

Planning your journey

When you go by bus, train and tram you won't need to worry about driving unfamiliar routes, finding somewhere to park or keeping the kids entertained along the way. You'll be happy as well because you're free to relax and enjoy the views instead of the car in front.

The walk starts at Chorlton Bus Station on Barlow Moor Road, near the centre of Chorlton. If you are starting your journey in Bolton, Manchester, Salford, Stockport or Trafford then you may be able to either catch a bus direct to Chorlton Bus Station or make a local connection to a direct route to Chorlton Bus Station. You are recommended to phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33* to check about direct services and convenient connections.

If you live near a Metrolink route you can get a tram to Stretford Metrolink stop and catch bus 22, 23 or 23A to Chorlton Bus Station from there.

If you are starting your trip from other Greater Manchester districts then it is probably most convenient to make a connection in Manchester city centre. Buses 85 and 86 run frequently every day (varies every 5 and 15 minutes depending on time of day) between Manchester Piccadilly and Chorlton Bus Station.

Services to and from Chorlton Bus Station

22 Stockport – Burnage – Eccles – Swinton – Bolton; 23 and 23A Trafford Centre – Davyhulme – Urmston (23 only) – Stretford – Didsbury – Stockport; 46 and 47 Hulme – Whalley Range – West Didsbury – Withington – Fallowfield – Rusholme – Manchester; 84 Manchester Trafford Bar – West Didsbury; 85 Manchester via Alexandra Park; 86 Manchester via Brooks' Bar; 168 Ashton – Droylsden – Gorton – Longsight – Levenshulme.

Most public transport services run until around 11pm Mondays to Saturdays. Last services may run a little earlier on Sundays and public holidays.

We've made general recommendations for your journey, based on starting points in different Districts of Greater Manchester below but for details of exact times and routes please phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33*

Starting and finishing from (area or district)	The information shown is for your guidance. Please phone Traveline 0871 200 22 33* for details of exact routes and times.
Bury	Check if there is a convenient bus or tram service direct to Manchester city centre (or make a connection at Bury Interchange). Then catch a bus from Piccadilly to Chorlton Bus Station. Alternatively catch a tram to Stretford Metrolink stop then catch bus 22, 23 or 23A to Chorlton Bus station from there.
Bolton	If you live near the bus 22 route catch the bus direct to Chorlton Bus Station from the nearest convenient stop. If not catch bus or train direct to Manchester city centre (or make a connection in Bolton). Then catch a bus from Manchester Piccadilly to Chorlton Bus Station.
Manchester	Catch a bus from Manchester Piccadilly to Chorlton Bus Station. Alternatively either catch a tram to Stretford Metrolink stop then catch bus 22, 23 or 23A to Chorlton Bus Station from there.
Oldham Rochdale Wigan	Check if there is a convenient bus or train service direct to Manchester city centre. Alternatively make a connection in your nearest town centre to Manchester city centre. Then catch a bus from Manchester Piccadilly to Chorlton Bus Station.
Salford	If you live near the bus 22 route catch the bus direct to Chorlton Bus Station from the nearest convenient stop. If not catch bus, train or tram direct to Manchester city centre. Then catch a bus from Manchester Piccadilly to Chorlton Bus Station. Alternatively catch a tram to Stretford Metrolink stop then catch bus 22, 23 or 23A to Chorlton Bus station from there.
Stockport	If you live near the bus 22, 23 or 23A route catch the bus direct to Chorlton Bus Station from the nearest convenient stop. Otherwise make a local connection to a direct route to Chorlton Bus Station. If not catch bus or train direct to your nearest town centre and make a connection there.
Tameside	If you live near the bus 168 route catch the bus direct to Chorlton Bus Station from the nearest convenient stop. Alternatively make a connection in your nearest town centre to Manchester city centre. Then catch a bus from Manchester Piccadilly to Chorlton Bus Station. Alternatively catch a bus to Stockport and then catch bus 22, 23 or 23A.
Trafford	Check if there is a convenient bus service direct to Chorlton Bus Station. If not catch bus or tram direct to your nearest town centre and make a connection to a direct route to Chorlton Bus Station. Alternatively catch a tram to Stretford Metrolink stop then catch bus 22, 23 or 23A to Chorlton Bus station from there.

* Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff.

Getting more information

By phone (ideal when you're out and about!)

Buses, trains and trams: Phone Traveline on 0871 200 22 33* (7am – 8pm Mon to Fri, 8am – 8pm Sat & Sun and public holidays) for information about bus, train and tram times and the tickets that will suit you best.

Trains: For up-to-the-minute information about the next train from any Greater Manchester rail station, simply phone 'How's my train running?' on 0161 228 0322 and follow the instructions given. Our automated service will tell you what time the next train is and if there are any delays.

Buses: You can check bus times from most bus stops using your mobile phone.

- **Key in** the bus stop code on your mobile phone – the code is shown on the bus stop plate.
- **Text** the code to number **84268**.
- **Read** the text reply giving you timetable information for buses using your stop. (Service costs 25p plus the standard charge from your mobile phone service provider.)

Online

Full information about public transport services and a journey planner is available online at www.gmppte.com

For more information about what to see and do in Trafford go to www.visittrafford.info

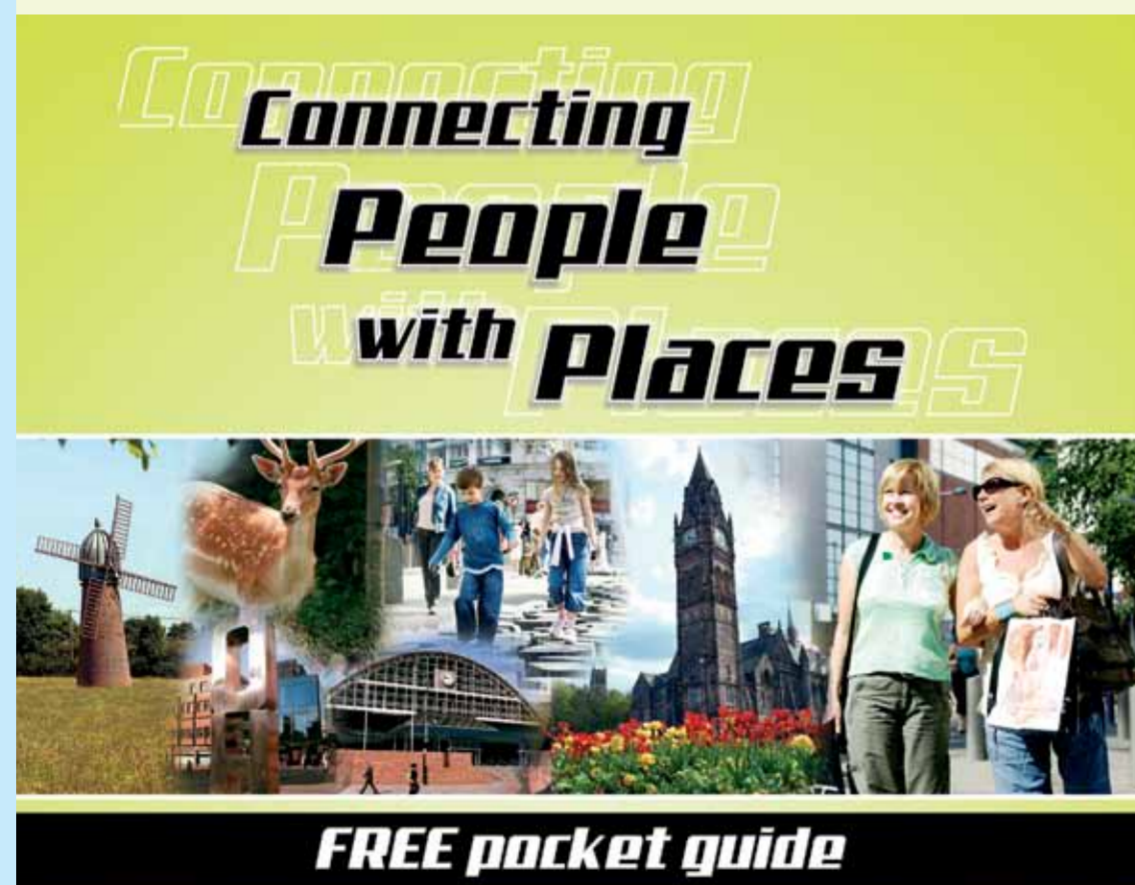
In print

GMPTe produce a range of timetables and information about public transport which you can pick up at any GMPTe Travelshop.

By post

Ask for leaflets to be posted to you by phoning 0871 200 22 33* saying which leaflet or timetable you require.

* Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff.



Greater Manchester has lots to offer when it comes to connecting people with places. Whether it's shopping, sight-seeing, visiting friends or just getting to and from work; you can do it using buses, trains and Metrolink trams.

Our pocket guide is crammed with useful tips and info such as:

- Planning your journeys
- Choosing the best tickets
- Free travel in the city centre
- Useful maps
- Information on the move

Order your copy today.

Phone: 0871 200 22 33

(Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff. Lines are open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.)

or visit: www.gmppte.com



Choosing and buying tickets

You'll enjoy great value when you travel by public transport. Travel costs less 'off-peak' – after 9.30am on weekdays, or anytime at the weekends or on public holidays and so we recommend that you make the most of the bargain priced 'off-peak' tickets shown below.

Single tickets are available for every public transport journey and some companies also offer returns and their own 'day' tickets that are valid on their services only. If your trip involves changes or multiple journeys, there's an excellent choice of 'off-peak' tickets which allow you to travel throughout Greater Manchester, making as many journeys as you want. They last the whole day so you don't have to keep paying fares each time you travel – and these tickets can be used on nearly all companies' services.

Whichever ticket you choose for yourself, accompanied children under five travel free. A special fixed low fare called the 'concessionary fare' is available for under 16's and on trains and trams they pay approximately half fare. Child fares are also available for all the tickets featured except DaySaver.

National Concessionary Travel Passes are issued throughout England and allow free off peak travel on bus services. GMPTe passes issued to residents of Manchester also allow free travel on trams and local trains in Greater Manchester at off-peak times and for reduced concessionary fares at other times.

An Under-16 Card is needed to travel on Metrolink if you are aged 13 to 15. These are available free and you can get an application form from GMPTe Travelshops or visit www.gmppte.com

For bus, train and tram

OFF-PEAK

DaySaver tickets are available for various combinations of bus, train and tram travel. Simply buy your ticket from the bus driver, rail station booking office (or the train conductor if closed) or Metrolink ticket machine before your first trip of the day.

- **DaySaver Bus only** £4.30 (also available before 9.30am for £4.60)
- **DaySaver Bus and Train** £5.30
- **DaySaver Bus and Tram** £5.80
- **DaySaver Train and Tram** £6.30
- **DaySaver Bus, Train and Tram** £7.00

For train only

OFF-PEAK

Rail Ranger gives you unlimited 'off-peak' travel on all trains in Greater Manchester for a whole day. Buy Rail Ranger from the booking office or the train conductor if the booking office is closed.

- **Rail Ranger Adult** £4.00, Child £2.00

For tram only

OFF-PEAK

MetroMax gives you unlimited 'off-peak' travel on all Metrolink tram routes for a whole day. You can buy MetroMax from Metrolink ticket machines at all tram stops.

- **MetroMax** (off-peak price depends on boarding stop) Adult £2.90 – £4.00, Child £1.10 – £1.70 Also available before 9.30am - Adult £5.60, Child £2.60
- **MetroMax Four-Adults** £10.00
- **MetroMax Family** £6.20 any day Monday to Friday, £5.00 Saturday or Sunday (up to three children, accompanied by one or two adults)
- **MetroMax Weekend** Adult £5.00, Child £2.50, Family £7.00

To travel further by bus, train and tram

OFF-PEAK

Wayfarer tickets are ideal if you're travelling further afield for the day. You can use them for travel throughout Greater Manchester and also parts of Derbyshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and Staffordshire. With a Wayfarer ticket you can travel by bus at any time and by train and tram after 9.30am Monday to Friday and all day at weekends and public holidays.

- **Wayfarer Adult** £10.00
- **Wayfarer Group** £20.00 (up to four people, including two adults)
- **Wayfarer Concession** £5.00 (aged 5-15 or 60 and over)

Available in advance from GMPTe Travelshops, staffed rail stations and tourist information centres in the Peak District. You cannot buy them on the bus, on the train or at Metrolink tram stops.

Season ticket holders

Don't forget if you have a Traincard, Countycard or County Bus Saver you can use it to travel throughout Greater Manchester. And if you have a Greater Manchester rail season ticket (for journeys between two Greater Manchester rail stations) you can travel by train anywhere in Greater Manchester at weekends and public holidays.

For more information about day tickets visit www.gmppte.com/daytickets or phone 0871 200 22 33 for a leaflet. (Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff).

All prices shown correct September 2009.

Places to GO... Chorlton Ees and Sale Water Park

Walk route and public transport information



Archive copy only

Please note that some of this information is now out of date.

This may include the walking route, contact numbers and public transport information.



This is one of a range of GMPTe 'Places to Go' guides, giving you ideas for walks, attractions, places to visit and things to see in Greater Manchester and surrounding areas. The guides are completely FREE and each one gives you carefully researched, helpful information about the places featured, recommended routes for superb walks and details of how to get there and back by public transport.



If you would like other 'Places to Go' guides:

- Call at a GMPTe Travelshop (at bus stations in Greater Manchester).
- Visit www.gmppte.com where you can order online.
- Phone 0871 200 22 33 and leave your details.

(Calls cost 10p a minute from landlines, mobile and landline networks may charge an additional tariff. Lines are open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays)

If you have any comments about this leaflet or suggestions for new guides please email publicity@gmppte.gov.uk or write to Marketing Communications, GMPTe, PO Box 429, Manchester M60 1HX

Disclaimer: The information provided in this guide has been carefully checked but GMPTe cannot accept responsibility for inaccuracies or errors.



PO Box 429
Manchester
M60 1HX
Tel 0161 244 1000
Fax 0161 244 1011

public transport information

0871 200 22 33
10p a minute from landlines
traveline.info
7am - 8pm Mon to Fri • 8am - 8pm Sat, Sun & Public Hols

©GMPTe 2009 3148/15-20k-0909

Welcome to GMPTe's 'Places to Go' guide to

Chorlton Ees and Sale Water Park

Wonderful wildlife, water, flowers and fascinating walks – in a surprising suburban setting

Explore some of Manchester's finest local nature reserves – a haven for wild birds, and a fantastic range flora and fauna. It's easy to enjoy it all, travelling by public transport!

Sale Water Park is part of a chain of nature reserves that run alongside the River Mersey as it winds its way between Chorlton-cum-Hardy and Sale. The park was created from gravel pits that were dug to help make the motorway. On the other side of the river, Chorlton Ees was once the location of a sewage works and landfill, so the area is a perfect example of environmental regeneration. (In case you were wondering, 'Ees' is an ancient name for a water meadow) Their origins are hard to believe nowadays, as both the Ees and the Sale Water Park are home to vast numbers of wild birds, with marshes, rivers, streams, wildflower meadows and woods providing a variety of habitats for native and migrating birds.



Our two suggested walks introduce you to these wonderful natural reserves. There's a huge amount for you to enjoy, especially when you take the time to stop, look and listen.

For more information about the nature reserves phone the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre 0161 905 1100 or visit www.merseyvalley.org.uk

Make it an even better day out

Start your walk by stepping onto a bus, train or tram.

You don't need a car to get out there and enjoy yourself! Simply step onto a bus, train or tram and you're on your way to a great day out, by yourself or with friends or family. The adventure begins from the moment you step out of the door.

Greater Manchester has an excellent public transport system that'll take you where you want to go quickly and easily. It's a fun way to get out and about, no-one has to drive so you can all enjoy the journey – and you don't have to worry about traffic jams, getting directions or parking problems. Better still, at the end of the walk everyone is free to relax in the pub!

See inside for a handy guide to:

- Planning your journey
- Getting more information
- Choosing and buying tickets

7 Main walk continued

Cross the bridge and go immediately right (passing the sign for Stretford Ees) with a weir in the River Mersey to your right. Follow the path passing a dry weir on the left (look out for its engraved stone plaque) going past grazing cattle in the fields and football pitches ahead of you. After a couple of hundred yards you will see another small bridge that crosses over a water channel – Chorlton Brook. Go over this bridge (passing the sign for Chorlton Ees Nature Reserve) and bear right along the riverbank, keeping the Mersey to your right.



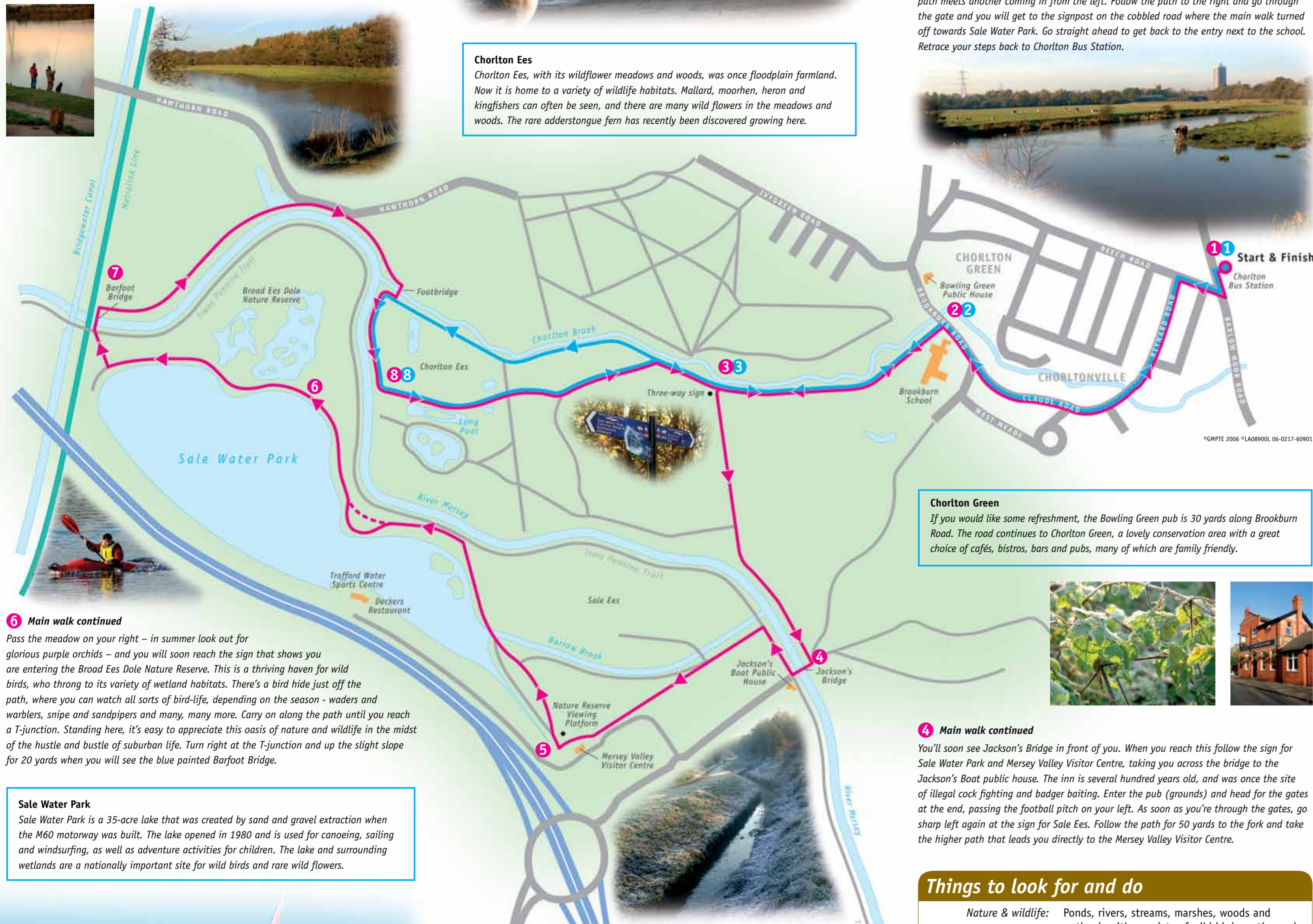
Chorlton Ees

Chorlton Ees, with its wildflower meadows and woods, was once floodplain farmland. Now it is home to a variety of wildlife habitats. Mallard, moorhen, heron and kingfishers can often be seen, and there are many wild flowers in the meadows and woods. The rare adderstongue fern has recently been discovered growing here.



8 Both walks continued

Look along the river, and when you get to a weir (a small 'rapids' in the river), you will see two handrailed sets of steps leading down from the riverbank to the left. Take the first set of these and follow the path into the woods, which are wirefenced on your left and open on the right. Look out for Long Pool, which has great opportunities for more birdspotting from the benches and observation points alongside. Walk straight ahead at the crossing of paths and follow the track as it winds through the woods, until you reach a bench. Here your path meets another coming in from the left. Follow the path to the right and go through the gate and you will get to the signpost on the cobbled road where the main walk turned off towards Sale Water Park. Go straight ahead to get back to the entry next to the school. Retrace your steps back to Chorlton Bus Station.



Chorlton Green

If you would like some refreshment, the Bowling Green pub is 30 yards along Brookburn Road. The road continues to Chorlton Green, a lovely conservation area with a great choice of cafés, bistros, bars and pubs, many of which are family friendly.



6 Main walk continued

Pass the meadow on your right – in summer look out for glorious purple orchids – and you will soon reach the sign that shows you are entering the Broad Ees Dole Nature Reserve. This is a thriving haven for wild birds, who throng to its variety of wetland habitats. There's a bird hide just off the path, where you can watch all sorts of bird-life, depending on the season - waders and warblers, snipe and sandpipers and many, many more. Carry on along the path until you reach a T-junction. Standing here, it's easy to appreciate this oasis of nature and wildlife in the midst of the hustle and bustle of suburban life. Turn right at the T-junction and up the slight slope for 20 yards when you will see the blue painted Barfoot Bridge.

Sale Water Park

Sale Water Park is a 35-acre lake that was created by sand and gravel extraction when the M60 motorway was built. The lake opened in 1980 and is used for canoeing, sailing and windsurfing, as well as adventure activities for children. The lake and surrounding wetlands are a nationally important site for wild birds and rare wild flowers.



5 Main walk continued

Coming out and round to the side of the centre (towards the café) go down the ramp or steps and continue straight ahead. Pass the nature reserve viewing platform to your right and continue another 100 yards to Sale Water Park. Here there are acres of open water shared by vast numbers of birds and water sport enthusiasts using the facilities of the Trafford Water Sports Centre. Keep to the right of the lake, which means you're going along the opposite bank to the sports centre and Deckers restaurant. Pass through the small gap in the fencing on your left to walk directly alongside the lake (if you prefer, you can stay on the main path, but your view is best from the lakeside). You'll pass two excellently equipped adventure playgrounds set on islets in the lake and just before you reach the electricity pylon you should go to your right to rejoin the main path. Keep to the lower path, which bears left and takes you around the water park – don't follow the steps up to the Trans Pennine Trail along the Mersey.

4 Main walk continued

You'll soon see Jackson's Bridge in front of you. When you reach this follow the sign for Sale Water Park and Mersey Valley Visitor Centre, taking you across the bridge to the Jackson's Boat public house. The inn is several hundred years old, and was once the site of illegal cock fighting and badger baiting. Enter the pub (grounds) and head for the gates at the end, passing the football pitch on your left. As soon as you're through the gates, go sharp left again at the sign for Sale Ees. Follow the path for 50 yards to the fork and take the higher path that leads you directly to the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre.

Things to look for and do

- Nature & wildlife:** Ponds, rivers, streams, marshes, woods and wetlands with a variety of wild birds, native and migratory. Wild flowers and orchids, butterflies and water insects, water and woodland fauna.
- History:** Jackson's Boat pub, dating from 1700 – 1800. Remains of various water management systems dating from Victorian times.
- General interest:** Mersey Valley Visitor Centre, Trafford Water Sports Centre.
- Food and drink:** Café near the visitor centre, Bowling Green pub at nature reserve entrance and Jackson's Boat pub at the River Mersey. Plus a wide range of cafés, restaurants and takeaways near the starting point.
- Toilets:** At the Mersey Valley Visitor Centre.

Chorlton Ees and Sale Water Park

An easy walk along paths, riverbanks and trails with a wealth of wildlife and wildflowers to spot amidst the lovely woods and waterways.

Main Walk

- Start and finish:** Chorlton Bus Station, Barlow Moor Road.
- Distance:** Approximately 4½ miles.
- Time:** 2¼ hours, but allow some extra time for nature watching!
- Terrain:** Easy walking along roadways, cobbled paths and footpaths – some parts may be muddy.
- Family friendly:** Perfect for families, but keep children and dogs well supervised near water.
- Accessibility:** Not suitable for wheelchairs.
- Recommended footwear:** Sturdy footwear or walking boots.

Short Walk (Chorlton Ees only)

- Start and finish:** Chorlton Bus Station, Barlow Moor Road.
- Distance:** 2½ miles.
- Time:** 1½ hours.
- Terrain:** Easy walking along roadways, cobbled paths and footpaths – some parts may be muddy.
- Family friendly:** Perfect for families, but keep children and dogs well supervised near water.
- Accessibility:** Suitable for wheelchairs.
- Recommended footwear:** Sturdy footwear or walking boots.

1 Both walks

At Chorlton Bus Station, look for the adjoining police station and walk past it, taking your first right into Beech Road. Continue for 50 yards then turn left into Reynard Road, which leads towards Chorltonville. Follow the road round through Chorltonville, a pleasant leafy suburb with the distinction of conservation area status, until the road becomes Claude Road. On your left you will come to Brookburn School. The distance of this first part of the walk is just over half a mile.

2 2

Take the cobbled roadway, which turns to the left immediately after the school and runs up its side, just before the entry sign for Chorlton Ees. You'll soon pass a meadow on your left, with a lovely row of trees to your right. Follow the cobbled roadway until you reach a three-way sign.

3 Main walk

Take the left turn to Sale Water Park, which is one mile away on the Trans Pennine Trail. Pass through the gates and follow the path for 200 yards until you reach the River Mersey. Continue walking along the riverbank towards Jackson's Bridge. (Keep the river to your right.)

3 Short walk

Instead of turning off to Sale Water Park, continue straight ahead on the main path. This runs parallel to Chorlton Brook, which is on your right hand side. It's an easy path through woods and will bring you out onto the banks of the River Mersey. Stroll along and pick up the main walk route again at the footbridge over Chorlton Brook. Turn left and keep the river on your right handside, pick up the main walk route at **8**.



Mersey Valley Visitor Centre

The Mersey Valley Visitor Centre overlooks marshland that is officially recognised as a Site of Biological Importance. It is staffed all year round by helpful, knowledgeable Information Wardens who can tell you about all the natural life there is to be seen in the area. There are fascinating, seasonal displays suitable for all ages and a 'What's about' board showing the birds, animals, plants and insects you may be able to spot around the time of your visit. The centre also provides an excellent range of leaflets and runs a detailed events programme in and around the Mersey Valley. If you are feeling hungry there is a café nearby.

The Mersey Valley Visitor Centre is open 11am – 5pm Tuesday – Saturday, 1.30 – 5pm Sunday during the summer and 11am – 4pm Tuesday – Friday, 1 – 4pm Saturday and Sunday during the winter. The centre is closed on Mondays. For more information phone 0161 905 1100 or visit www.merseyvalley.org.uk. The café is open 10.30am – 3.30pm during the summer.

For more information phone 0161 969 6775.

