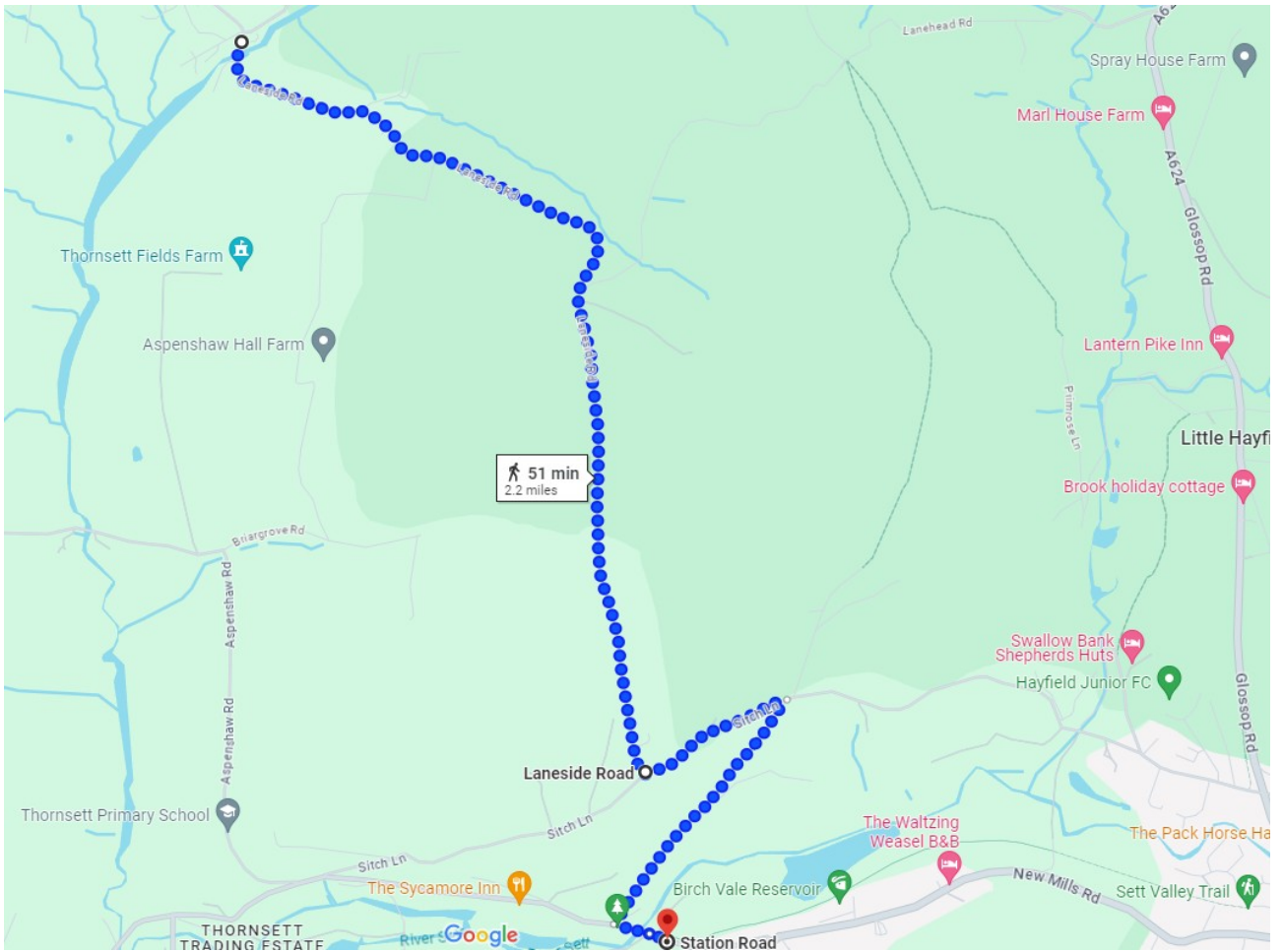
STAGE TWO



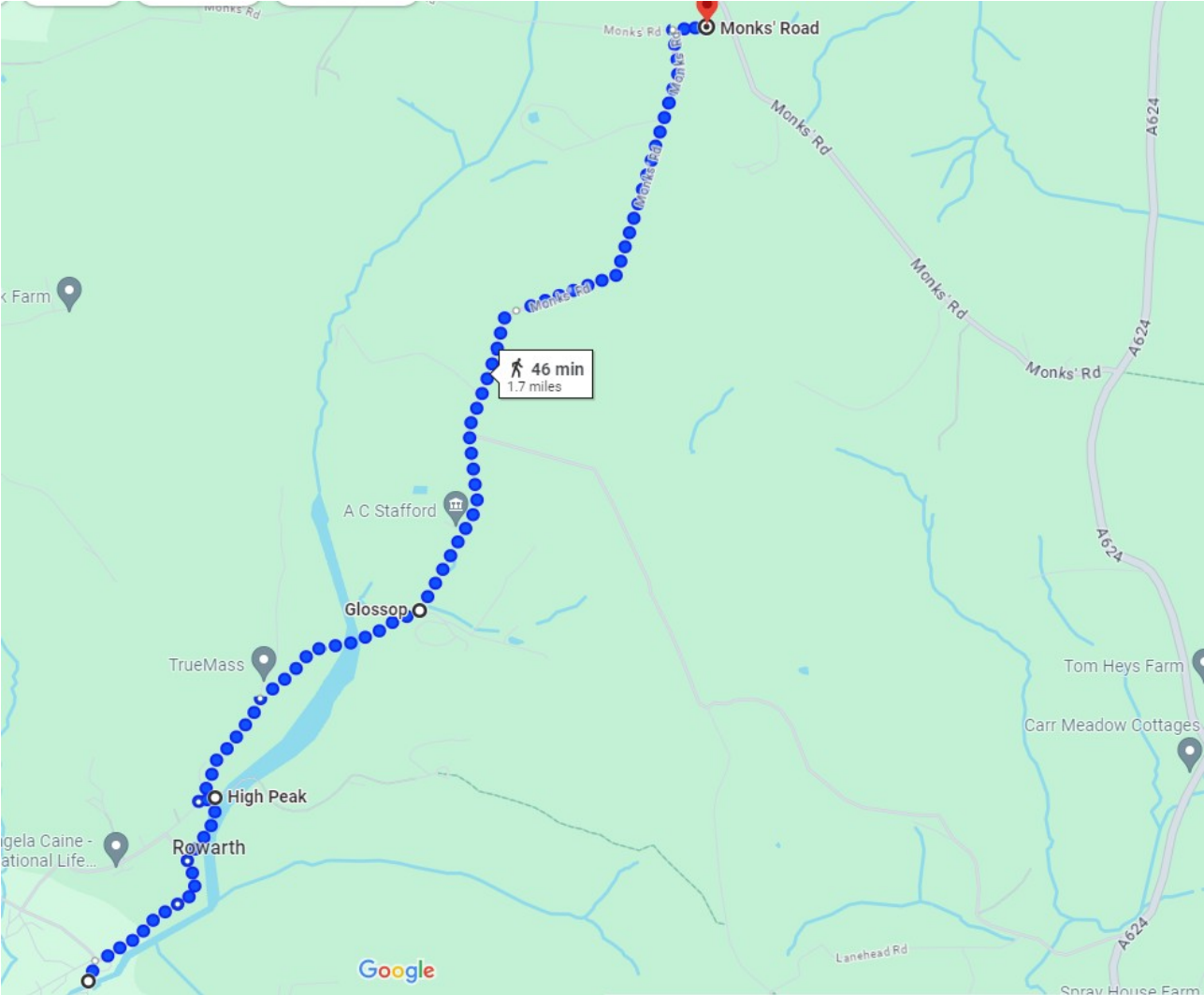
STAGE THREE



# STAGE FOUR

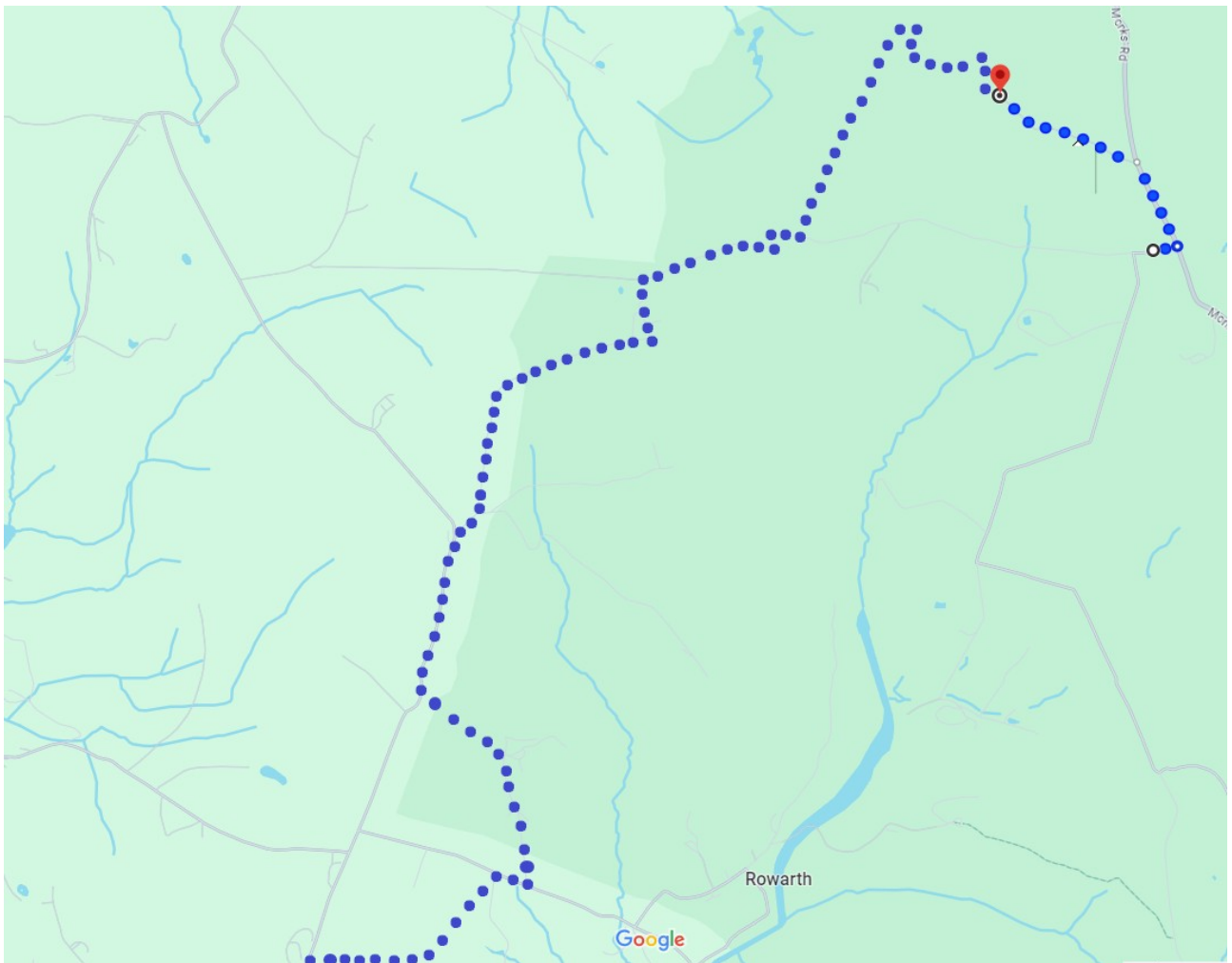


STAGE FIVE

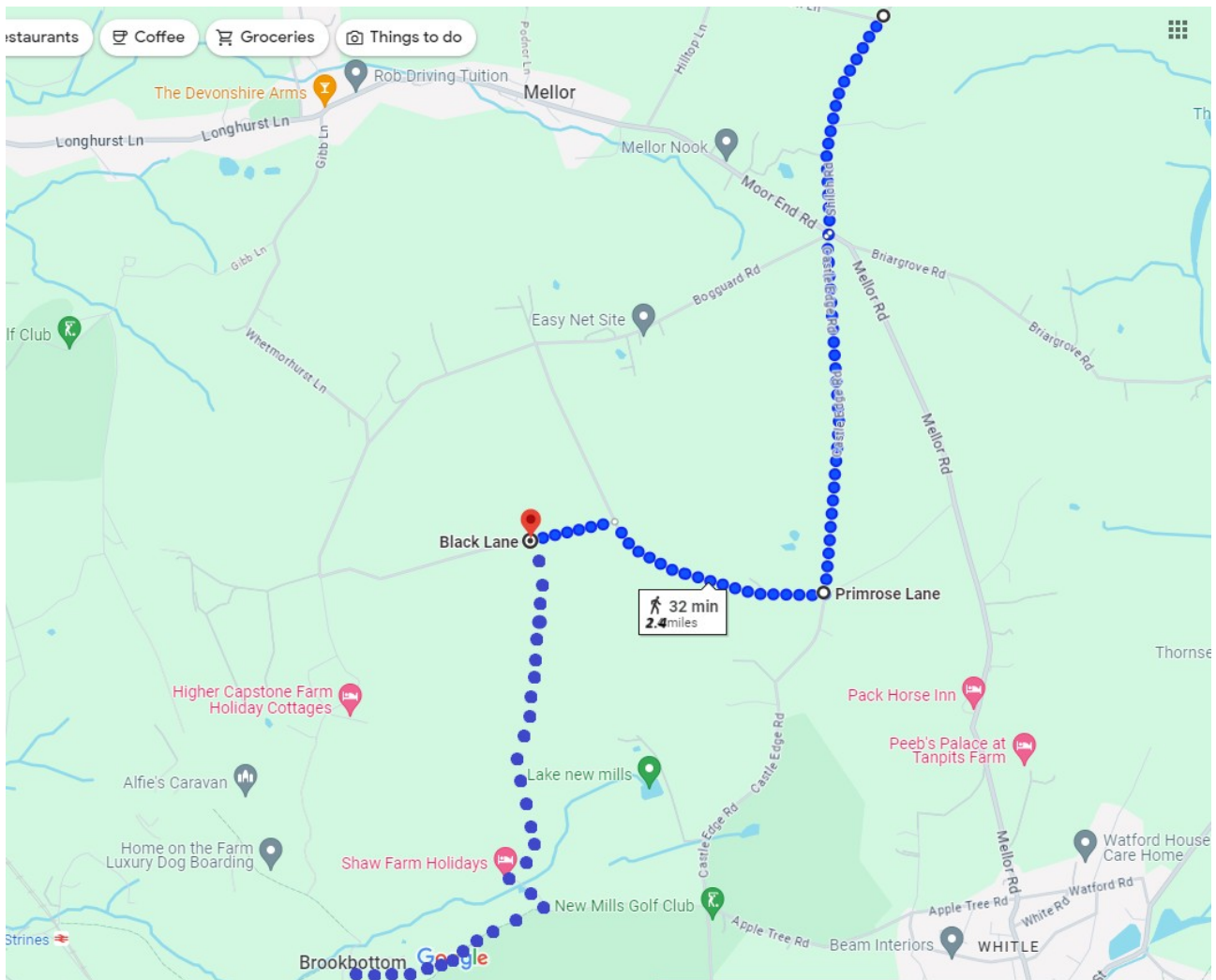




# STAGE SIX



# STAGE SEVEN



STAGE EIGHT