



THE SHIP
STYAL

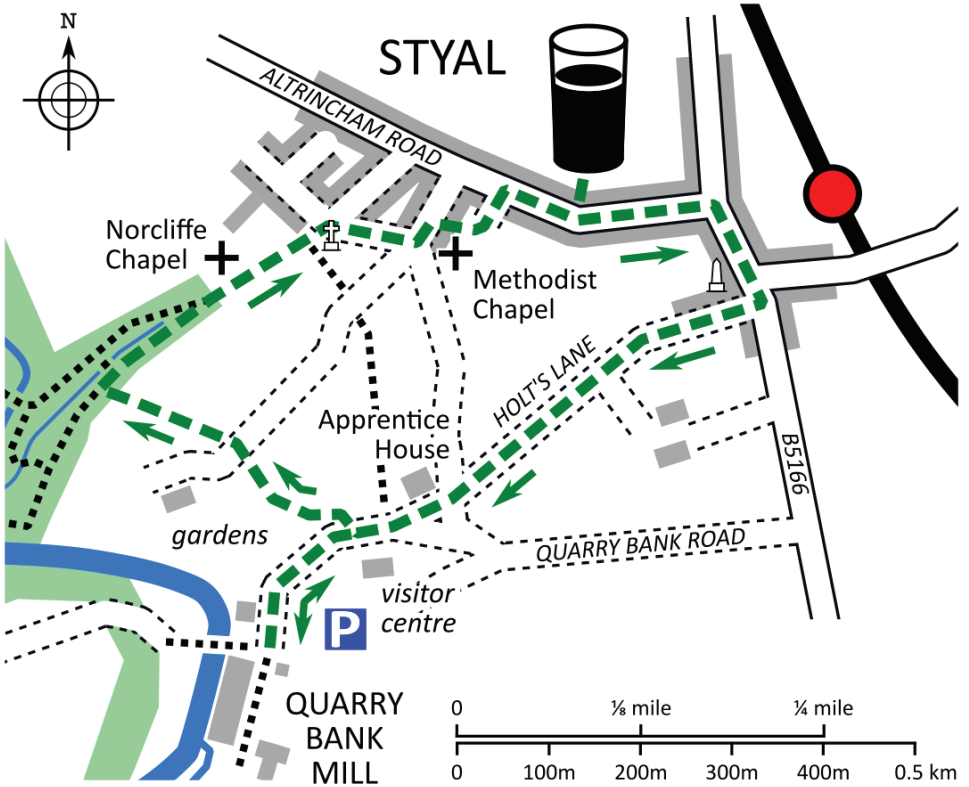
LOCAL WALKS

Around Styal



QUARRY BANK MILL

1 ¼ miles: Easy



QUARRY BANK MILL

1 ¼ miles: Easy

A short stroll down to Quarry Bank Mill, returning via the Norcliffe Chapel and Styal village.

Allow 30 minutes. Surfaced throughout. The only significant gradient is on the extension to Quarry Bank Mill.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left to the B5166 and turn right.

2 Just after the war memorial, turn right into Holt's Lane. Beyond the gate at the end of the terrace of cottages, continue until you reach the Apprentice House.

3 Take the path straight ahead, past the house, to reach the Quarry Bank Visitor Centre.

4 For Quarry Bank Mill, continue along the road down the hill, otherwise take the second path on the right, signposted 'Garden'.

5 Follow the broad path as it curves right. Keep right at the entrance to the gardens (following the arrow for 'Chapel Woods') and cross a track (again signposted 'Chapel Woods').

6 When you reach a T-junction, turn right, signposted 'Styal Village'.

7 Ignoring a footbridge over the small stream on your left, continue ahead to the top of the wood, passing the Norcliffe Chapel.

8 Walk past Styal Cross on your right and take the next right, past a wooden bollard, a path which takes you to the Methodist Chapel.

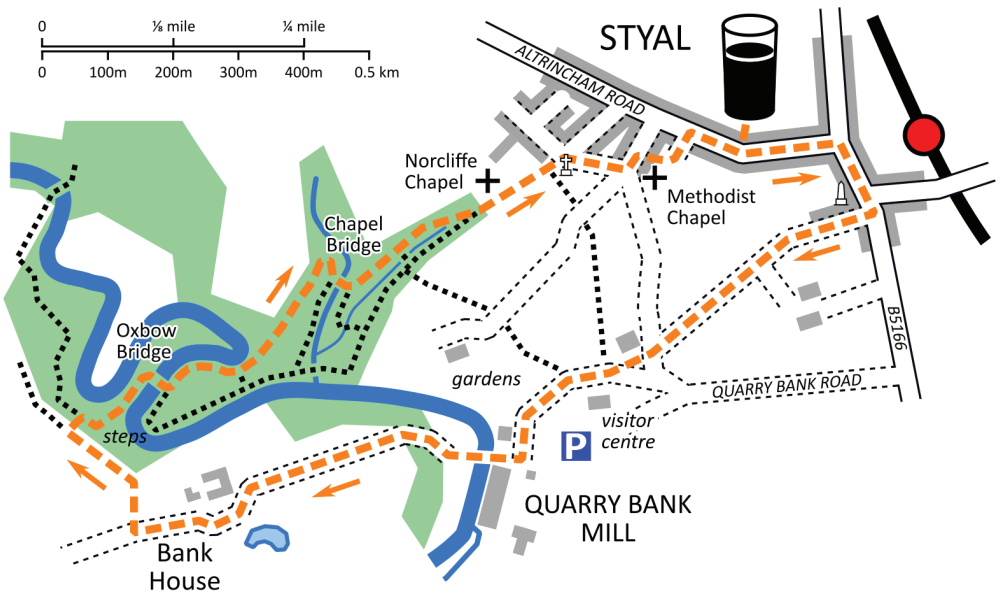
9 Turn left then, after the thatched cottage on the right (nos. 9/10), turn right onto a narrow, hedged path beyond a private driveway.

10 This leads past a village pump between more thatched cottages and out to Altrincham Road.

11 Turn right to return to the Ship Inn.

STYAL WOODS

2 miles: Moderate



STYAL WOODS

2 miles: Moderate

A woodland walk with opportunities to visit Quarry Bank Mill and explore Styal village.

Allow 1½ hours. Woodland paths may be muddy and uneven, and there are several ascents and descents, some with steps.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left to the B5166 and turn right.

2 Just after the war memorial, turn right into Holt's Lane. Beyond the gate at the end of the terrace of cottages, continue until you reach the Apprentice House.

3 Take the path straight ahead, past the house, to reach the Quarry Bank Visitor Centre.

4 Follow the road beyond as it curves down to Quarry Bank Mill.

5 Just before the mill building, turn right down cobbled steps (signposted 'Bridle path to Morley'). Cross the packhorse bridge next to the mill building, and follow the path across the gardens.

6 Bear right along the bridleway up the steep valley side.

7 Once out of the valley, continue along the track and skirt round the buildings of Bank House Farm.

8 Not far beyond the farm entrance, go through a gap in the wooden fence on the right onto a permitted path that crosses to the top of the wood.

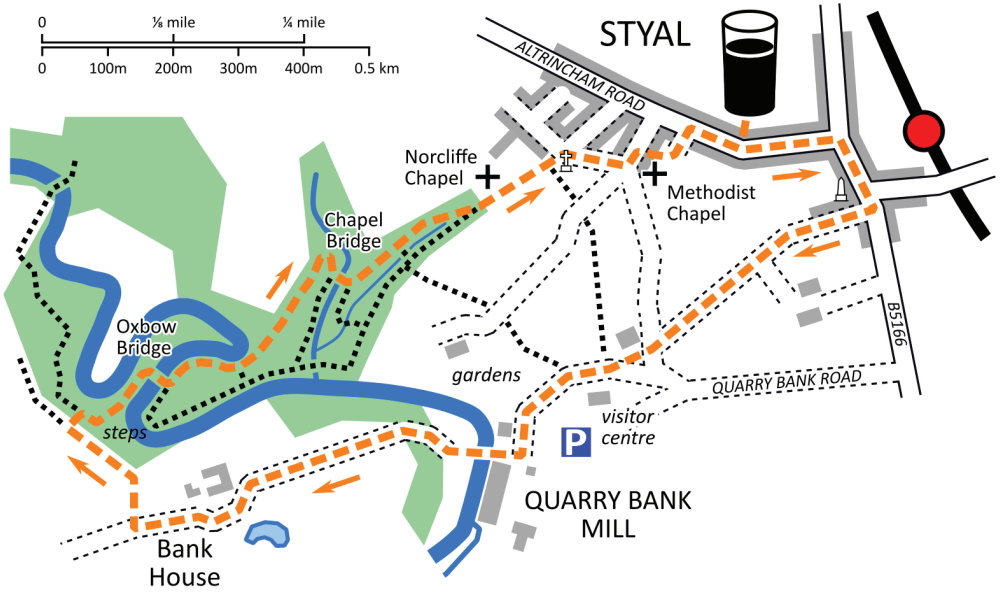
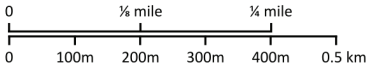
9 Follow the woodland edge for 150 metres or so then, just before a gate in the fence on the left, turn right onto a path running just inside the wood.

10 Turn right over a small footbridge and follow the path down 60 steps to river level.

11 Follow the riverside path to Oxbow Bridge, where you cross the River Bollin.

STYAL WOODS

2 miles: Moderate



12 Turn left and follow the river (now on your left) for a short distance. At a path junction, keep straight on (left), leaving the river as the path starts to climb, eventually reaching a short flight of steps. Pass a fenced-in redwood tree on the right with a stone reading 'Native of California...' as the path runs above the deep valley of a sidestream with fields to the left.

13 After a second bench, the path turns sharp right and zig-zags down to Chapel Bridge, a stone footbridge.

14 Cross the bridge and follow the path as it zig-zags left then right (up steps). On meeting another flight of steps, turn left up to the main path leading up from the Bollin.

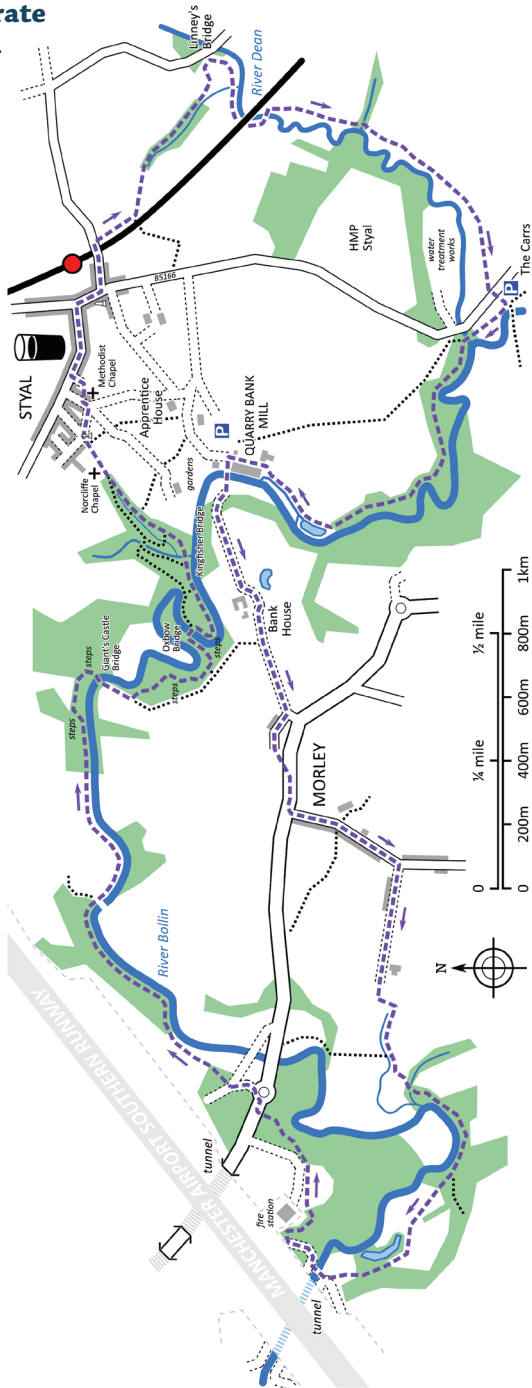
15 Turn left and follow the path to the left of a shallow stream valley, ignoring a footbridge on the right.

16 After a path joins from the other side of the valley, continue past the Norcliffe Chapel.

Now follow steps 8–11 of the **Quarry Bank Mill walk** (above) back to the Ship Inn.

RIVER DEAN AND RIVER BOLLIN

7¼ miles: Moderate



RIVER DEAN AND RIVER BOLLIN

7¼ miles: Moderate

Follow two rivers to Quarry Bank Mill, the dramatic tunnel under Manchester Airport's southern runway, and the delights of Styal Woods.

Allow 3–4 hours. Paths may be muddy and uneven in places, and there are several short but steep ascents and descents, some with steps. The path alongside the River Dean is a permitted route and may be withdrawn; if so, or if you want a shorter walk of 5½ miles, you can omit the Dean loop by following the Styal Woods walk as far as Bank House Farm (step 7) and then picking up this route at step 20.

1 From the front of the pub, turn left to the B5166 and turn right.

2 Opposite the war memorial, turn left into Station Road.

3 Cross the railway bridge and turn immediately right, down a driveway with a footpath sign.

4 Ignore a footbridge on your right and follow the driveway as it curves left away from the railway and past a house.

5 Climb the stile into the field beyond the house and cross to a second stile at the head of a small stream valley. Follow the path to the left of the stream, crossing a couple of footbridges.

6 On emerging into a field above the Dean valley, bear left down the bank.

7 Before the stile on the far side, turn right down a track to the valley bottom, then turn right and follow the base of the bank towards the distant railway viaduct.

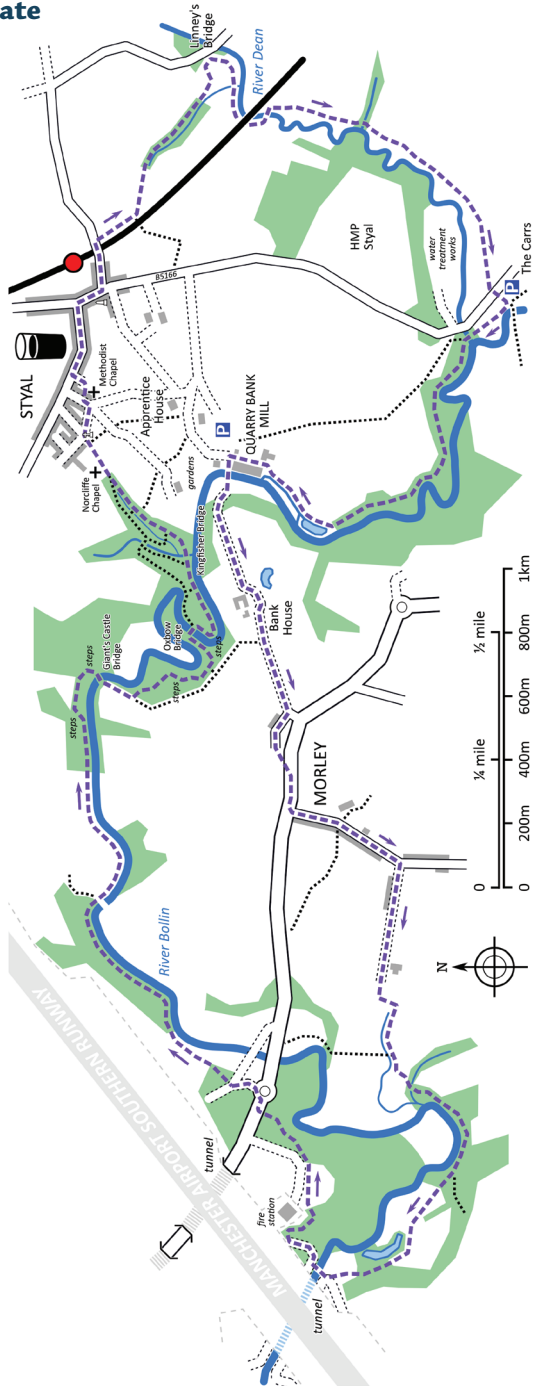
8 At the end of the field, a plank bridge crosses a side-stream.

9 Continue alongside the river and pass under the viaduct on a wide track.

10 Keep left to a bridge, where you cross to the other bank and turn right. The path bypasses a couple of meanders and then passes under two pipeline bridges, with a stile between them.

RIVER DEAN AND RIVER BOLLIN

7¼ miles: Moderate



11 Cross a footbridge over a side-stream and climb alongside a pipeline into a field. The path runs above a pond and continues roughly parallel to the Dean, keeping left of more pipelines.

12 After the pipelines, bear right across a field past a telegraph pole to a stile into the road.

13 Cross straight over into The Carrs car park. Beyond the toilet block, don't cross the bridge ahead of you, but turn right, with the River Bollin on your left.

14 Cross a footbridge over the Dean just above its confluence with the Bollin, then turn left through a metal kissing gate, passing a National Trust Styl sign on your right.

15 Keeping left at a junction with another path, the path winds along the Bollin valley, sometimes close to the river and sometimes separated from it by boggy woodland. After a footbridge over a side-stream, pass an old quarry on your right and a mill-pond and weir on your left as you approach Quarry Bank Mill.

16 Keep right of the gardens and pass under the footbridge between the gift shop and the main mill building. Keep along the path at the rear of the mill, then turn left at the end of the building (signposted 'Bridle path to Morley').

17 Cross the packhorse bridge next to the mill building, and follow the path across the gardens.

18 Bear right along the bridleway up the steep valley side.

19 Once out of the valley, continue along the track and skirt round the buildings of Bank House Farm.

20 Follow the driveway out to the road, ignoring a path on the right.

21 Turn right along a loop of the old road then continue through a gap in the hedge at the end.

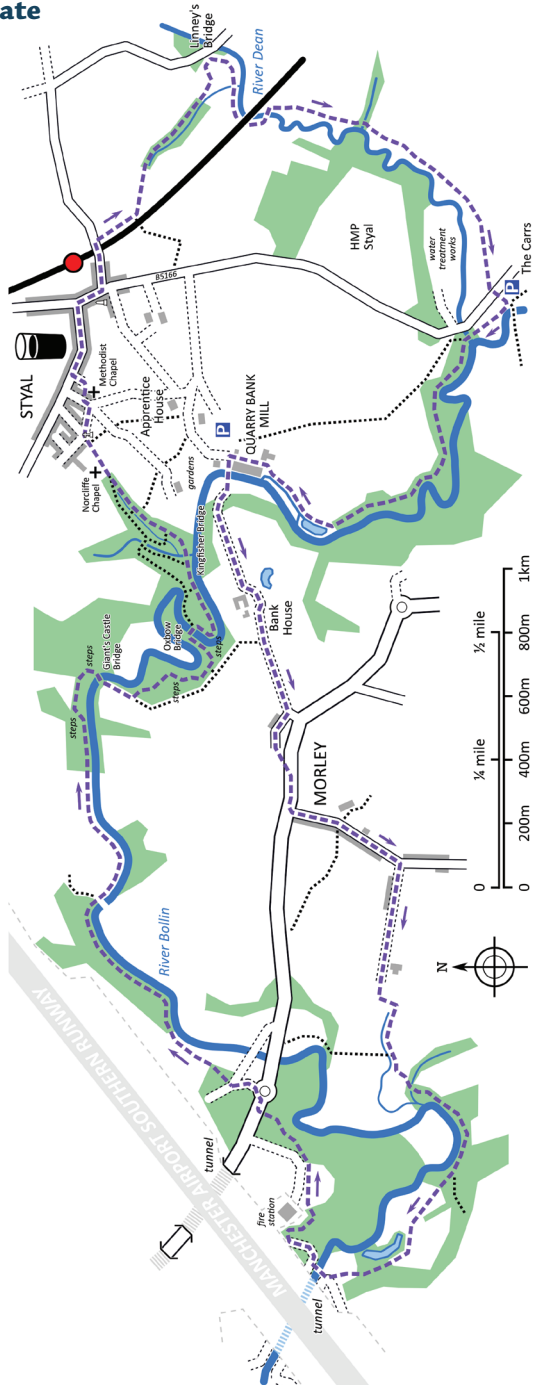
22 Cross the main road carefully, and turn right along the pavement.

23 Take the first left into Morley Green Road, opposite the Honey Bee.

24 Follow this road for 400 metres then, shortly after a postbox on the left, turn right into a track with a Bollin Valley Way fingerpost.

RIVER DEAN AND RIVER BOLLIN

7¼ miles: Moderate



25 Follow the track past a farm and houses.

26 After the last house the track swings left to a kissing gate. Beyond this, follow the right-hand field edge.

27 Ignore another kissing gate on the right, instead crossing the field on your left to another kissing gate above a stream.

28 Follow the path down and over a footbridge, then along the bank above the River Bollin with steps in places.

29 Shortly after a footbridge, turn right onto a permitted path, still following the Bollin Valley Way signs. This path leads through trees then across an area of rough grassland. At the far end of the open area, follow the path up to a hand-gate, where you turn right.

30 Follow the path through a kissing gate to the mouth of the River Bollin Tunnel under the southern runway of Manchester Airport.

31 Cross the footbridge in front of the tunnel entrance and follow the road right, away from the tunnel mouth.

32 At a security gate, keep right along a path with views over the southern runway, then follow the airport fence to the right, around the fire station.

33 Go through a wooden hand-gate, cross a track and follow a path across the grass ahead, to the right of the access road to the fire station.

34 After another hand-gate, continue through trees to another gate then another gives access onto a flight of steep steps down to the main road between a roundabout and tunnel entrance.

35 Cross carefully and turn right, then follow the no-through road on the left from the roundabout.

36 Turn right before the security gate, then left through a metal gate past a National Trust sign. Follow the path out to a field and keep along the bottom edge.

37 Take the right-hand path at a fork, leading to a wooden kissing gate into trees above the River Bollin. Follow the riverside path through the trees to a farm bridge, beyond which continue along below the fence at the bottom of a field.



Stay social

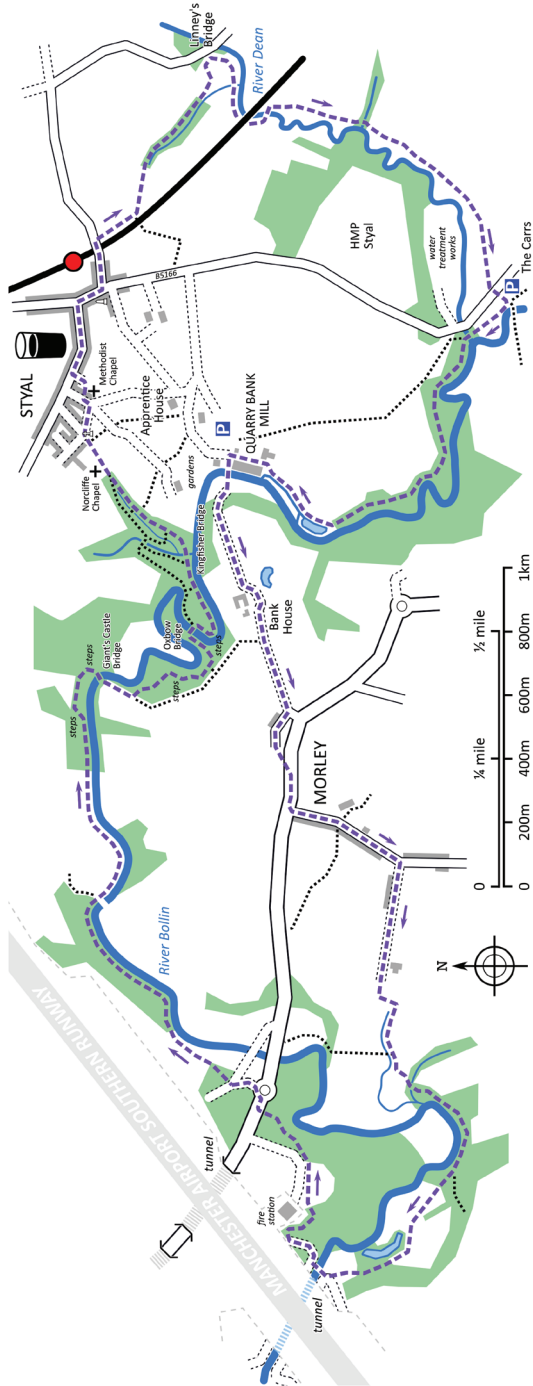
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RIVER DEAN AND RIVER BOLLIN

7¼ miles: Mode:



38 The path re-enters the woodland, still following the river, then after a couple of footbridges over side-streams, climbs steeply up steps and runs along the edge of the wood before descending to the river again at Giant's Castle Bridge.

39 Cross the footbridge and follow the path up the side of the field opposite; partway up, turn left back into the trees onto a path that runs close to the river over boardwalks and footbridges, before once again climbing steps up the valley side.

40 Keep left at the top, staying within the wood, then descend further steps to the bottom of the valley.

41 Follow the river downstream for a short distance to Oxbow Bridge, where you cross to the northern bank once more.

42 Turn right and follow the path beside the river again, now heading upstream (alternatively, jump to step 12 of the Styal Woods walk for a slightly longer return via Chapel Bridge).

43 Ignore a couple of paths off to the left until you cross a footbridge (Kingfisher Bridge) over a side-stream, then leave the river along the broad path heading up to the left.

44 This path climbs to the right of a small side-valley to the top of the woods, then passes Norcliffe Chapel.

45 Walk past Styal Cross on your right and take the next right, past a wooden bollard, onto a path which takes you to the Methodist Chapel.

46 Turn left then, after the thatched cottage on the right (nos. 9/10), turn right onto a narrow, hedged path beyond a private driveway.

47 This leads past a village pump between more thatched cottages and out to Altrincham Road.

48 Turn right to return to the Ship Inn.