

Accessing the Runway Two Trail

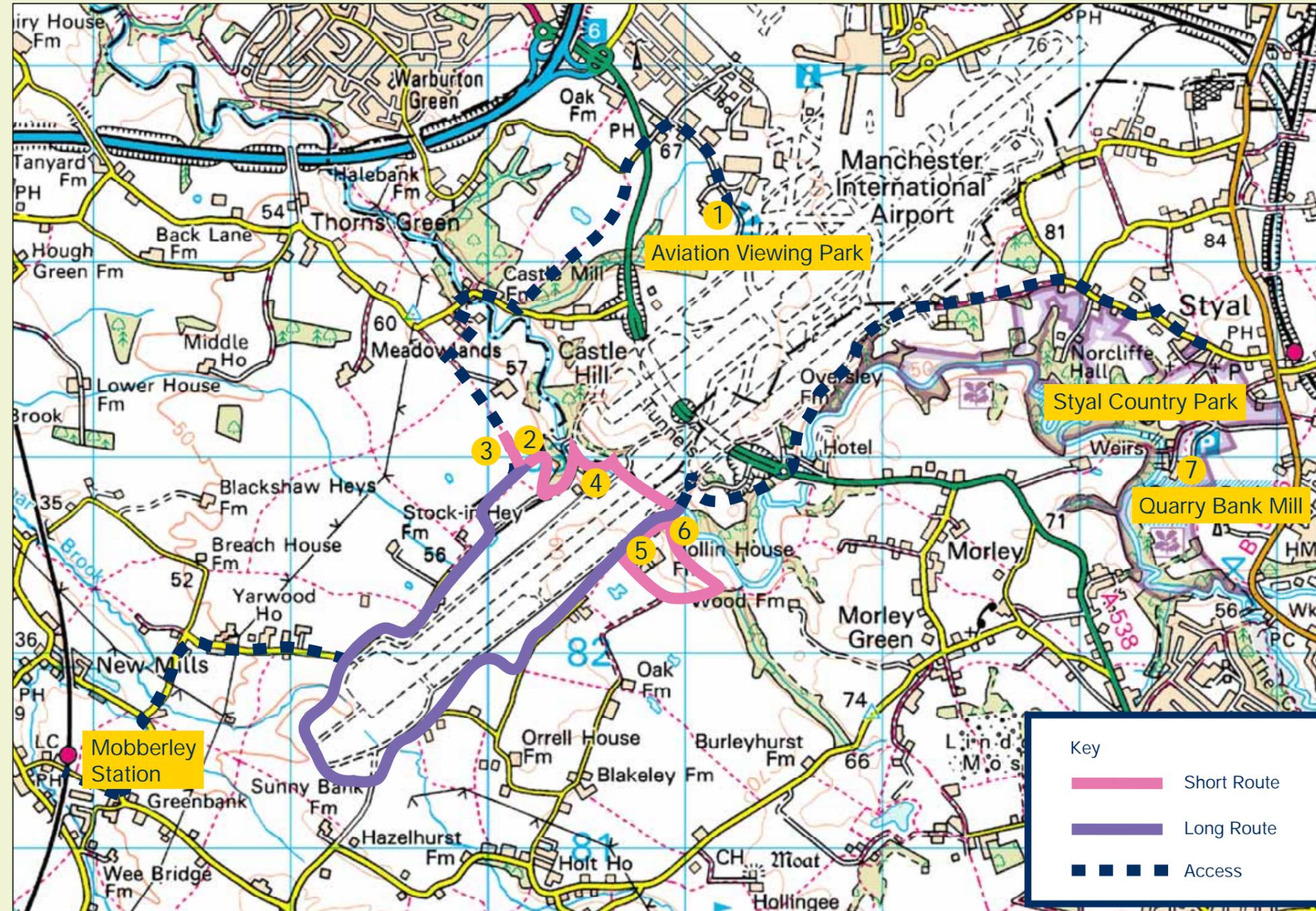
The closest railway station is Mobberley Station. It is a 2 kilometres walk from Mobberley Station to join the Runway Two Trail.

From the Airport railway station you can catch the Styal Shuttle Bus (Bus 200) to the Aviation Viewing Park (weekend and bank holidays only). Buses leave the Station at 0915, then every hour until 1815 and leave the Aviation Viewing Park every hour from 0925 until 1725. The Styal Shuttle Bus also operates during the week to Styal Village from where the Trail can be accessed (3 kilometre walk). Buses leave the Station at 0930 and every hour through to 1730. For the latest timetable information, please call the Traveline on 0871 200 2233.

Car parking is available at the Aviation Viewing Park, although there is a charge to enter and park (currently £4 per car including driver and £1 each per person aged 4+). The Aviation Viewing Park opens at 0800 and the gates close at dusk. Please check with the Aviation Viewing Park for exact closure times. It is a 3 kilometre walk from the Aviation Viewing Park to join the Trail.



The Runway Two Trail is managed by the Bollin Valley Partnership who work with the Airport to manage the Aviation Viewing Park, conservation and recreational projects around the Airport. For more details about the Bollin Valley Partnership please contact the Partnership Office, Chapel Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 1PU. Tel: 01625 374790 email: bollin@cheshire.gov.uk



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Runway Two Trail



The Runway Two Trail takes in some of the scenic Cheshire countryside, including the Bollin Valley and offers some fantastic viewing points for watching aircraft landing and taking off on Runway Two.

The Trail itself consists of two routes, identified by the Runway Two Trail waymarker. The shorter route is 4 kilometres long and the longer route 6 kilometres long. The Trail can be started at any point along the route.

Information boards have been erected around the Trail giving information on woodlands and grasslands, ponds, the River Bollin tunnel, bats, archaeology and for visitors starting the Trail from the Aviation Viewing Park, information about a sculpture of Concorde made out of willow. The location of the boards are shown on the map and a brief description is given inside this leaflet.

If you plan on walking the Trail why not also continue along to the National Trust's Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate.



www.manchesterairport.co.uk

1 Concorde Willow Sculpture

To mark the launch of the Runway Two Trail, a sculpture of Concorde made of willow was commissioned at the Aviation Viewing Park. The willow Concorde is about the third of the size of G-BOAC, the British Airways' Concorde based here at Manchester Airport. If you want a closer look at the real Concorde then tours can be arranged through the Aviation Viewing Park Ticket Office which is open every day between 9am and 4pm, alternatively you can call 0161 489 3932 to book a tour.



2 New Woodlands and New Grasslands

Many new woodlands and grasslands have been created around Runway Two to create wildlife 'corridors' for animals and plants to shelter in and move through.

The new woodland sites have been planted with trees and shrubs that are already found locally. Oak and ash are the main tree species that have been planted, together with many colourful flowering and fruiting shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and guelder-rose. As the trees and shrubs grow, they will create shade and allow woodland plants such as bluebell, primrose and wood anemone to establish. The woodlands will also provide nesting and feeding habitats for birds and other wildlife.



Primrose: Andy Harmer

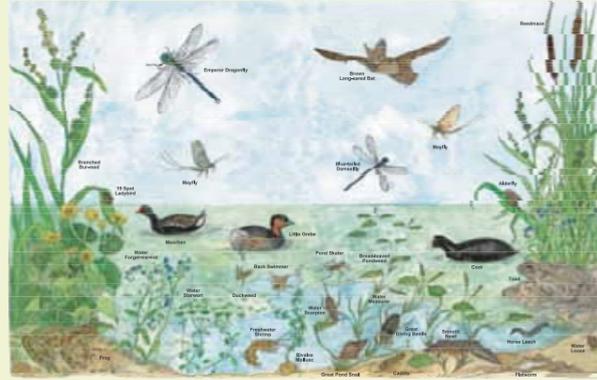
The new grasslands were sown with a variety of plants such as wild carrot, quaking grass, lady's bedstraw and selfheal. Most of the seeds used to sow the grasslands were collected locally. Some of the grasslands are grazed by cattle or sheep during the autumn to keep the grass low, helping the smaller plants to survive.

The new woodlands and new grasslands are at their best in the summer months when many colourful flowers can be seen. These attract a wide range of insects, such as butterflies, hoverflies, bees and beetles.

3 Ponds

Did you know that over 100 ponds were created or restored as part of the Runway Two development? These were required to provide habitats for four of Britain's native amphibians - the common frog, the common toad, smooth newt and the great crested newt.

Each pond has been designed to suit a particular animal, so some of the ponds are relatively shallow and are ideal for newts, whilst other are much deeper and are suited to toads.



We collected around 37,000 amphibians before the development began, which were then relocated to the new ponds. These animals now use the ponds during the spring to breed.

The ponds are fantastic habitats not only for amphibians but also insects such as dragonflies, damselflies, beetles and water boatmen to name but a few. The ponds also provide perfect

conditions for many plants including water forget-me-not, floating sweetgrass and marsh marigold.

4 River Bollin Tunnel

The tunnel was created to carry Runway Two across the River Bollin and at 240m long, 18m high and 24m wide, is in itself an impressive piece of engineering.

But the nature conservation potential of the structure has not been forgotten. If you look up to the roof of the tunnel, you will see two bat roosting chambers and throughout the tunnel bricks and boards are fixed to the walls to provide additional roosting sites for bats.

At each end of the tunnel small spaces have been created in the concrete walls to provide nesting sites for grey wagtails. Watch out for kingfishers too, as you may be able to see one flying through the tunnel.

The river bed itself has been carefully designed to allow the passage of fish. You can see a series of riffles or small waterfalls which have been created to aerate the water. Each year we monitor with the Environment Agency, the fish population in the river and we know it supports a range of fish species including brown trout.

On the opposite side of the footpath you can see a series of tree trunks placed along the base of the tunnel wall. This is a mammal corridor and provides shelter for small animals to use as they make their way through the tunnel.



5 Bats

The building of three new barns was required because the bats' previous roosts were lost when Runway 2 was built. The barns were constructed with great care and sensitivity. Original timbers from the existing barns were re-used to create a familiar setting for the bats to roost. Even bat droppings were moved into the new barns to provide the bats with a familiar smell. It didn't take long for the bats to start using their new homes.

As well as the new barns, 250 bat boxes were put on trees around the Airport, see how many you can spot, and how many different types you can see as you walk around the Runway Two Trail.

All of the barns and bat boxes have proven to be popular with the bats around the Airport. They now provide a home for the Whiskered, Pipistrelle, Brandt's, Noctule and Brown Long-Eared bats. The highest number we've recorded up to now is 350 Pipistrelle bats in one of the barns. Unfortunately you won't be able to see any bats today, as they are nocturnal mammals. They sleep in the day becoming active at night, flying around searching for food and water. Bats feed on a variety of insects including moths, beetles, flies and gnats. They find these insects in woodlands, along hedgerows, over streams and around ponds.



'Pipistrelle': J J Kaczonow/
Bat Conservation Trust



6 Archaeology

As part of the Runway Two development archaeologists found an amazing prehistoric settlement site.

The settlement dated from the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (approximately 4300 - 1500 BC) and was a unique discovery in the North West. The site had been chosen by the settlers as it was close to the River Bollin (a source of water and food) and was adjacent to a trackway which led to a fording point of the river in the valley below. The settlement was a farmstead - comprising roundhouses for families and animals (pigs, cows and sheep/goats) - and produced a fascinating collection of pottery, with an example of virtually every recorded type of decoration known, as well as some new ones.

Some of the pot sherds revealed that the pots had been used to cook meat - including a sheep/goat stew. The people who lived on the farmstead made flint tools and weapons and grew crops of naked barley and emmer wheat.

The site continued to be occupied and in the Roman period a single round building was found, whilst from the medieval period there was a series of farm buildings leading to the 19th century Oversley Farm that stood on the site at the beginning of the dig.

The findings of the archaeological investigations can be found in a book produced by Gifford "Oversley Farm, Styal: Excavations in advance of Manchester Airport's Runway 2"



Gifford

7 Quarry Bank Mill and Styal Estate

Quarry Bank Mill overflows with the atmosphere of the Industrial Revolution. Experience life as a mill worker with a visit to the cotton mill, powered by Europe's most powerful working waterwheel. The clatter of machinery and hiss of steam engines are astonishing. Take a tour of the Apprentice House, led by a costumed guide, and discover how for food, clothing and lodgings, pauper children were expected to work in the mill. See the traditional vegetables, fruit and herbs still grown in the Apprentice House garden using organic methods and visit the newly opened 3-hectare (8-acre) 'Secret Garden'. You can also stroll to Styal village, built by the Greg family to house the mill workers and still a thriving community, with two chapels, allotments and cottages or continue your walk through woods along the River Bollin.

For more information including opening times call 01625 445896.