

Goostrey Footpaths Group have taken a break from their spades and sledge-hammers to produce a book that will tempt many to explore the country footpaths around this ancient Cheshire village.

Sixty-six photographs of rivers and woods, pubs and churches, birds and fields, telescopes and bridges give a colourful picture of the Goostrey countryside.

and two new walks in this edition...

Brand new woodland paths only recently created by Cheshire County Council are explored in the *Galey Wood* walk.

The *Peover Eye* walk explains the origin of this strange name, gives a glimpse into the history of Peover Hall, and even notes when Cream Teas are available there.

More GOOSTREY Walks & Strolls



An illustrated guide to walks around Goostrey

Goostrey Footpaths Group

December 2000



The initial inspiration for this booklet was
"Goostrey Walks and Strolls"
by the late Dr Brian Rogers,
first printed [from hand-written originals] in 1979.

Copies of the typed version are still available
(December 2000) from Kettles' shop in Goostrey.

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Care has been taken to describe the Walks accurately,
but no responsibility can be accepted for
the consequences of any errors or omissions.

Goostrey Footpaths Group would like to thank the following
for help in producing this book:-

Cheshire County Council Public Rights of Way Unit
The Countryside Agency
Goostrey Local History Group
Goostrey Parish Council
and many friends



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Care has been taken to detail the Walks accurately, so it should be possible to find the way easily just from the descriptions, but an occasional glance at the maps included will help.

Due to farming activities and improvements to the paths, the descriptions in this booklet will become gradually out of date. For example, stiles may be replaced by kissing gates. Look out for the third edition...

Most paths are waymarked with these standard discs: but particularly when crossing large fields you may need to read the Walk description carefully and consult the map.

The Walk maps were prepared from 12 aerial photographs provided by Cheshire County Council.

 indicates the start of a Walk on some of the maps.



The lengths of the Walks are shown in kilometres for precision, but approximate mileages are also shown as most of us are more familiar with miles.

Allow an hour for the short walks, three hours for the longest.

The routes described are all on Public Rights of Way except where the description indicates otherwise.

Ordnance Survey 'Explorer' Map 268, Wilmslow, Macclesfield & Congleton
- scale 2½ inches to the mile - includes **Goostrey** and is ideal for walking.

Sometimes paths become difficult to use just because the grass grows more quickly than the Council can get it mown, but any serious problem using a particular path should be reported to:

Cheshire County Council Public Rights of Way Unit
Whitegate Station, Clay Lane
Marton, Winsford CW7 2QE Phone 01606 301482

Colour copies of aerial photographs of all parts of Cheshire at a scale of 1:10,000 are available by post from Cheshire County Council Environmental Planning Dept, Commerce House, Hunter St, Chester CH1 2QP



The Walks are mainly in fields and woodland.

In dry weather strong shoes may be fine, but after rain, some places will be muddy – cattle can make the ground near gates and stiles very squelchy indeed – so boots or even wellies may be better.

Cattle can be very inquisitive – if they come uncomfortably close, waving arms or shouting will usually discourage them.

In fields with cattle or sheep, do try not to disturb them.

If you have a dog with you, there is a *legal requirement* to keep it under close control – on a lead if necessary.

Around Goostrey, grass is often grown to be cut and stored as winter feed for cattle – it is essential to their health that this grass is not fouled by dogs.

If an electric fence is temporarily across a footpath there should be some means of crossing it safely – an insulated handle to unhook it, or a plastic bag or insulated tube so you can hold it down while you step over. Take care!

Particular care is needed when walking on busy roads or narrow lanes. It is usually safest to walk facing the oncoming traffic, except on a bend to the right when it may be better to cross over to get an earlier view of oncoming traffic – and be seen sooner.



These are circular walks which can be started at any point, so if you live in Goostrey you will be able to enjoy most of them without using a car.

For those coming from further afield the landlords of the "Crown" and the "Red Lion" have kindly agreed that one or two cars may be left in their car parks by users of this booklet without even telling them.

If you are bringing a party with three or more cars it is essential to ring in advance and check that it will be OK on the particular day.

The phone numbers for this (or for booking your table for a meal) are:-

The Crown 01477 532128

The Red Lion 01477 532033



THE BONGS

WALK 1

2.5 km (1½ miles)

Map on Page 8

Start at **Goostrey Church**.

Goostrey Church was founded in 1244. In 1617 it was built of wood in the Cheshire black and white style. It was pulled down in 1792 and rebuilt in 1796 by the local brick setter at a cost of £1700. The font is 15th century and the yew tree in the churchyard by the South door has recently been assessed as 1200 years old.

The War Memorial was erected in 1921 to a design chosen in 1919 which required approval by the Royal Academy. The sculptors, Carp Hobbs & Millar, had difficulty obtaining the Darley Dale stone originally chosen, so Hollington sandstone was used instead.

Go down Church Bank and over the bridge to spot a footpath sign on your left immediately before the de-restriction sign, at the entrance to "The Cottage". Turn along this drive, go through a gate and keep to the right through the garden. Go through another gate and keep straight ahead through a small paddock. Enter the Bongs (the woodland) by a third gate.

The trees are mainly oak and beech, with alder and willow in the damper parts.

In April look out for drifts of the white flowers of wood anemones and, in the wettest parts, the yellow of marsh marigolds - which are poisonous.

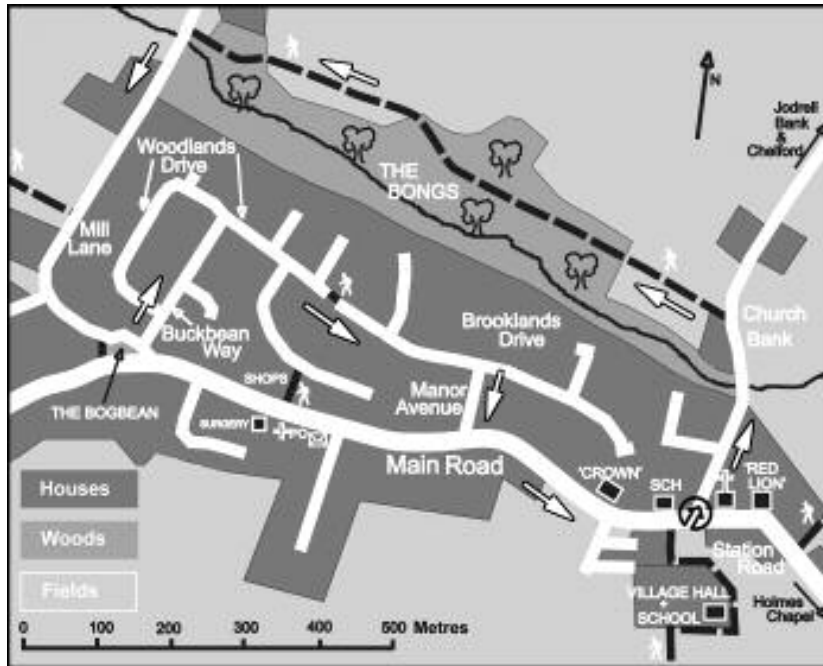
These are followed by bluebells and, in the summer, red campion amongst others. All three British woodpeckers have been seen in the Bongs, with the Greater Spotted easier to see than the Lesser Spotted. Listen for the "laughing" call of the Green Woodpecker. Treecreepers and Nuthatches can also be found.

If you hear a **Cuckoo** in this area, it is likely that it will lay its egg in the nest of a Dunnock.



Goostrey Parish Church from Church Bank

"Bongs" is a local dialect alternative for the "banks" or valley side of a river (the "g" and "k" sounds being interchangeable).
The river in question here is Red Lion Brook.
The Bongs were made famous by Alan Garner's nativity play "Holly from the Bongs".



Follow the clear path through the Bongs. You will pass a commemorative seat on your right.

Why not take a break here "so you may sit and stare", as inscribed on the seat?

The path continues until it leads up and out, via a kissing gate, into a field.

Walk ahead along the top of the slope until a corner is reached, with a kissing gate back into woods. Enter the woods here, go down the steps and across a small bridge to continue on the path until you reach Mill Lane - one of Cheshire's 51 Mill Lanes.



Turn left along Mill Lane, passing **Goostrey Mill** on your right.

Goostrey Mill was originally a corn water mill. It became a cheese store and is now a house, but remains of the sluice machinery and the wheel are still visible from the road.



At the **Village Green**, turn left into Buckbean Way.

The Village Green is called locally "The Bogbean" from "Buck Bean Pit", a pond in which the bog-bean, "*Menyanthes trifoliata*", grew.

At the end of Buckbean Way, swing right into Woodlands Drive and go straight on through the gap in the hedge 150 metres ahead into Brooklands Drive.

After 100 metres turn right into Manor Avenue, then left at the T-junction with Main Road to pass **The Crown Inn** and return to the Church.



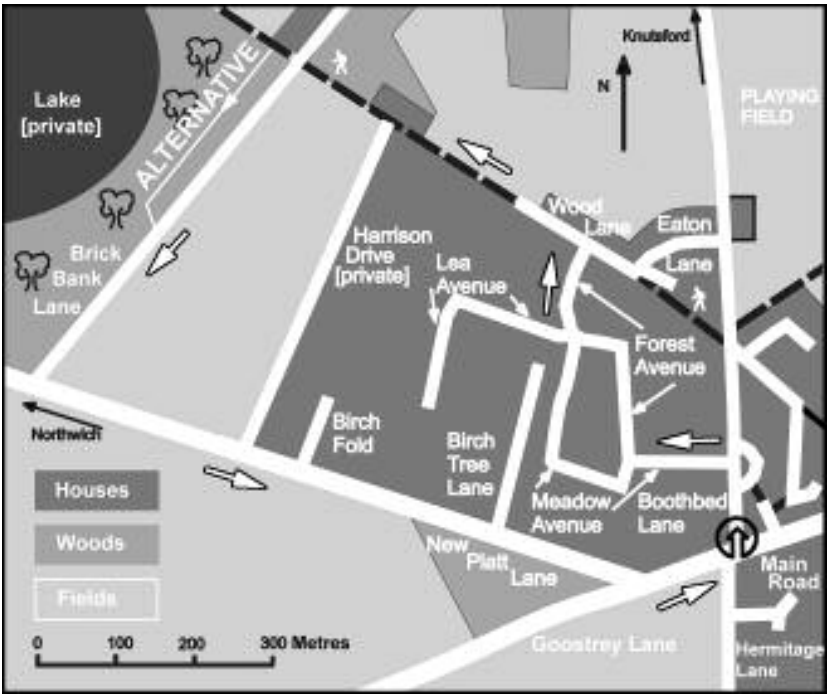
The Crown Inn was occupied in 1578 and called the "Crown Farm" in 1781 with a likely dual role as farm and public house. Initially named the "Mainwaring Arms" after the Peover family who owned most of the surrounding area, it became "The Crown" in 1873.



WOOD LANE

WALK 2

2.5 km (1½ miles)



Start at the Main Road/Boothbed Lane crossroads: take **Boothbed Lane**.

The origin of the name Boothbed Lane is uncertain. It was possibly once a lane with places (beds) for makeshift dwellings or booths.

Turn first left into Meadow Avenue, then right into Forest Avenue, following it round to the right to reach Wood Lane. Turn left on Wood Lane and continue straight on, passing to the right hand side of a gate across the track (which is now the drive to a house) until you come to a dog-leg stile ("bicycle stopper") on to a footpath between a hedge on the right and a wooded area on the left. Go along this footpath until you reach the top of a private road, **Harrison Drive** (the "White Lodge" is on your right here).

Building started in the 1920's with "Lansha", originally a wooden bungalow. The name Harrison Drive is linked to Lansha's original owner.

Continuing straight on, go through another dog-leg stile and walk along the edge of the field until you reach the next road - **Brick Bank Lane**.

The name Brick Bank Lane derives from a brick and tile manufacturing yard and clay pit, now the site of a home and lake, 100 metres to the right.

Turn left here, then left at the next road junction into New Platt Lane: or alternatively, cross Brick Bank Lane on to the farm track and after 30 metres, just before the steel gate, find the start of a Permissive Path on the left. As long as the Permissive Path is not closed, go straight ahead into the wood for 30 metres to wooden posts which mark the central section of this path, to the left of a wire fence.

Do not go through the gap in the fence immediately on your right!

Bear left at the posts and follow the path as it meanders through the wooded area, dense in ferns in the summer.

After a further 200 metres you will enter a clearing close by the road. Turn sharp left and after 20 metres leave the woods at the stile and turn right on to Brick Bank Lane. Turn left at the next road junction on to **New Platt Lane**.



A "platt" is a patch of ground. The Allstock tithe map of 1847 shows two fields on the left past the entrance to Brick Bank Lane called "first new platt" and "second new platt".

Number relating to the Plan.	NAME AND DESCRIPTION of LANDS AND PREMISES.	STATE of CULTIVATION.	QUANTITIES in PERCHES MEASURE.						Amount of Rent-Charge apportioned upon the several Lands, and Payable in Money of Great Britain.
			A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	
713	Four Long Acres	Grass	1	2	37	-	-	6	
716	Suppers Meant	Grass Waste	10	3	37	-	-	5	
717	First new platt	Pasture	5	-	33	-	-	5	
718	Second do	do	6	-	10	-	-	6	
719	Top hut field	Pasture	5	-	3	-	-	4	
720	Bottom do	do	3	-	9	-	-	3	
721	Common field	do	8	-	14	-	-	9	
TITHE ACCOUNT 1847			45	2	33	1	3	5	

Continue along New Platt Lane with care (there is a pavement once you pass the junction with Harrison Drive) until you come to the next road junction - Goostrey Lane. Turn left here to return to the start.

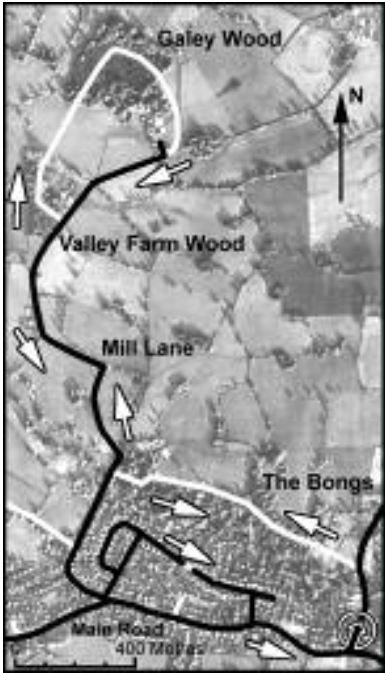


GALEY WOOD

WALK 3

6.8 km (4 miles)

At the at the time of writing, these paths are planned to be open for public use early in 2001.



The central part of this walk, along Mill Lane and through Galey Wood and Valley Farm Wood, follows Permissive Paths on Cheshire County Council property. Permissive Paths may be closed by the landowner at any time, and it is likely that these paths will be out of use occasionally due to forestry operations. Please respect "Closed" notices!

Start at **Goostrey Church**.

Goostrey Church was founded in 1244. In 1617 it was built of wood in the Cheshire black and white style. It was pulled down in 1792 and rebuilt in 1796 by the local brick setter at a cost of £1700. The font is 15th century and the yew tree in the churchyard by the South door has recently been assessed as 1200 years old.

Go down Church Bank and over the bridge to spot a footpath sign on your left immediately before the de-restriction sign, at the entrance to "The Cottage". Turn along this drive, go through a gate and keep to the right through the garden. Go through another gate and keep straight ahead through a small paddock. Enter the **Bongs** (the woodland) by a third gate.

"Bongs" is a local dialect alternative for the "banks" or valley side of a river (the "g" and "k" sounds being interchangeable). The river in question here is Red Lion Brook. The Bongs were made famous by Alan Garner's nativity play "Holly from the Bongs".

The trees are mainly oak and beech, with alder and willow in the damper parts. In April look out for drifts of the white flowers of wood anemones and, in the wettest parts, the yellow of marsh marigolds (which are poisonous). These are followed by bluebells and, in the summer, red campion amongst others.

All three British woodpeckers have been seen in the Bongs, with the Greater Spotted easier to see than the Lesser Spotted. Listen for the "laughing" call of the Green Woodpecker. Treecreepers and Nuthatches can also be found. If you hear the Cuckoo in this area it is likely that it will lay its egg in the nest of a Dunnock.

Follow the clear path through the Bongs. You will pass a commemorative seat on your right. *Why not take a break here "so you may sit and stare" as inscribed on the seat?* The path continues until it leads up and out, via a kissing gate, into a field. Walk ahead along the top of the slope until a corner is reached, with a kissing gate back into woods.

Enter the woods here, go down the steps and across a small bridge to continue on the path until you reach Mill Lane.

Turn right along Mill Lane, observing Goostrey Mill, now "The Old Mill", to the left.

Fork left along Mill Lane where Mill Bank Farm and Barnshaw Bank Farm overlook the lane on your right. Keep on along the lane, which meanders out into the open countryside to pass houses on the left (Meadow Bank Farm), after about 600 metres. After another 200 metres you reach a fork in the road with **Winterbottom Farm** on your left.

Winterbottom Farm is a Grade III listed building. The original door-head bears the inscription "A. L.-L-1670".



Take the right-hand fork and after about 170 metres target a stile leading to the wood on your left. (If you reach Valley Farm on your left you have gone too far - return about 70 metres!)

! SPECIAL CARE IS NEEDED IN WOODLAND !

Stumps and roots can be difficult to spot - they may be level with the ground or hidden by leaves and they can be unbelievably slippery. It is easy to be tripped by these, and by brambles and rabbit holes, so please take care. Whilst the Council have worked hard to make these paths safe, we use them at our own risk.

Walk straight into the wood for 35 metres to cross a wooden bridge across a waterway. Bear slightly right and continue right in the direction indicated by the white arrow on a footpath sign. Continue along a fairly broad walk area with newly planted trees on the left and right.



These two woods have been brought back into management by Cheshire County Council County Farms, with the aid of Challenge Funding from the Forestry Authority. Invasive rhododendron and other scrub has been cleared, over-mature trees [like the willow pictured] felled, the Scots Pine thinned, areas have been replanted and an access track and Permissive Footpaths constructed.

Follow the footpath signs north to go over a wooden bridge and stile at the edge of the wood. Cross the field to a second stile then continue across the field to enter **Galey Wood** by a third stile, which is 20 metres to the right of the field gate ahead.

The word Galey was at one time written Gailey (1831), derived from "Gagel" meaning "the gale" or "bog-myrtle".



Cross another small bridge a short distance ahead. Follow the footpath signs with white arrows, initially walking straight ahead for about 150 metres.

Follow the footpath through the far side of the wood bearing right all the time.

You eventually reach a stile signed to guide you straight ahead.

After crossing this stile continue for about 30 metres to reach a wide farm track. Continue along this track with woodland and then Galey Wood Farm on your right.

Pass through a kissing gate by the side of a metal farm gate and turn sharp right to continue on the farm track and over another stile. This takes you back on to Mill Lane near the entrance to Galey Wood Farm.



Go straight on down the road, passing Valley Farm and the stile you originally crossed. Continue back along Mill Lane until you reach the entrance to the Bongs just before The Old Mill, where you can take one of two alternative routes.

Route 1

Re-enter the Bongs at the signpost marked "The Bongs" and "The Church $\frac{3}{4}$ mile", and re-trace your steps through the Bongs to return to the Church.



Route 2 – map on Page 8

Continue along Mill Lane bearing left to reach the **Village Green**, and then turn left into Buckbean Way.

The Village Green is called locally "The Bogbean" from "Buck Bean Pit", a pond in which the bog-bean, "*Menyanthes trifoliata*", grew.

At the end of Buckbean Way swing right into Woodlands Drive and go straight on through the gap in the hedge 150 metres ahead into Brooklands Drive.

After 100 metres turn right into Manor Avenue, then left at the T-junction with Main Road to pass **The Crown Inn** and return to the Church.

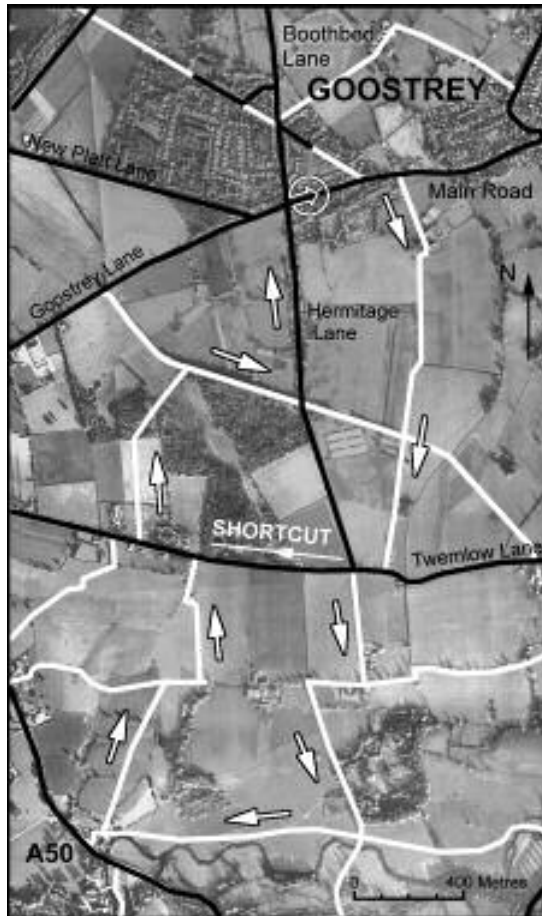


The Crown Inn was occupied in 1578 and called the "Crown Farm" in 1781 with a likely dual role as farm and public house. Initially named the "Mainwaring Arms" after the Peover family who owned most of the surrounding area, it became "The Crown" in 1873.



7 km (4½ miles)

Shorter option 4.5 km (3 miles)



Start at the Main Road/**Boothbed Lane** crossroads.

The origin of the name **Boothbed Lane** is uncertain. It was possibly once a lane with places (beds) for makeshift dwellings or booths.

Walk eastwards - towards the village centre - along Main Road to reach Mount Pleasant Residential Park Homes on your right.

Immediately past here, turn right where signposts indicate **Dromedary Lodge** and the footpath to **Twemlow Green** and **Holmes Chapel**.

Go along the drive to **Dromedary Farm**.

Keep to the right hand side of the yard and bear right to go through a gate out of the yard on to a track.

Continue for about 25 metres passing the fence on your left. Go through the left hand of two metal gates on your left to enter a field indicated by a footpath sign.

Walk through the field keeping the fence on your right, and then the hedge-with-trees on your right.

Go through the double gate in the right hand corner of the field and continue straight ahead towards the white cottage in the distance. Pass through the red gate at the **footpath crossroads** and continue straight ahead to pass **Hawthorne Cottage** on your left.

At the footpath crossroads, the track to the right, deeply ditched on the left side, formed part of an old track from Twemlow to Peover. This track marks the boundary between Cranage and Goostrey parishes.

The date of **Hawthorne Cottage** is unknown. It is timber framed with wattle and daub walls. Very dilapidated!



Continue along the path and stone track to Twemlow Lane.

For the **SHORTER OPTION**, go right along Twemlow Lane for about 500 metres (passing the Hermitage Drive turning on your left) and rejoin the longer walk where it rejoins Twemlow Lane.

Turn right on to Twemlow Lane and, after 100 metres, turn left between the stone gateposts down the private road. Bear right on the road where you see an entrance to the **Hermitage** ahead.

The **Hermitage** is a former manor house referred to in the 13th century as "Ermitage", a solitary place. Now converted into three separate residences, all the south front, built in the time of Queen Anne, 1707, has been preserved. The oldest parts are 16th century. The estate was bought by **Thomas Hall**, Ironmaster, in the early 18th century.

Follow the road round to the left by the entrance to **Hollins Farm**, where it becomes a track. Go through a metal gate, which can be passed on the right hand side if locked.

Hollins Farm was the home of the **Forster** family in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Continue along the track down into the Dane Valley with views of **Holmes Chapel Viaduct** on your left.





The Viaduct has 23 arches, each 90 feet high and with a span of 63 feet. It was built by the Manchester & Birmingham Railway Company. Eight lives were lost during its construction, which was completed in 1842.

At the **River Dane** turn right through the iron kissing gate immediately before the **Stone Bridge**.



The inscribed key-stone on the west side of the stone bridge reads "Thos Hall, Ironmaster, 1707. Rebuilt by Ed. 1715 Hall". Thomas Hall owned the Hermitage. The son of a non-conformist, he enlarged Holmes Chapel Church and, as an ironmaster, worked Cranage Forge, now Massey's Mill, when Holmes Chapel was a focal point of the iron trade in 1650 - 1750. "Ed" Hall refers to his younger brother, Edward, who rebuilt the bridge in the year of his brother's death, 1715.

For a short distance keep alongside the river, with remnants of a fence on your left, to go through a second kissing gate as the river turns away left.

The River Dane, 22 miles long, rises on Axe Edge moors above Macclesfield Forest and flows into the River Weaver at Northwich.

In Spring look for migrating Common Sandpipers with colonies of Sand Martins nesting in the river bank. Watch out for Grey Wagtails and **Kingfishers**. The many rabbits in the area attract Buzzards, so look overhead or listen for the "mewing" call.



Continue west across the field, heading in the direction of The Vicarage - a large brick-built hotel in the distance, with five small dormers.

Go through a third metal kissing gate just above the river bank.

There is a footpath sign at this point marked DVW (Dane Valley Way).

Continue ahead, bearing slightly to the right in the direction of The Vicarage to reach another metal kissing gate, with a small wooded area on the banks of the River Dane on the left. Massey's Mill is away half left, masked by trees in the summer.

Pass through the kissing gate and go straight across the field to target a further metal kissing gate partly up the hill on the other side of the field.

DO NOT GO THROUGH THIS GATE but turn immediately right up the hill to cross the stile at the top and, 25 metres later, across the field neck, cross another stile.

Head north-east along the line of the hedge to the left, with a good view east to the Viaduct, and south to Holmes Chapel. When the hedge turns back left, keep walking ahead towards the house seen in the distance against the trees, to reach a stile sited in the middle of the field edge. Cross this stile and then continue in the direction of the house, bearing to the left of four trees (1 oak and 3 ash) on the skyline, until you reach a fence at a corner near the trees.

Turn right here and walk along the edge of the field, with the fence on your left, to reach a stile. Leaving the farm over to the right, cross the stile and go immediately left through the field gate. Turn sharp right and, hugging the hedge on your right hand side, head for the house at the end of the field. There is a good view of **Jodrell Bank** half right.

The radio telescope was built on or near to a few acres of fields above the Blackden valley known as Jodrell Bank, the word "bank" referring to the valley side.

"Jodrell" refers to the ancient Jauderell family who occupied Jodrell Hall (now Terra Nova Preparatory School) in the 14th century.



The Mark 1 telescope, operational in 1957, was upgraded to Mark 1A in 1970 / 71 and renamed the Lovell Radio Telescope in 1987. Height 89 metres, diameter of bowl 76 metres, weight of bowl 1,500 tonnes. It is a Grade I listed building.

Cross a stile alongside a gate, and continue with the hedge on your right. At the house walk left alongside its hedge for 100 metres, then turn right and follow the waymarked route to the drive and on to Twemlow Lane.

The **SHORTER OPTION** rejoins the walk here.

Turn left on to Twemlow Lane and, after about 200 metres, opposite a brick barn, go right over a stile under a beech tree. Note the footpath sign at this point can be totally hidden at certain times of the year. Cross two more stiles in quick succession before reaching a fourth in the tree line.

Once over that, bear 2 o'clock right to use a tractor way identified by short posts carrying waymark signs. After about 200 metres pass through a metal gate near a deep ditch and carry straight on along the edge of the next field keeping the fence on your right.

At the far end of the field go over the stile on your right and follow this path through a wooded area to a stile leading on to Hermitage Lane.

Turn left on Hermitage Lane to head north for 650 metres back to your starting point at the crossroads.



DANE VALLEY CENTRAL WALK 5

7 km (4½ miles)

Shorter option 5 km (3 miles)

Map on Page 22

Start at **Goostrey Church**.

Goostrey Church was founded in 1244.

In 1617 it was built of wood in the Cheshire black and white style.

It was pulled down in 1792 and rebuilt in 1796 by the local brick setter. The yew tree in the churchyard by the South door has recently been assessed as 1200 years old.



Opposite Goostrey Primary School Annexe and next to the cemetery, spot the footpath sign to "Twemlow Green".

Follow this path, keeping to the right hand side of the cemetery.

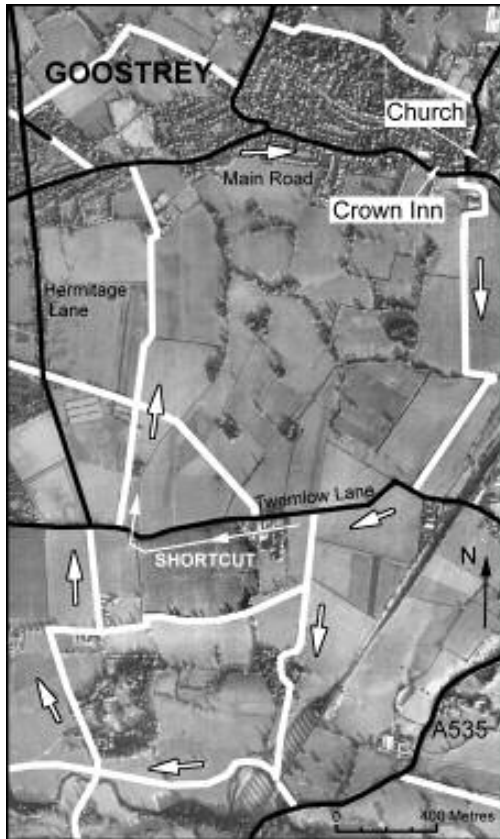
Turn left at the first corner, and continue across the far side of the cemetery, keeping the hedge on your right. Go through two gates alongside the hedge at the side of the **Village Hall/School**.

The Village Hall/School was opened in 1977; a unique joint venture providing an infant school and community recreation facilities.

It was built by the combined efforts of Cheshire County Council, Congleton Borough Council, Goostrey Parish Council and Goostrey Village Hall and Playing Fields Foundation.



Follow the hedge right around the back of the Village Hall/School.



Climb over the stile to the left of a large gate and turn left to follow the fence (on your left) to another stile.

Cross this stile and observe the tall post with directional indicators. Continue across the field in the same direction to the next tall marker post near the bank of a small stream.

Turn sharp left in front of a fence and proceed for 60 metres keeping the fence on your right. You will reach a stile in the fence. Cross the stile, go down the bank and cross **Shear Brook** by the bridge.



In 1345 Shear Brook was called "Shaghesyche", the "small stream in the wood". This rivulet formed the eastern boundary of the 12th century ancient sanctuary of Rudheath or "the prince's moor of Rudheath" (1351).

From the bridge go a few metres to the right to the side of the field, then follow the hedge on your right to reach the stile on to Twemlow Lane.

For the **SHORTER OPTION**, go right along Twemlow Lane for about 1000 metres to rejoin the walk by turning right 500 metres past The Orchards Farm - after a sharp right bend, and before Hermitage Lane.

Go right along Twemlow Lane for 350 metres, and then follow the footpath sign to go left through a gate into a large field.

Follow the hedge on your left: it turns to the right at the woods.

After 50 metres in the new direction go down the slope to a kissing gate, previously hidden from view.

Go up the steps on the other side and over the brow of the hill with a pond on your left and a small ravine on your right.

Continue down the gentle slope to head for the arch in the **Viaduct** where the River Dane flows through.



The Viaduct has 23 arches, each 90 feet high and with a span of 63 feet.

It was built by the Manchester and Birmingham Railway Company. Eight lives were lost during its construction, which was completed in 1842.

Reaching the stile under the arch, DO NOT GO OVER IT but turn sharp right to go away from the viaduct, following the line of the fence on your left above the river until you reach a wooden bridge with a stile at each end.

Cross the bridge and turn sharp left, following a rugged path which undulates for 50 metres.



Alternatively, on bearing left, climb the slight brow in front of you which facilitates easier walking along the top.

Follow the general direction of the river, through a metal kissing gate, eventually reaching a track over a **Stone Bridge** at another kissing gate.



The inscribed key-stone on the west side of the bridge reads "Thos Hall, Ironmaster, 1707. Rebuilt by Ed. 1715 Hall". Thomas Hall owned the Hermitage. The son of a non-conformist, he enlarged Holmes Chapel Church and, as an ironmaster, worked Cranage Forge, now Massey's Mill, when Holmes Chapel was a focal point of the iron trade in 1650 - 1750.

"Ed" Hall refers to his younger brother, Edward, who rebuilt the bridge in the year of his brother's death, 1715.

Turn right on the track and follow it up the hill.
Don't stray into **The Hermitage** on your right.

The Hermitage is a former manor house referred to in the 13th century as "Ermitage", a solitary place. Now converted into three separate residences, all the south front, built in the time of Queen Anne, 1707, has been preserved. The oldest parts are 16th century. The estate was bought by Thomas Hall, Ironmaster, in the early 18th century.

As you reach the top of the hill, you may encounter a locked metal gate, which you can walk around to the left. Immediately in front of you, you will see a T junction with the drive to **Hollins Farm** on your left.

Hollins Farm was the home of the Forster family in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Turn right here and follow the road round to the left 200 metres further on. Emerging through the gateway on to Twemlow Lane, turn right for 100 metres then go left following the footpath sign.

The **SHORTER OPTION** rejoins the walk here.

You will pass **Hawthorne Cottage** – pictured on the next page.

The date of Hawthorne Cottage is unknown.
It is timber framed with wattle and daub walls. Very dilapidated!

Fork right immediately after Hawthorne Cottage to leave the Turkey Farm on your left. At the **Footpath Crossroads**, go straight on through the red metal gate.

The track to the left, deeply ditched on the left side, formed part of an old track from Twemlow to Peover. This track marks the boundary between Cranage and Goostrey parishes.



Go straight across the field until you approach the corner of another field on your right. Go through the double gate into this field. Follow straight along the field edge, keeping the hedge-with-trees and then the fence on your left for 350 metres. Go through a metal gate and bear right to pass through a wooden gate into the yard of Dromedary Lodge Farm. Bear left through the yard and on to the drive of the farm to reach Goostrey Main Road. Turn right here and follow Main Road past the **Village Green**, the shops and **The Crown Inn** to return to Goostrey Church.

The Village Green is called locally "The Bogbean" from "Buck Bean Pit", a pond in which the bog-bean, "Menyanthes trifoliata", grew.



The Crown Inn was occupied in 1578 and called the "Crown Farm" in 1781 with a likely dual role as farm and public house. Initially named the "Mainwaring Arms" after the Peover family who owned most of the surrounding area, it became "The Crown" in 1873.

8.5 km (5½ miles)

Start at **Goostrey Church**.

Goostrey Church was founded in 1244. In 1617 it was built of wood in the Cheshire black and white style. It was pulled down in 1792 and rebuilt in 1796 by the local brick setter at a cost of £1700.

The font is 15th century and the yew tree in the churchyard by the South door has recently been assessed as 1200 years old.



Go past the **Red Lion**, with the **Church Cottages** on the right and, after 500 metres, over the bridge by the **Station** (with care!).

The Red Lion has been occupied since 1711 and is a listed building. Picture on page 5.

Church Cottages: this timber-framed late 17th-century listed building was recently converted from four dwellings to two.

The carved sandstone head visible high up by the chimney stack on the western end of the cottage is believed to be the only remnant of the village's medieval timber framed Church, demolished 200 years ago to make way for the present Georgian building.

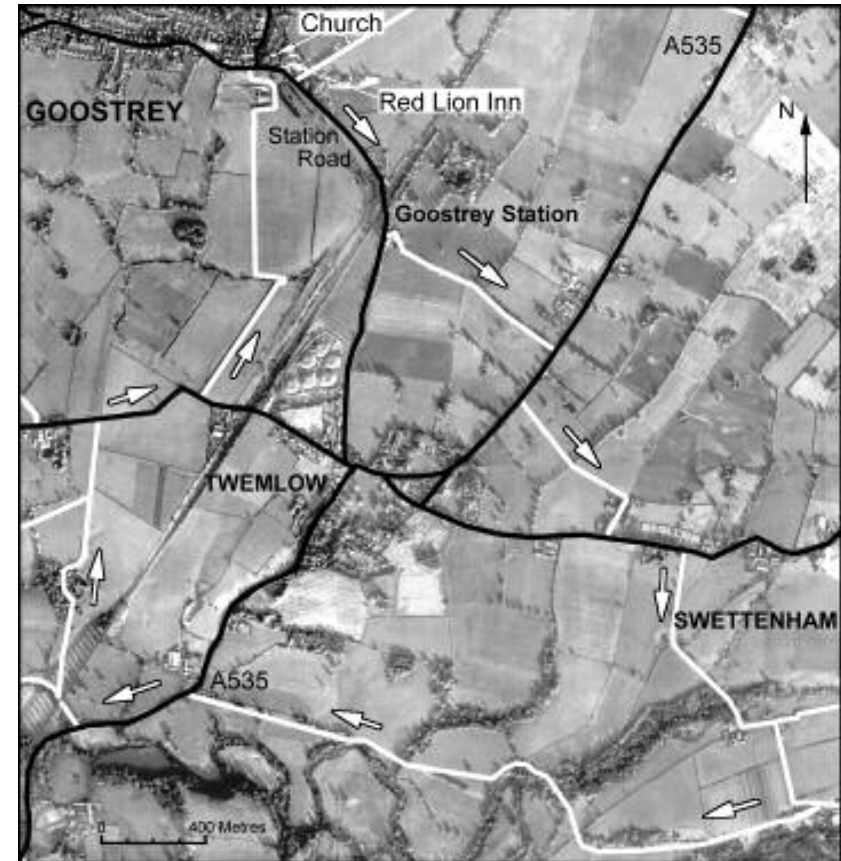


The Station was built in 1891, nearly 50 years after the line was opened in 1842 by the Manchester and Birmingham Railway Co.

In the fields close by were held the Goostrey horse races, 1921 - 1939, an annual event of flat, trotting and pony races.

70 metres after the station bridge, turn left into the entrance to the driveway and then immediately right over the stile. Pass the little pond and leave the wood by a second stile.

Watch out in the trees or on a fence-post for a Little Owl.



Keep straight on over two more stiles, the second at a small stream crossed by a narrow concrete bridge.

Having crossed the stream, go slightly left and forward, keeping the stream to your left, to reach the A535 Chelford road by a third stile.

Go right for 200 metres, then cross this busy main road and go over the stile by the big oak tree into the field.

Continue across the field with the hedge on your right, taking care around a possible swampy area halfway across the field.

Cross over a stile in the right hand corner of the field and, still with a substantial field hedge on your right, continue to the end of the second field.

Turn immediately right on to a wide farm track.

Pass a large barn on your right and a small pond on your left.

Pass the side of Rose Cottage on your left to reach the main road.



Go left in front of the cottage, cross the road, and after 250 metres turn right down the drive of Kermincham [pronounced “Kermingham”] Hall.

The drive meanders slightly to the left and right before reaching the approach to the Hall.

Follow the drive as it bends left with a pond and bungalow on your left.

Continue to follow the drive as it swings sharp right in front of some old wooden outbuildings.

After another 300 metres the drive takes you left between barns.

At the end of the old stables go over the stile on the right, double back behind the stables over a second stile, and then keep straight on along a track well used by cattle.

Go cautiously at this point! Although the correct route is identified by another footpath sign and stile, this is surrounded by deep earth which is extremely muddy in winter months: in these circumstances a detour may be required down the left slope then back up to the track.

After following the track for about 100 metres, as it starts to fall towards the valley, target the REAL path, which climbs sharply up the hill to the right following the line of a hedge on your right.

The footpath sign at this point is some way up the hill and could be missed.

There is a fine view from here of the **Swettenham Brook valley**.



On the slopes above Swettenham Brook, there are primroses and cowslips in Spring followed later in the year by lime loving plants, which are rather local in distribution in the area. These plants attract butterflies.

Near Greenhey Wood look for Willow Tits.

In Spring look for migrating Common Sandpipers with colonies of Sand Martins nesting in the river bank.

Watch out for Grey Wagtails and Kingfishers. The many rabbits in the area attract Buzzards, so look overhead or listen for the “mewing” call.

At a field gate, go over the stile to its right but continue along the left edge of the field, with a wooded area on your left, as though you had gone straight on through the gate.

Admire the fine view [next page!] of the meandering **River Dane**, then drop down to a stile.

The River Dane, 22 miles long, rises on Axe Edge moors above Macclesfield Forest and flows into the River Weaver at Northwich.



Having crossed the stile, keep right to skirt a hollow and pond to reach and cross another stile at the top of a small incline.

Directly cross the field, picking up a fence on your left, to drop down to a railway sleeper bridge and gate at the edge of a wood. Climb steeply up through the wood, then bear left over the stile and keep the fence on your left to another stile, which you are unlikely to need to climb as there is an adjacent farm track.

Continue down the left edge of the field to the waymarked sign-post about halfway down to the bottom of the valley.

Here, turn sharp right across the field to go to the right of the conifers then a little left to the stile into the woods. Leave the woods at the iron gate and then go straight across the field to another stile.

The **Holmes Chapel Viaduct** is now ahead.

The Viaduct has 23 arches, each 90 feet high and with a span of 63 feet. It was built by the Manchester & Birmingham Railway Company. Eight lives were lost during its construction, which was completed in 1842.

Go across the large field, keeping the field boundary on your right, heading for the main road in front of the Viaduct. As you approach the main road, pass to the left of the house to locate the stile exit.

Now a nasty bit. On crossing the stile on to the main road watch carefully for traffic approaching from both directions. Go left along the main road for 400 metres past the Brick **Cottage** on the left.

In 1842 the Cottage marked the site of a turnpike gate across the road.

At this point a good view is available of the road in both directions to allow a safe crossing.

Having crossed the road, continue to 50 metres before the stone bridge.

Go over the stile and proceed down the hill to the stile immediately before the viaduct.

Cross the stile and, after passing under the viaduct, immediately turn right to go uphill past the power post and the isolated tree 100 metres beyond it. Keep straight on up the slope to pass ponds on your right.

On reaching the top of the hill, keep to the left before finally dropping down via steps in the corner of the field to a kissing gate.

Go up right into a large field and follow the hedge on the right to go through a farm gate on to Twemlow Lane.

Go right at the road for 350 metres until, after a double bend in the road, you see a footpath sign into a field on your left. (If you reach Blue Slate Farm on your right, you have gone too far - return about 75 metres!)

Walk straight ahead through the field, keeping the hedge on your left, admiring the view of Goostrey Church and the Lovell Radio Telescope at Jodrell Bank.

When you reach the other end of the field bear right, a short way, until you spot a small bridge over a stream (Shear Brook) on your left.

Cross the bridge and, at the top of the bank, cross over the stile.

Turn immediately left, and continue keeping close to the fence on your left until you reach a tall marker post.

Turn right and walk straight ahead across an open field in the direction of a further tall marker post with the Village Hall and church spire clearly visible ahead.

Cross the stile to the left of the post. In the next field, keeping the fence on your right hand side, walk between the fence and a set of posts in the ground until you see a stile on your right, near the Village Hall/School.

Cross this stile and follow the edge of the **Village Hall/School** round two sides to reach a gate.

The Village Hall/School was opened in 1977; a unique joint venture providing an infant school and community recreation facilities.

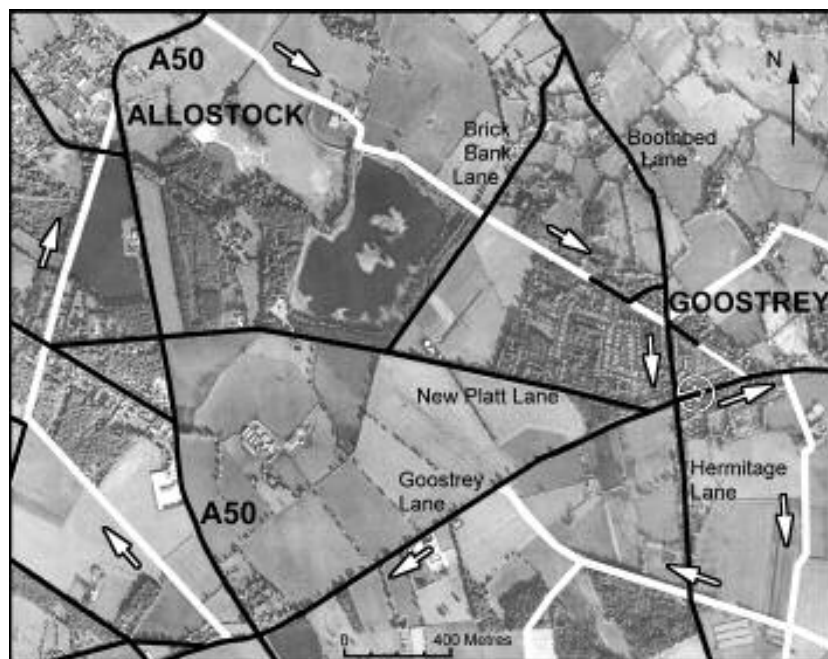
Pass through this gate and continue through a further gate by the hedge on the left.

Keep left along the back of the cemetery and turn right at the far side.

Continue alongside a board fence to reach the gate giving access to the road and your starting point across the road to the right.



8.5 km (5½ miles)



Start at the Main Road / **Boothbed Lane** crossroads.

The origin of the name Boothbed Lane is uncertain. It was possibly once a lane with places (beds) for makeshift dwellings or booths.

Walk eastwards - towards the village centre - along Main Road until you reach Mount Pleasant Residential Park Homes on your right. Immediately past here, turn right where signposts indicate Dromedary Lodge and the footpath to Twemlow Green and Holmes Chapel. Go along the drive to Dromedary Farm.

Keep to the right hand side of the yard and bear right to go through a gate out of the yard on to a track. Continue for about 25 metres passing the fence on your left.

Go through the left hand of two metal gates on your left to enter a field indicated by a footpath sign.

Walk through the field keeping the fence on your right, and then the hedge-with-trees on your right.

Go through the double gate in the right hand corner of the field and continue straight ahead towards the white cottage in the distance.

Pass through the red gate at the footpath crossroads and turn right to walk along the **track** behind the Turkey Farm to the road, **Hermitage Lane**.

This track from the footpath crossroads, deeply ditched on the left side, formed part of an old track from Twemlow to Peover. It marks the boundary between Cranage and Goostrey parishes.



Hermitage Lane leads to "The Hermitage".

Cross Hermitage Lane, bearing slightly right, to climb the stile into the woods by the footpath sign. Walk along the edge of the stream and birch wood to reach another stile. Go straight ahead for about 5 metres and climb an identical stile. Continue along the narrow track through the wood with the field on your right. You come out into the open after a while but the way forward is clear, as there are fences on either side of the **path** and another stile to climb before proceeding straight ahead.

This path was once the course of a road between Twemlow and Plumley.

You are passing here through the fields of Woodside Farm. You will notice that the margins of the fields are not ploughed. This forms a wildlife corridor created by the farmer under the auspices of Cheshire Landscape Trust.



Leave the field by a stile that leads to a path beside a conifer hedge on your right and emerge on to a road, Goostrey Lane.

Go left here and along Goostrey Lane until you reach the A50.

Cross the main road with care into Middlewich Road and, just before the houses, pass through a metal field gate on the right on to a bridleway.

Keep straight on along the fields through a series of metal gates.

Keep going straight until you come to a house on your right called Cranage Wood Lodge. Just past the house take a small footbridge on your right over a ditch, pass through a metal gate and turn left on to a track.

At the T-junction at the end of the track, turn right on to the byway.

This section takes you through Woodside Golf Course. Keep a sharp look out for flying golf balls!



Cross the main road, Northwich Road, into the byway directly ahead.

After some houses, you will have very sandy woods on your left and Boundary Barn mere on your right through the trees.

Keep on along the track until you meet a small road, Wash Lane. Go straight across and out on to the main road (A50) by Hill's Garden Centre.



Turn left towards Knutsford for about 400 metres and then cross the road near the cottages just before the Brook View apartments. Dangerous bend! Go down the concrete track signposted Goostrey. Notice the good views towards Congleton and the **mere** to the south.

The meres result from the extraction of sand. Look out for water birds – ducks, herons, geese, coots, moorhens, swans, grebes and, in winter, cormorants.

After about 500 metres you reach Hales Pasture.

Turn right into the yard, and in the far corner is a stile.

Go over the stile and follow the winding track until you meet a lane, **Brick Bank Lane**.

The name Brick Bank Lane derives from a brick and tile manufacturing yard and clay pit, now the site of a home and lake. This lies to the left across a field.



Cross the road, pass through a dog-leg stile and go along the path following the edge of the field. Go through another dog-leg stile at the top of a private road, **Harrison Drive** (the "White Lodge" is on your left here).

Building started in the 1920's with "Lansha", originally a wooden bungalow. The name Harrison Drive is linked to Lansha's original owner.

Cross the end of Harrison Drive and go straight through one more dog-leg stile on to a narrow hedge / tree lined path, leading to the final dog-leg stile.

Go straight ahead, passing through a field gate with a walkers' bypass on the left and keep straight on to Wood Lane.

Keep to the right but straight on and follow the track out to a main road, Boothbed Lane.

Turn right here to return to your starting point at the Main Road / Boothbed Lane crossroads.



GOOSTREY VILLAGE CIRCUIT WALK 8

GOOSTREY VILLAGE CIRCUIT

8 km (5 miles)

Shorter option 6.5 km (4 miles)

Map on Page 38

Start at **Goostrey Church**.

Alternative Start from Boothbed Crossroads: walk along the left side of Boothbed Lane for 350 metres to join the walk at a track on the left signed to Allstock. Turn **LEFT** along this track to Wood Lane.



Goostrey Church was founded in 1244. In 1617 it was built of wood in the Cheshire black and white style. It was pulled down in 1792 and rebuilt in 1796 by the local brick setter at a cost of £1700. The font is 15th century, and the yew tree in the churchyard by the South door has recently been assessed as 1200 years old.

Go down Church Bank and over the bridge to spot a footpath sign on your left immediately before the de-restriction sign, at the entrance to "The Cottage". Turn along this drive, go through a gate and keep to the right through the garden. Go through another gate and keep straight ahead through a small paddock. Enter the **Bongs** (the woodland) by a third gate.



"Bongs" is a local dialect alternative for the "banks" or valley sides of a river ("g" and "k" sounds being interchangeable). The river in question here is Red Lion Brook. The Bongs were made famous by Alan Garner's nativity play "Holly from the Bongs".

Trees are mainly oak and beech, with alder and willow in damper parts.

In April look out for drifts of the white flowers of wood anemones and, in the wettest parts, the yellow of marsh marigolds (which are poisonous). These are followed by bluebells and, in the summer, red campion amongst others. All three British woodpeckers have been seen in the Bongs, with the **Greater Spotted** easier to see than the Lesser Spotted. Listen for the "laughing" call of the Green Woodpecker. Treecreepers and Nuthatches can also be found. If you hear the Cuckoo in this area it is likely that it will lay its egg in the nest of a Dunnock.



Follow the clear path through the Bongs. You will pass a commemorative seat on your right. *Why not take a break here "so you may sit and stare", as inscribed on the seat?* The path continues until it leads up and out, via a kissing gate, into a field. Walk ahead along the top of the slope until a corner is

reached, with a kissing gate back into woods. Enter the woods here, go down the steps and across a small bridge to continue on the path until you reach Mill Lane. Turn left along Mill Lane, passing **Goostrey Mill** on your right, to reach a footpath sign and kissing gate on the right.

Goostrey Mill was originally a corn water mill.

It became a cheese store and is now a house, but remains of the sluice machinery and the wheel are still visible from the road.

Pass through the kissing gate and walk directly away from the road. Go through another gate in the middle of the field and keep straight on heading for the farm ahead - **Swanwick Hall Farm**.

Swanwick Hall Farm is a late 16th century farmhouse.

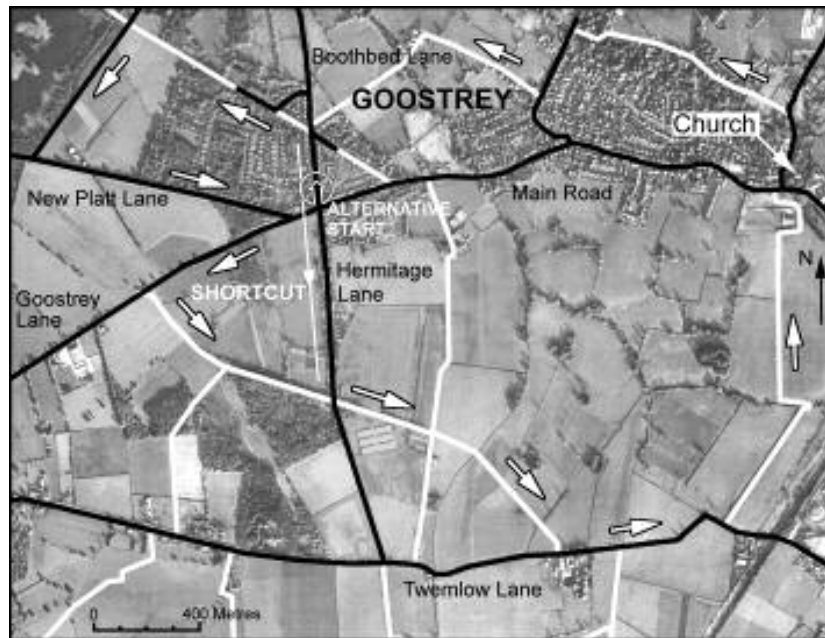
The name means a "peasant's farm".



As you approach the farm you will see a substantial wooden board walk accessed by a kissing gate.

Cross the board walk to exit via a gate.

Skirting the building on your left, enter the farmyard via two gates on your left. Walk through the farmyard and follow the drive until you reach **Boothbed Lane**. Cross Boothbed Lane and turn left for 5 metres.



The origin of the name Boothbed Lane is uncertain. Possibly once a lane with places (beds) for makeshift dwellings or booths.

For the **SHORTER OPTION**, continue now along Boothbed Lane to the cross-roads. Cross Main Road, continue along Hermitage Lane and rejoin the walk 50 metres before the Turkey Farm on your left.

Turn right along the track signed to Allstock and leading to Wood Lane. Keep straight along Wood Lane, passing to the right hand side of a gate across the track (which is now the drive to a house) until you come to a dog-leg stile ("bicycle stopper") on to the footpath between a hedge on the right and a wooded area on the left. Go along this footpath until you reach the top of a private road, **Harrison Drive**.

Building started in the 1920's with "Lansha", originally a wooden bungalow. The name Harrison Drive is linked to Lansha's original owner.



Continuing straight on, go through another dog-leg stile and walk along the edge of the field, with woods on your right, until you reach the next road, **Brick Bank Lane**.

The name Brick Bank Lane derives from a brick and tile manufacturing yard and clay pit, now the site of a home and lake, 100 metres to the right.

Turn left here, then left at the next road junction into **New Platt Lane**.

A "platt" is a patch of ground. The Allstock tithe map of 1847 shows two fields on the left past the entrance to Brick Bank Lane called "first new platt" and "second new platt". See the Tithe Map extracts on Page 11.

Follow New Platt Lane with caution - there is a pavement once you pass the junction with Harrison Drive - until you come to the next main road junction (Goostrey Lane). Turn right along Goostrey Lane until you reach the second bungalow on the left-hand side, "Wood Corner".

The footpath sign just past the bungalow directs you around a tree towards a hedge. Follow this, keeping the hedge on your left, until you come to a stile, which you climb to join a **farm track**.

The track was once the course of a road between Twemlow and Plumley.

You are here passing through the fields of Woodside Farm. You will notice that the margins of the fields are not ploughed. This forms a wildlife corridor created by the farmer under the auspices of Cheshire Landscape Trust.



Continue straight ahead keeping the line of trees on your left until you reach a stile to the left of a gate. Crossing the stile continue straight ahead between the tree line on your left and a fence on your right.

The path bears left hugging the tree line on the left through a short wooded area until you reach a stile adjacent to a fence on your left.

Cross the stile and a second stile a few metres ahead.

Follow this path to a stile leading on to Hermitage Lane.

The **SHORTER OPTION** rejoins the walk here.

At Hermitage Lane, cross over diagonally right and take the track alongside the deep ditch to reach a **footpath cross-roads** and a red metal gate on your left.

Turn round and look at the path you have just walked along. Deeply ditched on one side, it formed part of an old track from Twemlow to Peover. This track marks the boundary between Cranage and Goostrey parishes.

DO NOT FOLLOW THE MAIN PATH TO THE RIGHT! Note a signpost just before the gate pointing straight ahead for Twemlow Green. Go through the gate into the field and keep straight on in accordance with the sign to Twemlow Green. Head for the hedge on the far side of the field and cross



the stile you will see more clearly as you approach the hedge.

Keep straight on towards another isolated stile to pick up a track which leads out on to the lane (Twemlow Lane) opposite "The Orchards Farm".

Turn left along Twemlow Lane and walk for about 600 metres until, after a double bend in the

road, you see a footpath sign into a field on your left. (If you reach Blue Slate Farm on your right, you have gone too far - return about 75 metres!) Walk straight ahead through the field, keeping the hedge on your left, admiring the view of Goostrey Church and **the telescope at Jodrell Bank**.

The radio telescope was built on or near to a few acres of fields above the Blackden valley known as Jodrell Bank, the word "bank" referring to the valley side.

"Jodrell" refers to the ancient Jauderell family who occupied Jodrell Hall (now Terra Nova Preparatory School) in the 14th century.

The Mark 1 telescope, operational in 1957, was upgraded to Mark 1A in 1970/71 and renamed the Lovell Radio Telescope in 1987. Height 89 metres, diameter of bowl 76 metres, weight of bowl 1,500 tonnes. A Grade I listed building.

When you reach the other end of the field go right a short way, until you spot a small bridge over a stream on your left - **Shear Brook**.

In 1345 Shear Brook was called "Shaghesyche", the "small stream in the wood". This rivulet formed the eastern boundary of the 12th century ancient sanctuary of Rudheath or "the prince's moor of Rudheath" (1351).

Cross the bridge and, at the top of the bank cross over the stile. Turn immediately left, and continue keeping close to the fence on your left until you reach a tall marker post. Turn right and walk straight ahead across an open field in the direction of a further tall marker post with the Village Hall and church spire clearly visible ahead. Cross the stile to the left of the post.

In the next field, keeping the fence on your right hand side, walk between the fence and a set of posts in the ground until you see a stile on your right, near the Village Hall/School. Cross this stile and follow the edge of the **Village Hall/School** round two sides to reach a gate.

The Village Hall/School was opened in 1977; a unique joint venture providing an infant school and community recreation facilities.

It was built by the combined efforts of Cheshire County Council, Congleton Borough Council, Goostrey Parish Council and Goostrey Village Hall and Playing Fields Foundation.

Pass through the gate and continue to pass through a further gate adjacent to the hedge on the left. Keep left to walk along the back of the cemetery and turn right at the far side. Continue alongside a board fence to reach the gate giving access to the road and your starting point across the road to the right.



PEOVER EYE

WALK 9

8.3 km (5 miles)

Shorter option 6.5 km (4 miles)

For safety, driving from Goostrey Church to the start is recommended.

Drive down Church Bank, the road going downhill beside the Church, over the bridge and then up the hill out of the village to reach a fork in the road. Fork left signed to Peover Heath, and continue along this road passing a road on the right and **Barnshaw Hall Farm** on the left.

Soon the road bends sharply left opposite a road on the right, Red Lane.

Immediately after the bend there is a parking area on the left at the start of a bridleway, Appleton's Lane, signed "Boots Green 1³/₄ M, Peover Superior Church 1³/₄ miles".



Start the walk along **Appleton's Lane**.

Appleton's Lane was part of an ancient "salt way" stretching from Northwich via Withington Green and Siddington to Buxton. The name is derived from the Appleton Family who occupied Woodend Farm (further along the track) continuously for the greater part of the 19th century.

As you start down Appleton's Lane, Barnshaw Hall can be glimpsed over the hedge and across the meadow on the left behind the line of trees. Originally a grange or manor-house, it was built by the monks of St. Werburgh's Abbey, Chester in the 13th century.

At the time of the dissolution of the abbey in the 16th century, it was given to the Mainwaring Family whose branch at Over Peover bought it in the 18th century.

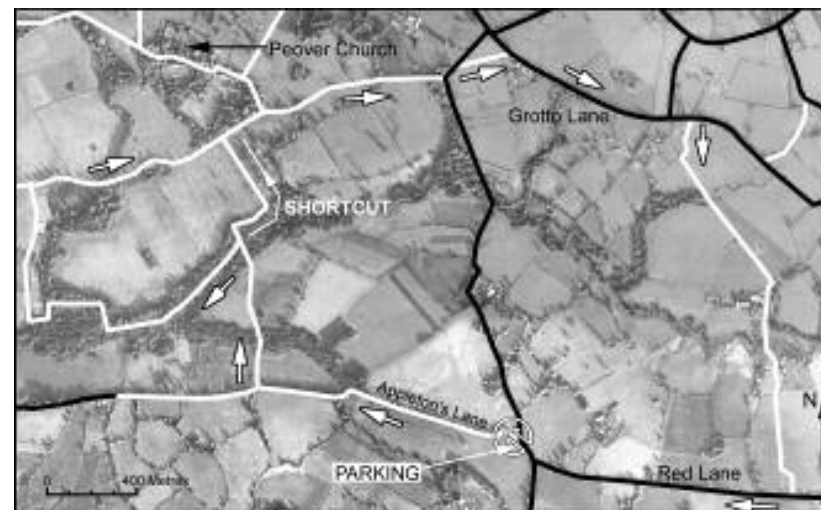
A chapel existed at Barnshaw from its earliest foundation, and was demolished only recently.

After approximately 600 metres the path drops gently towards a wooded area and crosses a **stream** before climbing slightly.

The unnamed stream, known as "Aqua de Bernulschawe" in the 13th century, flows from Barnshaw Hall into the Peover Eye.

Recorded in the 13th century as "Bernulschawe", or "Beornwulf's wood", the name "Barnshaw" is possibly of Anglo-Saxon or Old Danish origin.

After another 300 metres **Woodend Farm** will be seen on the left.



Just before the entrance to the farm yard, target a signpost on the right indicating "Peover Superior Church 1mile".

Pass through the adjoining kissing gate and head across the field keeping the tree line and ditch on your left. You will see a further kissing gate ahead, but as the field can be boggy in this area be prepared to make a detour to reach it. Pass through the kissing gate into the wood.

Off to the right are a number of very deep and extensive pits.

Whether these were dug for marl, clay or ore is unknown, but they do indicate a substantial industry existing here in the past.

The path meanders for 50 metres before going down some steps to cross a double wooden bridge. Ascend steps going up a short hill on the other side of the bridge to reach a stile adjacent to a locked hunting hatch (blue gate) at the top of the hill. Cross the stile at the top of the hill, go straight across the field in the direction indicated by the signpost.

Another stile will be seen a short distance ahead in the side of a second field.

This leads across the corner of a boggy field to take you out of the same field 30 metres further on. At this point a further stile (also adjacent to a hunting hatch) can be seen a short distance ahead at the edge of the wood.



Cross this stile into the wood. The path meanders sharply down through the wood to reach the small river - **Peover Eye**.



The river provides the northern boundary between Barnshaw and Peover. It is sometimes referred to locally as the river Eye. The name derives from the Old British river-name "pefr" meaning "radiant or bright". To this has been added the Anglo-Saxon "Ea", a river. It rises south of Gawsworth, passes through Siddington and Chelford, before flowing into the Weaver at Northwich as Wincham Brook.

For the **SHORTER OPTION**, cross the river and bear right along a path that meanders left up a steep hill. At the top of the hill a footpath sign leads out into a field with dwellings clearly visible across the far side of the field. Go right and bear left along the field boundary to reach a stile by a gate at the far right-hand corner of the field. Cross the stile and turn right along the road.

Cross the bridge over the river, turn left to cross two further small bridges and continue through the wood following the line of Peover Eye on your left. After about 600 metres the path, rugged in parts, bears right to cross another small bridge by the river and then meanders up hill for a short distance with views of Peover Eye to your left.

Follow the path through the woods to where it goes up to some large greenhouses. Waymarking signs clearly mark the route of the path around the bottom of the greenhouses.

Thereafter continue along the field edge for about 270 metres keeping the greenhouses on the right to walk out of the field by the opening on the right in front of the house, "One Long Lane".

Continue straight ahead along the wide drive, passing further greenhouses on the right.

After 250 metres turn right on to the bridleway "Long Lane".

Continue through the edge of a wooded area where the track becomes a wide path eventually passing through a gateway on to a tarmac road with a pair of semi-detached half-timbered houses on the left.

After 100 metres there is a stile on the right, but continue straight ahead along the road with **Peover Estate, Hall, Gardens, Church, Stables** and sawmill on the left.



The **SHORTER OPTION** rejoins the walk at this stile.

Peover Hall was the ancient home of the Mainwaring Family from 1066-1919. Ranolphus Mainwaring came to England with William the Conqueror and probably built the first manor, believed to have been constructed entirely of timber inside the moat [still partly visible]. The headstone over the entrance of the present Elizabethan house is dated 1585.

The Hall and Gardens are open April to October:-
On Mondays, 2 to 5, with Cream Teas available and guided tours of the Hall at 2.30 & 3.30.
On Thursdays, 2 to 5: Gardens & Stables only.
Closed on Bank Holidays.
Group tours at other times can be arranged with Mr Ian Sheppard - 01565 632358.

The Church holds much of the family's past, including the sculptured grave-slabs of Philip (1573) and Thomas Mainwaring (1586), both in Tudor dress and their feet resting on a donkey in stone, the donkey being the family crest. The American flag on display was presented as a mark of gratitude by General Patton, who was based at Peover in World War II.

The stables are Grade 1 listed building status, erected in 1656 with carved Jacobean woodwork and with ornamented plaster ceilings.

Pass the "Peover Church" sign on the left and bear right to continue along the driveway leading away from Peover Park. Continue for 650 metres to walk between white posts marking the entry to the driveway and through an open white gate. Bear slightly left on to the main road.

After about 50 metres locate a stile sunk back in the hedge on the right. Cross the stile and turn half left to cross a field in the direction of a Tudor-style farmhouse. Locate the crossing point in the middle of a wooden fence across the field. Continue, to exit the field by a stile to the left of the farmhouse and turn right on to **Grotto Lane**. Pass Grotto Farm, and then Grottowood House and Grotto House on the right.

The "Grotto" is probably the deep ravine in Grotto Wood, cut by a stream flowing down to the Peover Eye.

After passing **Chasely Farm** and a road on the left, continue for another 75 metres to reach a stile by a gate on the right.

The original Chasely Farm was destroyed during World War II by a bomb which killed the bachelor farmer and his two sisters.

Cross the stile. You will observe a farm half-left in the distance which is the farm you are heading for, but walk straight ahead keeping the field hedge on your right. After 150 metres a signpost will be seen in the hedge. As the hedge bears right continue to follow the line of the hedge until a

second signpost is reached 70 metres further on.

This directs you sharp left across the field towards a metal gate with a stile on the right by woodland.

After crossing the stile walk up a slight incline with a fence on the right and continue across the field hugging the hedge on the right to reach a stile. Cross this, and turn right on to the track to enter the farmyard of

Foxwood Farm.

Foxwood Farm bears a plaque in the gable-end above the front door which reads: "This house was built by Thomas and Ann Wright, 1762".

Go through the farmyard keeping left and turn left in front of the black sheds to go down a track on the left.

Bear right down the track to reach a stile by a gate at the bottom of the hill.

Having crossed the stile continue straight on through a field gate to cross Peover Eye once more.

Follow the waymarked sign and well flag-laid track up the hill.

At the top of the hill bear slightly right to cross a stile by a field gate, in an area which can be very muddy at times. Continue along the left-hand side of the field keeping the hedge on the left, to reach a stile on your left. Cross this stile and proceed half-right for 100 metres to exit the field via a stile at the left-hand side of a field gate.



Turn right along the road, **Red Lane**, which eventually passes **Crook Hall** with its three gables on the right.

Red Lane, on the authoritative recollection of the grandfather of a local farmer, was once covered in red brick shale.



Crook Hall is a grade II listed building of the 16th century, which both externally and internally retains many features of Tudor times. These include its flag and timber roof, thin bricks and panelled doors. The seven bay barn is also of the 16th century. It remains today a working farm.

The name "Crook" probably derives from the Old Danish word "crok", meaning a bend of river.

The Peover Eye, a short distance to the north of the hall, has many bends in its course at this point, hence the earlier name of "Crooks' Hall".

Shortly after the entrance to Crook Hall, bear right at the road junction to return to your starting point across the road.



LOOKING AFTER THE FOOTPATHS

The footpaths around Goostrey have become safer and easier to use in recent years thanks to work by the **Countryside Management Service of the Cheshire County Council**.

The work of the Management Service has been backed up by many hundreds of hours voluntary work by members of the **Goostrey Footpaths Group** and their friends.

The Boardwalk near Swanwick Hall Farm (Walk 8, page 38) is an outstanding



example of the Group's work – indeed it was their Millennium Project, as the plaque there records. For this project, Cheshire County Council, Manchester Airport Community Trust, and Shell International kindly financed the materials, but all the work was carried out by volunteers.

Other examples of the Group's work will be found in the Bongs and on other paths around Goostrey.



The Group take this opportunity to thank the farmers and other landowners who not only gave their permission to carry out these improvements, but also offered facilities which made it much easier to do the work.



For a unique record of life in Goostrey in times past, together with over 250 photographs spanning the last 100 years, ask at Kettles Shop or at booksellers for:-

"Goostrey Remembered" by Jean Smallwood. The Silk Press, £9.95

EXPERIENCE MAGIC IN OUR ARBORETUM

The 35 acre **Granada Arboretum** at **Jodrell Bank** is a facility linked to the **Planetarium and Science Centre** that exists for visitors beside the **University of Manchester's** world famous **Lovell Radio Telescope** and **Jodrell Bank Observatory**.

Visitors can walk along trails through the natural habitats of the Arboretum to discover the beauty of its extensive tree and shrub collection and the natural wildlife of its ponds and woodland glades. It is appropriate that as the Lovell Telescope focuses on the Universe, visitors to the Arboretum can focus on the natural wonders of our planet Earth.

Jodrell Bank Arboretum

For further details tel. 01477 571339
Near Macclesfield, Cheshire (off A535, M6 Junction 18)
OPEN SUMMER:- From third weekend in March to last weekend October everyday 10.30am to 5.30pm
OPEN WINTER:- November to March Tuesdays to Sundays 11am to 4.30pm



Swettenham Loop Walking Trail (please see accompanying numbered map)

Although there are several places the walker might wish to start this loop starts from the car park that lies in Swettenham village between The Swettenham Arms public house and the Church.

From the car park **(1)** with the Public house facing you look over to the right where the exit to the Car park starts to find a Public footpath sign **(2)**. Take this route along the edge of a field that has been planted with lavender. After a short distance the path reaches a stile onto a lane which you cross bearing slightly to the right and then descending down into the valley. **(3)** Follow the path up to the other side and on reaching another lane turn right. **(4)**

Walk along the lane until you reach another Public footpath sign on your right **(5)**. Having climbed the stile and entered Swettenham Meadows nature reserve descend ten metres until the path splits. Taking the left hand path down four steps, cross a boardwalk and bridge to a field gate. The reserve consists of a number of small fields with wet flushes. It is a good place to see primrose in the spring and hear chiffchaff and cuckoo calling. During the summer ragged robin and marsh thistle can be seen along with several species of butterfly such as painted lady. As autumn arrives scabious can be found and young buzzards heard overhead. The reserve is grazed by Cheshire Wildlife Trust Dexter cattle who keep the grass short enough for plants to flourish. The cattle are very use to people and although inquisitive, will leave you alone.

Passing through the gate **(6)** walk straight ahead over another boardwalk descending slowly all the time. At the bottom of the field is another boardwalk over very marshy ground. Follow this and then ascend the slope to the left towards a gap in the hedge **(7)**. Continue through the gap straight ahead to another stretch of boardwalk. Having crossed this follow the path straight ahead until you reach a pedestrian gate adjacent to a field gate **(8)**. On the other side of the gate bear right up a bank keeping near to the fence line until you reach a post with an arrow **(9)** on at which you turn left and head towards another field and pedestrian gate **(10)**.

You are now back on the lane you left before entering the reserve. Turn left and walk down the lane until you reach the Public footpath sign again. **(5)** Climb the stile and walk down the slope using the wooden steps installed to give easier passage over this very wet meadow. A bridge at the bottom takes you over the Swettenham Brook and up to the road. **(11)** Once there turn right and follow the road back to the car park.

Once again, facing the Public house, walk to the left hand side of the building and into the beer garden. From here you can enter The Quinta Arboretum **(12)** which was initially planted by Sir Bernard Lovell and which is now run by the Tatton Garden Society. The Society has an honesty box at the entrance for donations to help maintain this fascinating area.

Having entered the site, take the path that bears diagonally right. This very quickly brings you to an avenue of native trees **(13)** planted in the late 1990's. Walk long the avenue to a set of double gates **(14)** which mark the start of The Quinta nature Reserve.

On entering, you have several choices of route. You will soon arrive at a crossroads **(15)** at which we suggest you turn right. Follow the path and arrive at a pedestrian gate. Once through turn right and go through another gate into a field. Like Swettenham Meadows Dexter cattle graze this site during the summer and early autumn.



This field has cuckoo flower growing in it as well as lesser celandine. The path takes you down to the Swettenham Brook and having crossed a stile to your left you walk along the brook until the path starts to climb into the ancient woodland. Look out for the bluebells and ramsons (wild garlic) during spring. The path turns to steps and you ascend to the top, bear left and reach another gate. The plantation in front of you was planted by Sir Bernard Lovell in the early 1990's as an extension to the broadleaved woodland you have just walked through. Turn right and follow the path around to another pedestrian gate. This takes you along the top of another meadow **(16)** and enables you to see over to the River Dane. There are benches along the way if you fancy stopping to admire the view. Eventually you will arrive at another gate **(17)** after which you bear left and follow a mown path back to the avenue.

At this point you can either turn right to retrace your steps or take advantage of a stroll around the Arboretum until eventually emerging back in the car park.

If you have any questions or queries regarding this nature reserve, please call Cheshire Wildlife Trust on 01948 820728 (Mon-Fri) to speak to the reserve manager or e-mail:
info@cheshirewt.org.uk

