



PUB WALKS



THE DOG
OVER PEOVER



THE SHIP
STYAL

WALKS FROM THE DOG

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Over Peover Trek

Distance: 4.3 miles



1.

Turn right out of The Dog car park and walk along Well Bank Lane until you meet a crossroads known as 4 Lane Ends. A signpost points towards Peover Hall where we will take a left, sticking to the signed footpath and entering the estate by a stout wooden gate.

2.

Just past a stable, a gate takes us forward along an avenue of trees leading to a stile between two ponds. Head across parkland to an ornamental gate and turn right, then follow a path past St Lawrence's Church.

3.

Go through a stand of mature trees until you come to a stile. Leave the trees and turn left, then shortly after take a right over a second stile. Keep along the fence on your right, and then enter a copse when you come to a barrier. Exit by another stile, keeping in the same direction. At the next stile keep left on a well-defined track towards an iron estate gate beside a pond.

4.

Go through the gate and follow the dead-straight track to meet the A50. We avoid the busy road by turning right on to Stocks Lane. The pub on the right is the famous Whipping Stocks, an old coaching inn.

5.

Cross to the pavement opposite and walk along Stocks Lane past the entrance to Radbroke Hall, a Barclays Bank building. Just past the exit, look for a footpath sign on the left leading to a rutted track.

6.

On leaving the track go through a metal kissing gate in the left hand hedge, where you will reach a footpath sign. Take a second kissing gate to change direction by going right. Keep to the hedge until you see a gap through to the next field, where the farmer has left a way forward.

7.

We join a bridleway between hedges, which comes to a lane opposite a nature reserve known as Lower Moss Wood. Turn right heading towards Blease Farm, but branch off to the left before reaching it, on to a tarmac lane. This lane bends to the right, before coming to a bench with a signpost beside it.

8.

Take the green causeway between two fields to reach a gap in the hedge, where you will find another stile that gives access to another bridleway. Turn right here to find yourself back on Stocks Lane.

9.

Turn left and head towards Park Gate Inn. Walk a little further and you will come to the crossroads, 4 Lane Ends, again. Head straight over onto Well Bank Lane, and follow the road until you come to The Dog.

Sandle Bridge Lane to Peover Hall

Distance: 10 miles



1.

Start the walk on Sandle Bridge Lane and head towards Baguley Fold and then to Pinfold Lane. Turn right at Pinfold Lane and then take the footpath on the left before reaching Sandle Bridge Lane. Continue to Chelford Road and turn right.

2.

Cross Chelford Road and after a very short walk take the footpath to Moss Road. Cross Moss Road and continue straight ahead to School Lane and turn right. There are some lovely old houses and cottages along this lane. Take the footpath on your left at the fork in the road towards Ash Farm, and then to Radbrook Hall. Continue on towards Stocks Lane and turn right.

3.

Just after the Whipping Stocks Inn on the left turn into a drive past a gatehouse towards Ambrose Acre. Cross the bridge over the stream and continue on to Peover Hall, turning left through the estate and then left Four Lane Ends. Stop off at Peover Hall if you like and take a look at the Church.

4.

Just before Four Lane End, take the path on the left to Stocks Lane and then turn right and then left along a bridleway towards Newhall Farm. Turn right after the farm and then right again towards Colshaw Hall.

5.

Pass the Hall and exit into Stocks Lane and turn left. After a few yards, turn left down a drive and then immediately turn right along the path through the gate. Continue on a pleasant route past Merrydale Farm on your left.

6.

Just before entering Chelford Road turn sharp left through a farm and continue on towards the water tower. Turn right after the water tower and take the footpath, straight ahead, to Sandhole Farm.

7.

Turn right into Snelson Lane and then left at the junction and then immediately right along the footpath towards Chelford Road. Cross Chelford Road and follow the footpath immediately ahead towards Sandle Bridge Lane and turn right. Follow the Lane turning left at the bridge to the start of the walk.

Peover Heath Stroll

Distance: 2.5 miles



1.

On leaving The Dog, turn left and follow the lane past a row of terraced houses. About 60 yards after passing a telephone kiosk, the lane turns sharply to the right. Leave the lane here and pass through a facing gate to follow a macadam drive between conifer trees. The drive leads towards Sycamore Farm. Go through a small gate on the right, which is close by the entrance gate to the farm, and follow a hedge that skirts around the farm.

2.

Where the hedge on the left finishes, turn left and cross a field to go over a double stile, in the same general direction as before, and then go over a stile in a crossing fence. Bear slightly right now and walk across a field corner to go over a stile, which is set in a fence to the left of a large dwelling. Follow a straight macadam drive past dwellings and, after about 300 yards, arrive at a crossing lane.

3.

Turn right along the lane. After only 60 yards leave the lane to the left and then turn left again to go through a small wooden gate, which gives access to a narrow hedged-in path; where you will find a tall conifer hedge on the immediate right. Where this hedge finishes, go over a stile to enter a field.

Keep along the field edge where, over to the right, about ½ a mile away, can be seen a tall water tower - a well-known landmark in the area. Pass over a stile at the field corner and follow a well-defined path through scrubland. The path leads to a crossing drive.

4.

Walk straight across the drive and keep along a field edge where, on your left, there is a fence interspersed with large trees. After half a mile, go over a stile at the side of a gate and arrive at a crossing lane.

5.

Turn left and follow the lane-side pavement. Pass 'Ye Olde Park Gate Inn' and keep forward at the next junction, in the direction of Peover Heath. Keep on, past a minor lane which goes off to the right, and shortly after passing Cinder Lane arrive back at The Dog.

The History of Over Peover

(Extract from "Over Peover—A Cheshire Parish" Over Peover Parish Council)



In ancient times Over Peover was part of an immense oak wood and the County of Cheshire provided various monarchs with timber for warships and weapons. Ruling monarchs, for their part, have not always treated the lands of Cheshire so generously.

The changes initiated by Alfred the Great in the ninth century were, however, beneficial to Cheshire. He divided England into Counties, Hundreds and Tithings, for the protection of property and the execution of justice. Ten of these tithings formed a hundred. A variable number of these hundreds formed a County or Shire. The kingdom had been divided into parishes soon after the introduction of Christianity in the seventh century. The parish boundaries, as marked in The Domesday Book, a survey of all the lands in the kingdom undertaken after the Norman Conquest, agree very nearly with the present divisions. The parish of Over Peover or Peover Superior is within the Bucklow Hundred, one of six hundreds covering Cheshire, excluding the city of Chester.

The Norman Conquest, in comparison, resulted in destruction and mayhem in many places in Cheshire. Following his success at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, William the Conqueror endeavoured to suppress numerous uprisings in various parts of the country, particularly in the north of England. In the summer of 1069 Norman armies marched across the Pennines into Cheshire to quell a rebellion. Once the uprising had been crushed, William's forces destroyed all before them. The Domesday Book describes Over Peover, together with many manors in Cheshire, as 'wasta' meaning 'abandoned' or 'useless land'. A good number of the Saxon lords were dispossessed of their lands and the spoils of these acts of devastation were divided between the victorious Normans. One such adventurer was Ranulphus, who was believed to have been William's nephew. Over Peover was one of several manors granted to Ranulphus from whom the Mainwaring family ancestry may be traced. Thus it was that the Mainwaring family established itself in the parish and, for several centuries thereafter, the fortunes of the inhabitants of Over Peover became inextricably linked with this ancestral lineage.

At the time of the Domesday survey Peover was spelt Pevre, although previously in Anglo Saxon times, it had been spelt Peever. The name, regardless of its spelling, means Bright Stream or Shining Water, a reference to the river now known as the Peover Eye. The river forms one of the Parish boundaries and gives rise to the words Over and Lower, reflecting the difference in elevation between the parishes.

The various Peovers cause much confusion for visitors to the area. Lower Peover, also known as Peover Inferior or Little Peover, lies within the Bucklow Hundred and combines as a village with Nether Peover, which lies within the Northwich Hundred. Following boundary adjustments made in recent years, approximately half of Lower Peover is part of the Vale Royal Borough with the remainder being part of Macclesfield Borough. Over Peover or Peover Superior, also known as Higher Peover, is part of Macclesfield Borough. Peover Heath is a hamlet within the parish of Over Peover.

Today, Over Peover remains a country parish which is mainly farmland but also home to some seven hundred people, only a small increase in the population of 580 inhabitants of the parish in 1841. However, whereas there were only 102 dwellings in 1841, there are now nearly three hundred spread out in clusters of population, each one being no more than a hamlet. To the west is the Free Green Lane area, which is almost exclusively farming and horticultural land. To the north is Radbroke Hall, which is now occupied by Barclays Bank, whilst in the centre along Stocks Lane is an area of horticultural and agricultural smallholdings. To the east is the hamlet of Peover Heath and there is a further hamlet at Four Lane-ends, where the Village Hall is situated, close to where the Post Office used to be. To the south is Bate Mill with its water mill, and Bate Mill Farm. The heart of the parish is the area around the Park Gate Inn and the Village School with the cricket club and the parish field nearby.

Southern Woods Walk, Quarry Bank Mill

Distance: 1 mile



1.

From the Mill Yard, follow the sign to the Southern Woods. The construction on the left (1) is a gasometer. Gas was produced at the Mill and stored here. It was used to light the buildings, Quarry Bank House and Styal Village.

2.

On your right you soon see sluice gates to control the flow of water and then a children's playground. After a few minutes you will pass the mill pond, where you may find moorhen, little grebe and mallard hiding amongst the alder trees.

3.

A couple of minutes later notice the Quarry on your left. Parts of the Mill were built from stone that was quarried here. If you look closely, you'll find marks made by the masons' picks.

4.

The path soon rises to cross Heron's Pool Bridge, and continues between an extensive wet area and sloping woodland. In spring the woodland is carpeted with bluebells, and other rare wild flowers.

5.

At the path junction marked by a large boulder bear right. The boulder is Lake District granite. It was deposited here during the last ice age and is known as an 'erratic'.

6.

Just before the footbridge turn left uphill and left again at the kissing gate. To the right of the bridge, the rivers Dean and Bollin combine. Cross the field and fork right, uphill to a steel gate and walk across the fields towards the Mill.

7.

Across the fields to the left is a stone obelisk, which is due south from an observatory that once stood in Quarry Bank Garden. It allowed the Mill owner to use the sun to set his clocks. At the end of the path, turn left after two kissing gates and pass a pool on your right. Follow the path into the Mill Yard.

Kingfisher Walk, Quarry Bank Mill

Distance: 1.5 miles



1.

From the mill yard, walk uphill towards the Apprentice House.

2.

Turn left just before the house, following the sign pointing to Styal Village.

3.

Walk towards the village, at first with a wooden fence on your right. Cross a wide track (two gates), then go through the gates to the left of Styal Cross.

4.

Turn left towards Norcliffe Chapel. Take the field-side path, with the chapel on right. Cross a wide track to enter the Northern Woods and take the first right-hand fork. Continue downhill with a deep gully on your left.

5.

After 100 metres note, but do not cross, the steel bridge on your left. After a further 100 metres, go down a flight of stone steps then bear right down further steps to cross the Chapel Bridge.

6.

Having crossed the bridge, walk uphill to a T-junction and turn right to the higher path. About 50 metres along this path, down to your left you can spot the overgrown Folly Bridge.

7.

After the Folly Bridge you will come to a sharp bend and see a giant redwood.

8.

Drop down the track, with its stepped sections into an area dominated by larch trees, which contrasts with the broad-leaved trees elsewhere in the woods. Soon, you can see the river Bollin on your right.

9.

Ignore a turn on your left, instead continue ahead upstream and pass, but do not cross Oxbow Bridge.

10.

Continue with the river on your right to a T-junction, turn right here and continue to Kingfisher Bridge. Cross the bridge and continue up the stepped stone path. At the top of the ascent, with the steel bridge ahead, turn right and eventually turn right again at the tarmac drive to return to your starting point.

Styal Circuit

Distance: 9 miles



1.

Turn left out of The Ship car park and head right down Hollin Lane, walking past a simple stone war memorial. Take another right down Holts Lane, where you will pass cottages once occupied by mill workers.

2.

You will soon enter Styal Country Park, home to Quarry Bank Mill. At the crossroads, adjacent to the Apprentice House, turn right towards the village (head straight if you wish to explore the mill some more).

3.

You will eventually reach Styal Cross, a medieval monument that was originally erected in the late 16th century. From here, continue on to pass Norcliffe Unitarian Chapel. Keep heading straight towards the Northern Woods, where you'll find a fork in the path. Head right from here.

4.

Go right and follow the winding path until you come to a bridge. Cross over and take a left to climb high above the river. You then follow paths which all lead to a second bridge, at a rock face known as the 'Giant's Castle'. At the foot of the rock face you will find an outlet from the Styal Mill's water wheel.

5.

Cross the second bridge and climb the steps before dropping back down towards the river. Continue through Arthur's Wood as you pass a permanent caravan site behind the Valley Lodge Hotel.

6.

Bear left to cross Oversley Bridge, then immediately turn right, walking alongside the river to the main road. Take care as you cross the A538, then keep ahead into the field sign-posted 'Castle Hill' and 'Morley Green'. Stiles and a log bridge take you along the riverbank before you climb up steps to a field.

7.

You'll cross over two more stiles, separated by a log bridge, before turning right towards Castle Hill. Cross over the field here to a stile, where the path then drops down to a bridge over a stream - tributary of the Bollin.

8.

Cross the bridge and walk along to the remains of a wall, where you will find another stream. Climb up to negotiate a Stile at the field's summit. Turn right here, and then go left along the fence to another stile and a farm road. Keep ahead towards Blakely Lane and you will eventually reach Oak Farm.

9.

Turn left along the farm buildings to a stile into a field. Walk along the side of this until you come to another stile and some ponds, then continue in the same direction to more stiles separated by a log bridge. Here immediately bear right and continue in the same direction as before until you spot a stile in the hedge beside you. Cross this and turn right on to Bursleyhurst Lane, where you will then turn left.

10.

At Bursleyhurst farm turn right, dropping down to a gate through a plantation of young beech trees. Cross the stile here and keep ahead on a raised grassy track where you will turn right by an oak tree, shortly before reaching Ross Mere. Walk up the cart track and turn left at another oak, shortly before entering the next field. From here you have a lovely view over Ross Mere Lake.

11.

A stile, tucked behind a holly bush, brings you onto a stone track where you will take a left still close to the water. Keep ahead at a bridle path junction, which points right to Moor Lane and left to Morley, and look out for the stone statue of a gardener; standing in the grounds of Newgate Kennels.

12.

Continue down Newgate, to a road where you cross onto Lindow Common. Go forward over this area, which has been restored as a nature reserve. You will come across Black Lake as you finally exit onto Racecourse Road, turning left towards the A538.

13.

From here, turn right for a short distance, crossing the busy road as soon as you safely can. Head through a gateway into a sports ground. As you cross the grass, make for the far right-handed corner where you will see a snicket. Go down this, passing the end of Park Road, which is lined by pretty terraced cottages.

14.

Keep left where the path forks three times before crossing a road (Broad Walk) and continue forward between two houses. Bear left down the hillside into The Carss, a pretty area of parkland through which the Bollin meanders. Walk towards a bridge then bear left, where there are both toilets and a car park.

15.

At 'Twinnies Bridge' bear right at the information board, then climb over a stile on your left and walk across a field. Nowadays known as the 'Apprentice Walk', the youngsters working at Quarry Bank Mill walked to Wilmslow Church along here every Sunday. Keep ahead to pass the transmitting station on Worms Hill, then go through an iron kissing gate.

16.

Cross the track to walk through the car park after passing the reservoir. Feel free to explore the mill otherwise, to return to The Ship, continue along the path back to the village. Go ahead again at the next track to turn right past Oak Cottages and continue until you find the pub.

Before Quarry Bank Mill was built, the village of Styal was a small collection of barns and cottages, whose inhabitants worked on the surrounding lands. Then in 1784, Samuel Greg built the textile Mill on the banks of the River Bollin, a 20 mile river passing through the North West, rising in Macclesfield Forest before merging with the River Mersey, north of Lymm.

The man who helped to cultivate Styal, Samuel Greg, was one of thirteen children, and you can see where his knowledge and interest in textiles began. His Father, Thomas Greg, was a wealthy Irish linen merchant and ship owner and his Mother, Elizabeth, belonged to a small landowning family in Lancashire with interests in Belfast Linen Industry. Financial trouble meant that Samuel was sent to live with his uncle, Robert Hyde, who owned a merchant manufacturing business.

After growing up working for his uncle, Samuel was familiar with the cotton trade, and when Robert died in 1782 he left Samuel with a substantial inheritance, which he used to found Quarry Bank Mill.

As the industrial revolution took hold and the Mill became more successful, the village of Styal began to develop and many of the original farm buildings were converted into houses, and new cottages were added in the 1820s, as well as amenities such as a school, shop, bakery, and two churches.

In 1939 Alexander Carlton Greg donated the estate to the National Trust to be cared for and enjoyed by future generations.

Due to a decline in the British cotton trade in 1952, after the outbreak of WWI, when cotton could no longer be exported and foreign countries started producing their own, Quarry Bank Mill closed for trade and the machines sent to India.

The Ship itself dates back 350 years and was once known as the 'Shippon', a farm building used to store manure, but became the Ship Inn when the farmer who owned it started brewing for the local people. It now attracts visitors to the nearby Mill and surrounding area for its much sweeter smelling 260 year old wisteria and the beautiful roses that grow up the front of the building.

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