

The Lower Goyt Valley

Stockport's hidden countryside

A choice of two scenic walks with easy access to starting and finishing points by public transport.

Discover ancient woodland, beautiful bridges, peaceful waterside strolls and industrial heritage in Stockport's hidden countryside. Gather a fascinating insight into local history with man-made and natural attractions to enjoy and admire – including an awesome aqueduct, beautiful millponds and traces of a medieval forest.

Shorter walk

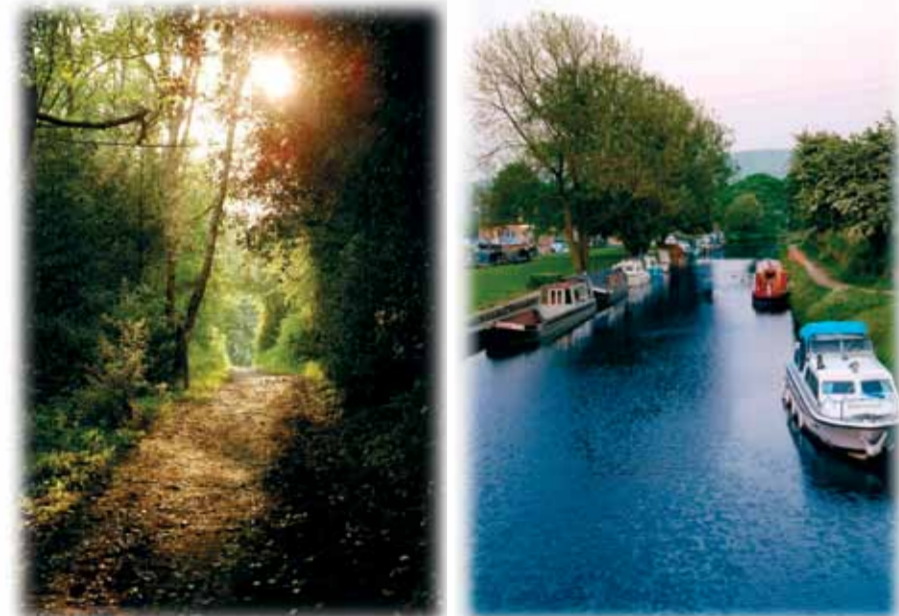
A short walk through peaceful countryside with a rich industrial heritage

- Start:** Strines Post Office (served by buses) or Strines rail station.
- Finish:** Marple rail station (served by trains and buses). 3 miles.
- Time:** 1½ – 2 hours.
- Terrain:** Gentle climbs and descents, easy walking with some rough lanes and woodland paths.
- Family friendly:** Yes, but keep children and dogs well supervised near water.
- Accessibility:** Not suitable for wheelchairs.
- Recommended footwear:** Sturdy walking shoes.

Longer walk

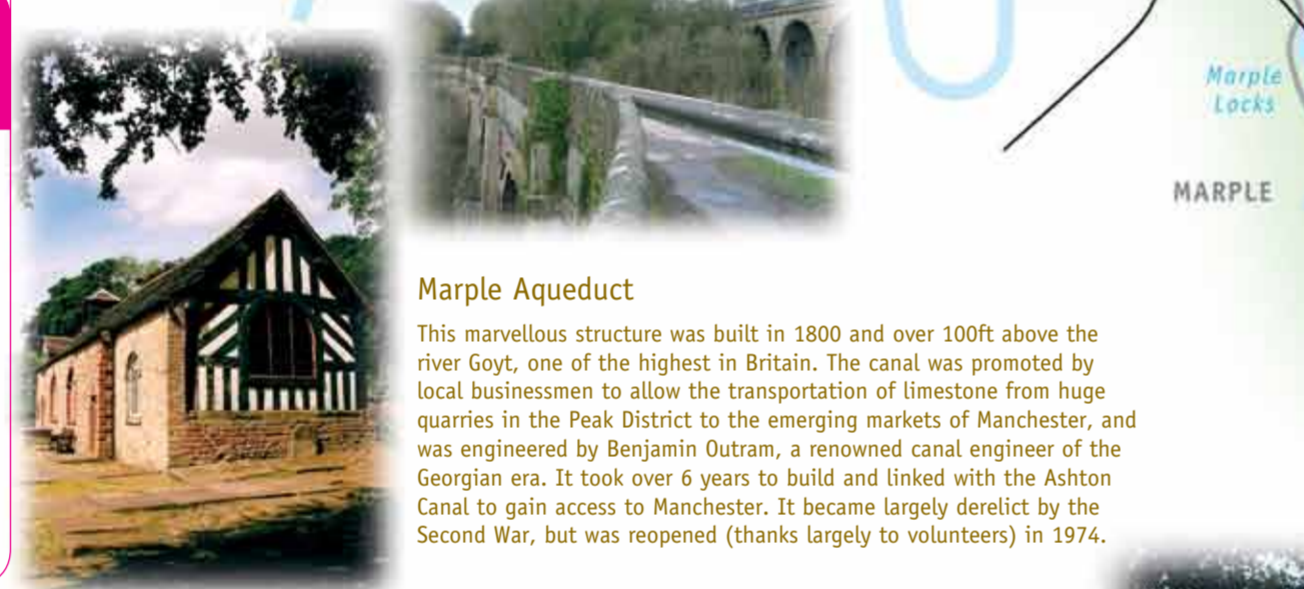
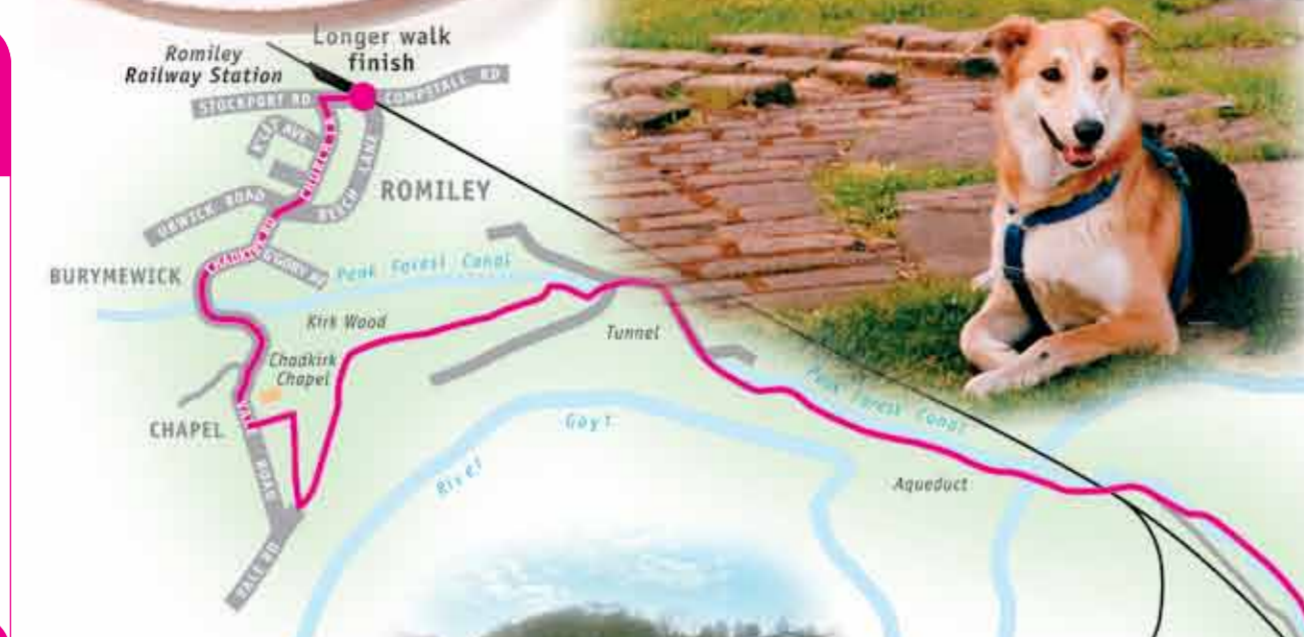
A fascinating walk taking in canals, a marvellous aqueduct and ancient woodlands

- Start:** Strines Post Office (served by buses) or Strines rail station.
- Finish:** Romiley rail station (served by trains and buses). 5½ miles.
- Time:** Allow 2½ – 3 hours.
- Terrain:** Gentle climbs and descents, easy walking with some rough lanes, towpaths and woodland paths. May get muddy.
- Family friendly:** Reasonably, not for toddlers. Keep an eye on children and dogs near the water.
- Accessibility:** Not suitable for wheelchairs.
- Recommended footwear:** Sturdy walking shoes.



Things to look for and do

- Nature & Wildlife:** Fisheries and millponds with waterside birds and flowers, ancient trees and woodland wildlife and wildflowers on the longer walk.
- History:** Strines Old Hall, a packhorse bridge, and on the longer walk a historic 100ft high aqueduct and a chapel site first consecrated in 670.
- General Interest:** The longer walk takes in remains of medieval forests, a heritage trail and estate farm.
- Food and Drink:** Pubs and cafes at start and finish (both walks).
- Toilets:** At start and finish (both walks).



Marple Aqueduct

This marvellous structure was built in 1800 and over 100ft above the river Goyt, one of the highest in Britain. The canal was promoted by local businessmen to allow the transportation of limestone from huge quarries in the Peak District to the emerging markets of Manchester, and was engineered by Benjamin Outram, a renowned canal engineer of the Georgian era. It took over 6 years to build and linked with the Ashton Canal to gain access to Manchester. It became largely derelict by the Second War, but was reopened (thanks largely to volunteers) in 1974.

Start of both walks – Down by the Millponds

1 From the bus stop near **Strines Post Office** turn left down **Station Road**. Cross the river Goyt and walk past the mill lodge (pond) to reach the imposing **Strines Old Hall**; here turn left along the rough lane waymarked as the **Goyt Way**. If you arrived by train follow **Station Road** downhill from the station and turn right. This rises to cross a railway bridge before reaching the farmyard entrance at **Greenclough Farm**. Stay outside the yard, bending right to cross a stone bridge and then immediately turn left at the Goyt Way fingerpost. At the fork in 50 yards take the higher path, eventually leaving the woods to parallel the railway embankment on your left.

2 Where the bridleway forks, keep left down a roughly gravelled track that leads past **Windybottom (Richmond) Farm** before going under the railway. Stick with this old lane as it traces a route alongside the river Goyt. On reaching a cottage on your right, take a few minutes to appreciate the graceful **“Roman Bridge”** spanning the river Goyt just off to your left (footpath sign for Strines Road). Needless to say, it has nothing to do with these ancient invaders per se. It's given the name because the method of construction was developed by the Romans; it originated as a pack-horse bridge, one of many on the web of such trails that connected the Stockport area to the Peak District and beyond over 300 years ago.

Return to the rough lane (ignoring the path) to the right and follow this past the hexagonal old lodge house and beneath the railway viaduct. The weir here diverted water through to a long-vanished mill complex at **Roman Lakes**. A large lake, once the mill water supply and now a leisure park with fishery, canoeing and cafe make this a lovely place to stop for a while.

Remain on the rough road to reach a junction about 200 yards past the lake. The imposing house to the right is **Bottoms Hall**. At this junction keep left, walking through to a major junction of rough lanes just past a millpond. Turn right here along **Bottoms Mill Road**, with a lovely wooded bird sanctuary to your left. This climbs gradually up over a ridge before dropping past cottages and houses to reach the main street in **Marple Bridge**. Keep ahead, past the Royal Scott Pub to traffic lights in front of The Norfolk Arms pub. Turn left and cross the river bridge.

Longer walk to finish

3

The longer walk takes you onwards for a further two and a half miles to Romiley rail station.

Walk uphill past **Marple station** to where the canal passes under the road. At the canal, take the path on the right (for Compstall), joining the beautifully landscaped towpath of the **Lower Peak Forest Canal**. Walk down past the locks, cross bridge 16 - you'll see a plaque with the number on the bridge - and walk beneath the viaduct to cross the sublime **Marple Aqueduct**. Take a moment to read the information board with its history of this stunning feat of canal engineering.

Walk on to the tunnel entrance, here taking the track over Hyde Bank. Pass the entrance to **Hyde Bank Farm** and then fork left at **Valley Way** (& Midshires Way) waymarker, passing under a stone bridge to regain the towpath. In 165 yards, just before the mill on the far bank, turn left along the waymarked path. This winds through **Kirk Wood**, recognised as amongst the oldest woodland in Greater Manchester, a vestige of the great medieval forests that once clothed the landscape and excellent for wildflowers. Descend a flight of wooden steps; at a clearing keep right to more steps down into **Chadkirk Vale**.

Turn right at the sign post to the scenic **Chadkirk Chapel and gardens**, a largely 18th century building on a site first consecrated in 670AD (open weekend afternoons). There's a local heritage trail here, and the estate farm regularly welcomes visitors (ask at the farm). To continue your walk, keeping the chapel on your right, follow the path through to a gate and go right at the lane (signposted 'Farm'). This goes past the Chadkirk centre and rises to and beneath an aquaduct, passing St. Chads Well on your left. Keep left at the junction with **Gregory Avenue**; at the next junction keep ahead with the one-way system along **Church Lane** to walk through to **Romiley High Street** to the rail station.

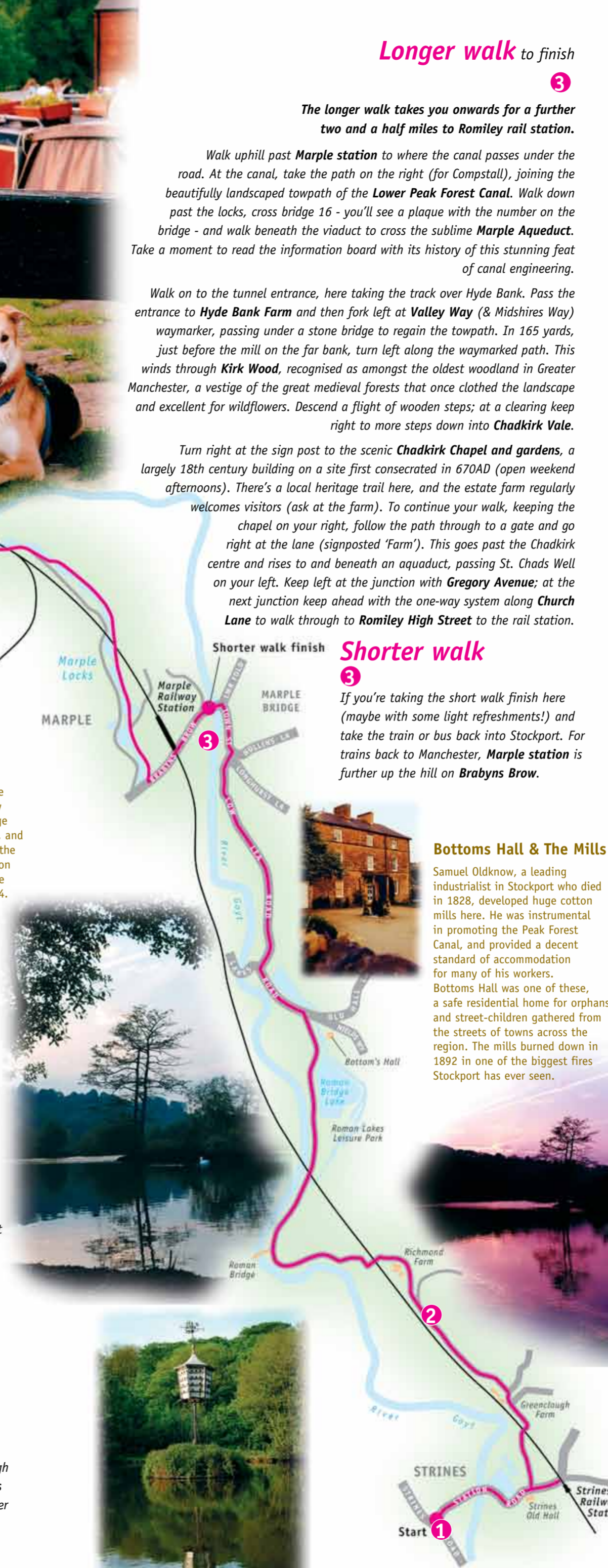
Shorter walk finish

Shorter walk

3 If you're taking the short walk finish here (maybe with some light refreshments!) and take the train or bus back into Stockport. For trains back to Manchester, **Marple station** is further up the hill on **Brabyns Brow**.

Bottoms Hall & The Mills

Samuel Oldknow, a leading industrialist in Stockport who died in 1828, developed huge cotton mills here. He was instrumental in promoting the Peak Forest Canal, and provided a decent standard of accommodation for many of his workers. Bottoms Hall was one of these, a safe residential home for orphans and street-children gathered from the streets of towns across the region. The mills burned down in 1892 in one of the biggest fires Stockport has ever seen.



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 will all be free to relax and enjoy the views on your route.

Both walks start in Strines near Station Road, which can be reached by catching a train from Manchester or bus 67 or 358 from Stockport bus station. The closest bus stop in Strines is near the Post Office and buses run at least hourly every day from Stockport bus station. Stockport bus station is at the western end of the Merseyway shopping centre near the railway viaduct. It is served by direct buses from many places in Greater Manchester, and is a five minute walk from Stockport rail station. Trains run direct to Strines from Manchester Piccadilly station but note the service is every two hours so check times before travelling.

For the return journey there are frequent buses and trains. From the end of the short walk buses, 383 or 384 run frequently towards Stockport. Trains run direct from Marple station to Manchester Piccadilly.

At the end of the long walk buses 380, 381, 383 and 389 return from Romiley to Stockport. Trains run direct from Romiley station to Manchester Piccadilly.



Most public transport services run until around 11pm Mondays to Saturdays. On Sundays and public holidays services run less frequently and last services may finish a little earlier.

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. |
|---|--|
| Stockport Tameside | If you live in an area near Strines check if there is a convenient bus or train service direct to the start point or convenient connections. If not catch a bus or train to Stockport then catch bus 67 or 358 from Stockport Bus Station to Strines. For the return journey buses return from Marple Bridge (383, 384) and Romiley (380, 381, 383, 389) to Stockport. |
| Bolton Wigan Oldham Rochdale | Catch a bus or train to Manchester centre. Then catch a train from Manchester Piccadilly to Strines. Alternatively catch a bus or train to Stockport then catch a bus from Stockport Bus Station to Strines. For the return journey catch a bus from Marple Bridge and Romiley to Stockport. There are regular trains from Marple and Romiley to Manchester. |
| Manchester Trafford Bury Salford | Catch a bus, train or tram to Manchester centre. Then catch a train from Manchester Piccadilly to Strines. Alternatively make your connection at Stockport then catch a bus from Stockport Bus Station to Strines. For the return journey catch a bus from Marple Bridge and Romiley to Stockport. There are also regular trains from Marple and Romiley to Manchester. |

* 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.gmpete.com

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.

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.gmpete.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.gmpete.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... Lower Goyt Valley Stockport's hidden countryside

Walk routes 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.



Welcome to GMPTe's 'Places to Go' guide to The Lower Goyt Valley

Woods and water, beautiful bridges and fascinating history in Stockport's hidden countryside.

Connecting People with Places



FREE pocket guide

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.gmpete.com



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.gmpete.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@gmpete.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

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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**

