

THE SPACE INVADER

GOOSTREY

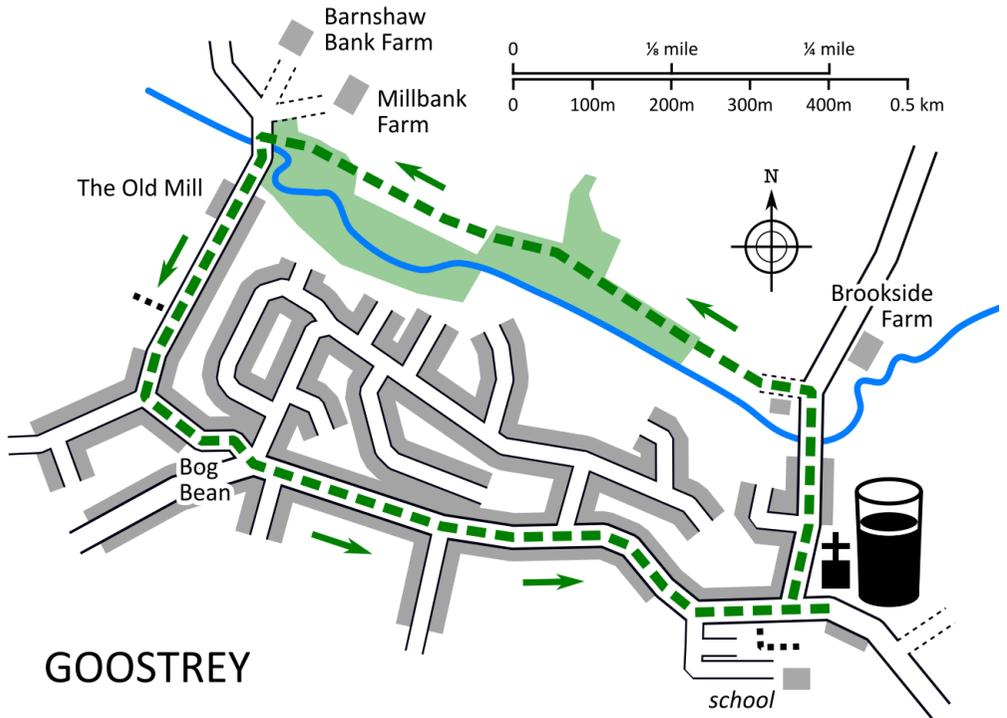
LOCAL WALKS

Around Goostrey



THE BONGS

1 ½ miles: Easy



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1 ½ miles: Easy

A short stroll along a quiet wooded valley, with a return through the village.

Allow 30 minutes to one hour. Paths along the valley may be muddy.

1 From the front of the pub, turn right past the church, then right again into Church Bank.

2 Cross the stream at the bottom of the hill, then turn left before Brookside Farm into a driveway with a footpath sign to 'The Bongs' and Mill Lane.

3 Pass to the right of a house, garage and garden onto a path that drops into woodland and crosses a footbridge.

4 The path winds along the wooded valley side above the stream before leaving the trees briefly, then dropping back down through the swampy woodland to join Mill Lane near its bridge over the stream.

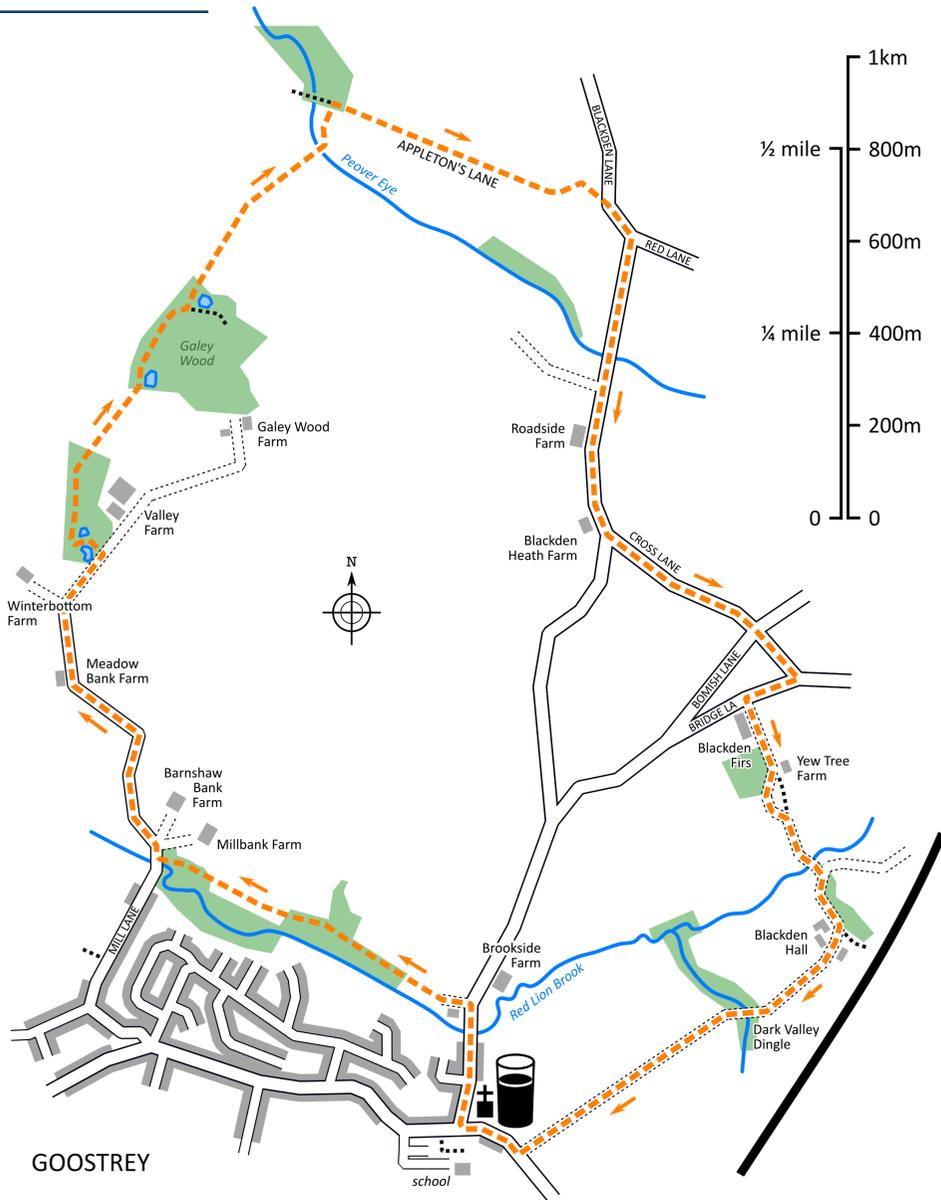
5 Turn left, crossing Red Lion Brook again, and walk up the lane past the old mill-house.

6 Bear left at the junction with Willow Lane, and left again around the area of open space known as the Bog Bean.

7 Turn left along the main street and follow it through the village back to the church and the Space Invader.

GALEY WOOD AND BLACKDEN HALL

4¼ miles: Fairly easy



GALEY WOOD AND BLACKDEN HALL

4¼ miles: Fairly easy

A farmland and woodland stroll with some fine half-timbered buildings en route.

Allow 2 hours. Field paths may be muddy in places. Some road walking.

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2 Cross the stream at the bottom of the hill, then turn left before Brookside Farm into a driveway with a footpath sign to 'The Bongs' and Mill Lane.

3 Pass to the right of a house, garage and garden onto a path that drops into woodland and crosses a footbridge.

4 The path winds along the wooded valley side above the stream before leaving the trees briefly, then dropping back down through the swampy woodland to join Mill Lane near its bridge over the stream.

5 Turn right and follow the road as it winds left past Barnshaw Bank Farm (despite its traditional appearance, this is a relatively new building).

6 After 500 metres pass Meadow Bank Farm, then bear right at the end of the drive to Winterbottom Farm, dating from 1670.

7 Shortly afterwards, turn left, off the track into the woods on your left, on a footpath signposted to Galey Wood and Appleton's Lane. Cross a footbridge between ponds and bear right.

8 At the end of the wood, a footbridge and gate lead into a field. Cross straight over to a metal kissing gate into Galey Wood. The path crosses another footbridge and winds through the trees, never straying far from the left-hand edge.

9 At a junction of paths, turn left past a pond, signposted to Appleton's Lane and Peover Superior. Exit the wood via another kissing gate and strike out across the field.

GALEY WOOD AND BLACKDEN HALL

4¼ miles: Fairly easy



10 The path drops down to a kissing gate and continues along the edge of a couple of fields before descending to a footbridge over a tributary of the Peover Eye. Climb the far bank to meet Appleton's Lane.

11 Turn right along the obvious path, signposted to Jodrell Bank. This pleasant, hedged way leads to a road after a little under half a mile. Turn right here, and keep right at the junction with Red Lane.

12 After half a mile, turn left into Cross Lane. At a crossroads go straight ahead, then turn right at the next, triangular, junction.

13 Take a left at Blackden Firs, past semi-detached houses, and keep right at the fork at the entrance to Yew Tree Farm. The way descends to cross a stream, beyond which Toad Hall, home of the author Alan Garner, and the adjoining Old Medicine House, home of the Blackden Trust, are visible up a driveway to the left. Continue along the main track to the right.

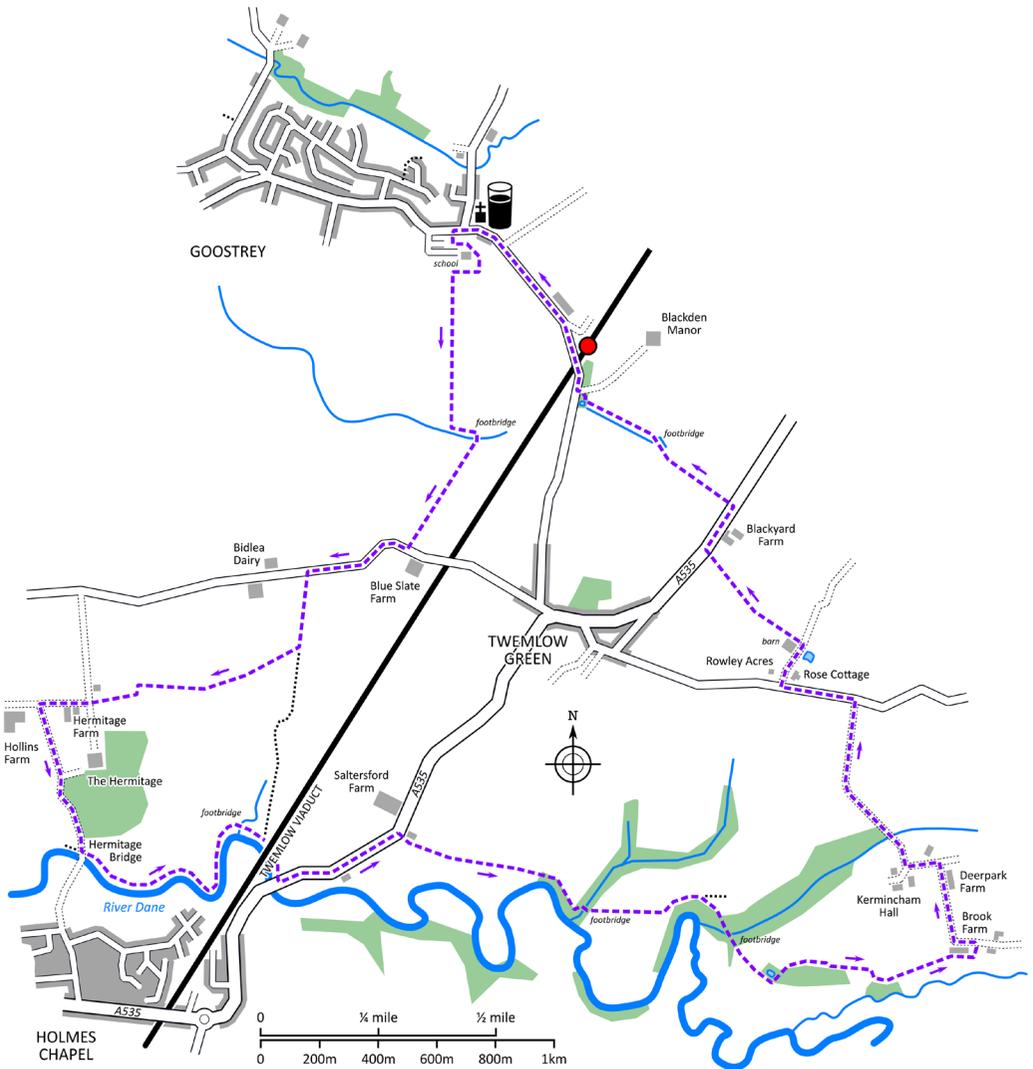
14 The track heads up to Blackden Hall Farm, where it swings abruptly right between brick barns (signposted 'Goostrey ¾ mile') to emerge in front of the 16th-century half-timbered farmhouse.

15 Head straight ahead, to the immediate left of the house, then keep right. The driveway dips to cross a small stream valley, Dark Valley Dingle, before continuing to the road on the outskirts of Goostrey.

16 Turn right to return to the Space Invader.

THE DANE VALLEY

6 ½ miles: Moderate



THE DANE VALLEY

6 ½ miles: Moderate

Head south to the Dane valley, passing under a viaduct that is a shrine to a boy-band idol.

Allow 3 hours. Field paths may be muddy in places. Some road walking, several stiles and occasional short flights of steps.

1 From the pub, turn right past the church and cross Church Bank.

2 In front of the school, cross and go up a short flight of steps behind a barrier onto a narrow footpath. Bear left along the top end of the cemetery and then right through a hand-gate.

3 Bear right again around the rear of the primary school to a gate, beyond which turn left along the field edge.

4 After a wooden kissing gate, head straight across the field ahead.

5 At the far side of the field, turn left to a gate, where you turn right down a flight of steps and over a footbridge with a stile.

6 Follow the hedge on your right to a stile into a lane near Blue Slate Farm.

7 Turn right along the road.

8 After a couple of bends, look out on the left for a waymarked gate, shortly before the Bidlea Dairy.

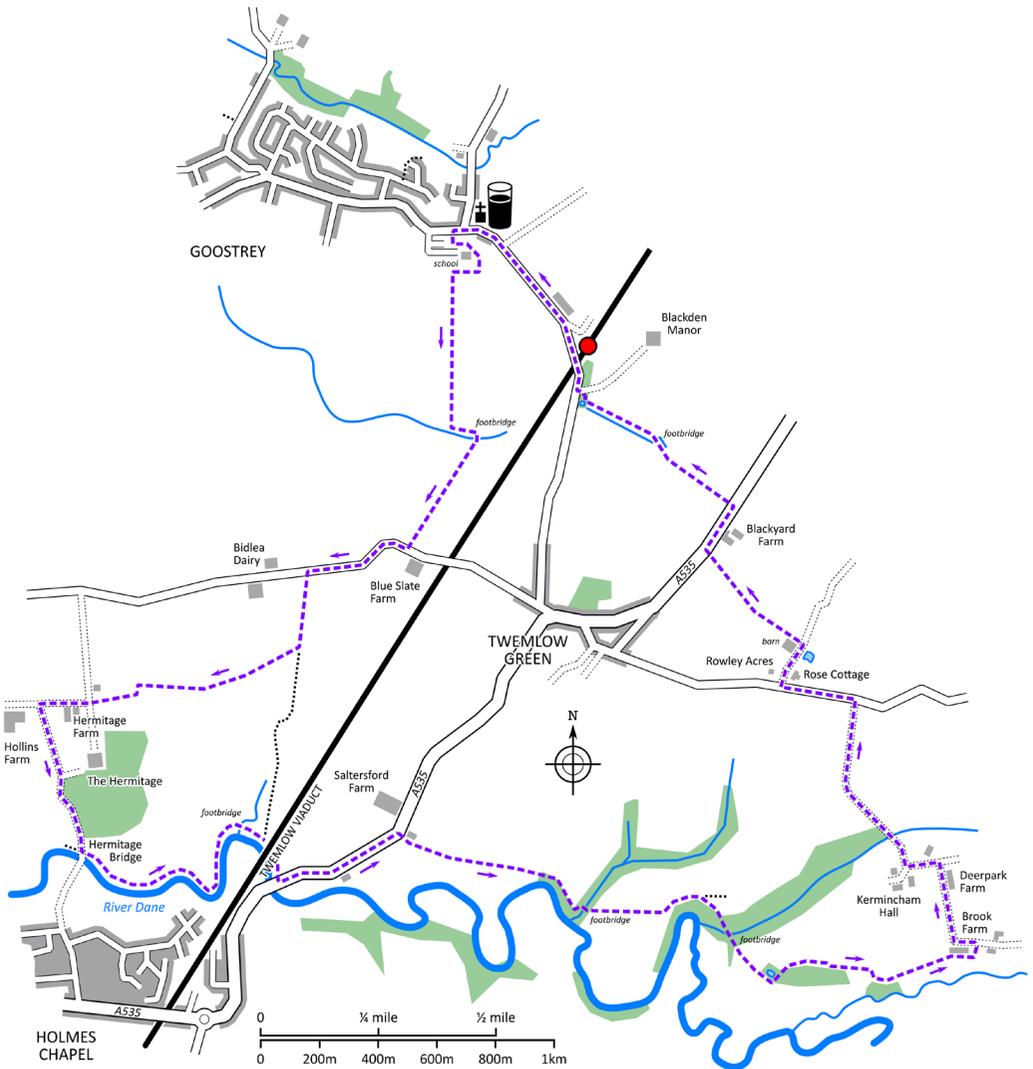
9 Walk down the left-hand side of the L-shaped field, then turn right past a lone tree at the end of the property on the right. This leads to a stile into the next field by a pond.

10 Follow the right-hand hedge then turn left and right through a gate at the far side of the field to a second gate leading to a driveway.

11 Walk straight on, past Hermitage Farm on the left.

THE DANE VALLEY

6 ½ miles: Moderate



12 At the entrance to the half-timbered Hollins Farm, follow the drive round a left-hand bend and descend past The Hermitage to the Dane valley.

13 Before Hermitage Bridge over the Dane (dated 1707), turn left through a kissing gate and follow the river upstream towards the Twemlow Viaduct.

14 After a second gate, the right-of-way cuts across a meander, but the de facto path sticks to the waterside before diverting away from the river to cross a concealed footbridge over a sidestream.

15 Cross a stile and pass under the viaduct (decorated by fans of Harry Styles, lead singer of boy band One Direction, who grew up in Holmes Chapel). Walk up to another stile ('Harry's Style') which gives onto the A535.

16 Cross and turn left along the narrow pavement (which ends at a house). Continue with care past a layby on the left and then, just after the Twemlow signs and before the entrance to Saltersford Farm on the left, turn right over a stile by a house.

17 Follow the left-hand side of the field to the far left-hand corner, where a stile leads into the next field. Bear right along the top of the bank above the river to a kissing gate.

18 Drop down to a footbridge over a side-stream and then climb to a kissing gate into the next field.

19 Head to the left of a wooded bank in the middle of the field, then past a lone tree to climb to a gate at the top of a wood.

20 Beyond the gate and stile, bear right (leaving the obvious farm track) along the woodland edge, then cross a stile on the right and descend through the wood to a footbridge over another Dane tributary.

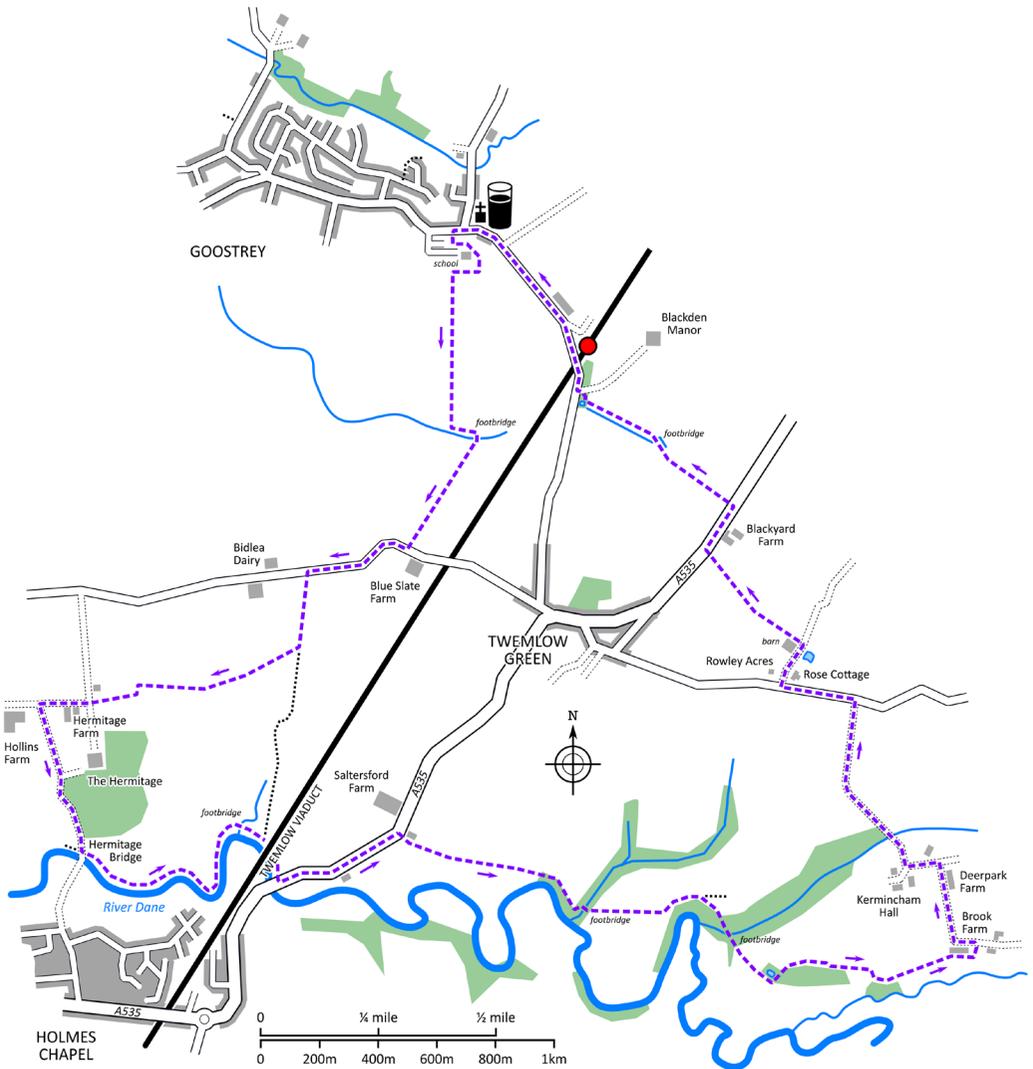
21 Climb the slope to the left of the wooded bank then cross the field to a stile in the opposite hedge.

22 Pass to the right and below a small wood with a duckpond, then bear left uphill along a track.

23 Follow the track right at the top, then go through a kissing gate on the right and follow the bracken path on the other side of the fence along the steep bank of the river.

THE DANE VALLEY

6 ½ miles: Moderate



- 24 This path meets a farm track, then keeps right of the hedge to pass to the right of Brook Farm.
- 25 Go through a kissing gate then, at the end of a brick barn, turn left to another.
- 26 Turn left and pass between the barns before swinging right.
- 27 Follow the farm drive between fields to the buildings of Deerpark Farm.
- 28 At a junction, turn left, then follow the driveway right past a pond at the entrance to Kermincham Hall.
- 29 Cross a small valley and follow the driveway out to the road.
- 30 Turn left.
- 31 After 250 metres, turn right onto a farm track between Rose Cottage and Rowley Acres.
- 32 Immediately beyond a large barn, turn left along the field edge with the hedge on your left, ignoring the obvious track straight ahead.
- 33 In the corner of the field, cross a stile, and continue along the left-hand of the following field to a second stile onto the A535.
- 34 Turn right and follow the verge along the busy road past Blackyard Farm.
- 35 Shortly after the farm, cross with care to a stile beyond a footpath sign. Follow the right-hand field edge to a small footbridge and stile.
- 36 In the next field, follow the hedge and ditch on your left, crossing a stile partway along, until you reach a stile into a small wood.
- 37 Walk round a small pond within the wood then exit the trees via another stile onto the road.
- 38 Turn right and follow the road with care over the bridge above Goostrey Railway Station.
- 39 Follow the pavement ahead back to Goostrey and the Space Invader.



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