



# RUNWAY TRAIL

Manchester Airport has two runways, Runway 1 (Runways 23R/05L) opened on 17th May 1937 and Runway 2 (Runway 23L/05R); which became operational on 5th February 2001.

The Runway Trail has been developed to create access to the countryside around our site and showcase the extensive Landscape and Habitat Management Area developed in conjunction with our expansion.

The trail makes the countryside accessible, particularly to those living in Wythenshawe and Mobberley.

The Trail itself consists of two routes, identified by the Runway Trail waymarkers. The shorter route is 4 kilometres 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 and archaeology. 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 or the Runway Visitor Park.



## 1 RUNWAY VISITOR PARK



The park is home to a variety of retired planes, including the spectacular supersonic airliner, Concorde G-BOAC; and former RAF military spy plane, Nimrod. There's also a DC-10, Avro RJX and a retro Trident airliner, offering a glimpse of what flying was like in the 1960s and 1970s. In addition to a large picnic area, there is also the RVP coffee house and a play area.

For more information please visit [www.runwayvisitorpark.co.uk](http://www.runwayvisitorpark.co.uk), call 0161 489 3932 or email [runwayvisitorpark.enquiries@manairport.co.uk](mailto:runwayvisitorpark.enquiries@manairport.co.uk).

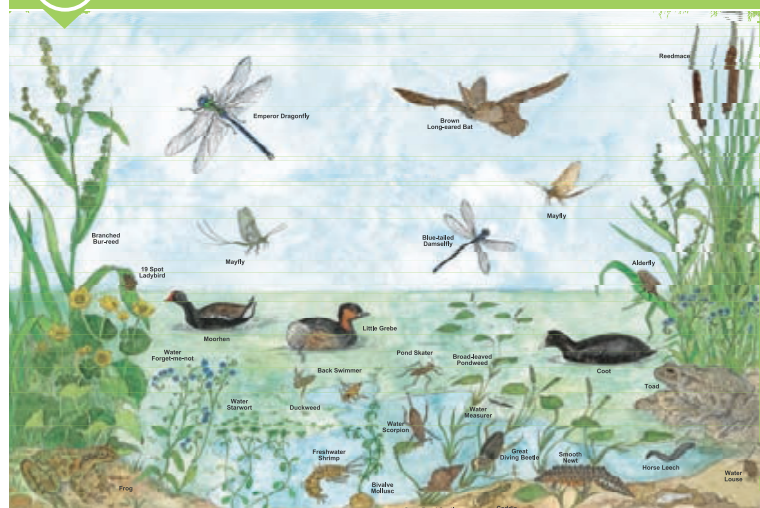
## 2 WOODLANDS & GRASSLANDS



Many new woodlands and grasslands were created around Runway 2 and these have been expanded in to the new mitigation areas around the World Logistics Hub. Together these create wildlife 'corridors' for animals and plants to shelter in and move through.

The woodland sites have been planted with trees and shrubs that were already found locally. Oak and ash are the main tree

## 3 PONDS



Did you know that over 100 ponds were created or restored as part of the Runway 2 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.

species that were planted, together with many colourful flowering and fruiting shrubs such as hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and guelder-rose. As the trees and shrubs have grown, they have created shade and allowed woodland plants such as bluebell, primrose and wood anemone to establish. The woodlands also provide nesting and feeding habitats for birds and other wildlife.

The 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 woodlands and 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.

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

We collected around 37,000 amphibians before the Runway 2 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 2 across the River Bollin and at 240m long, 18m high and 24m wide, it is in itself an impressive piece of engineering.

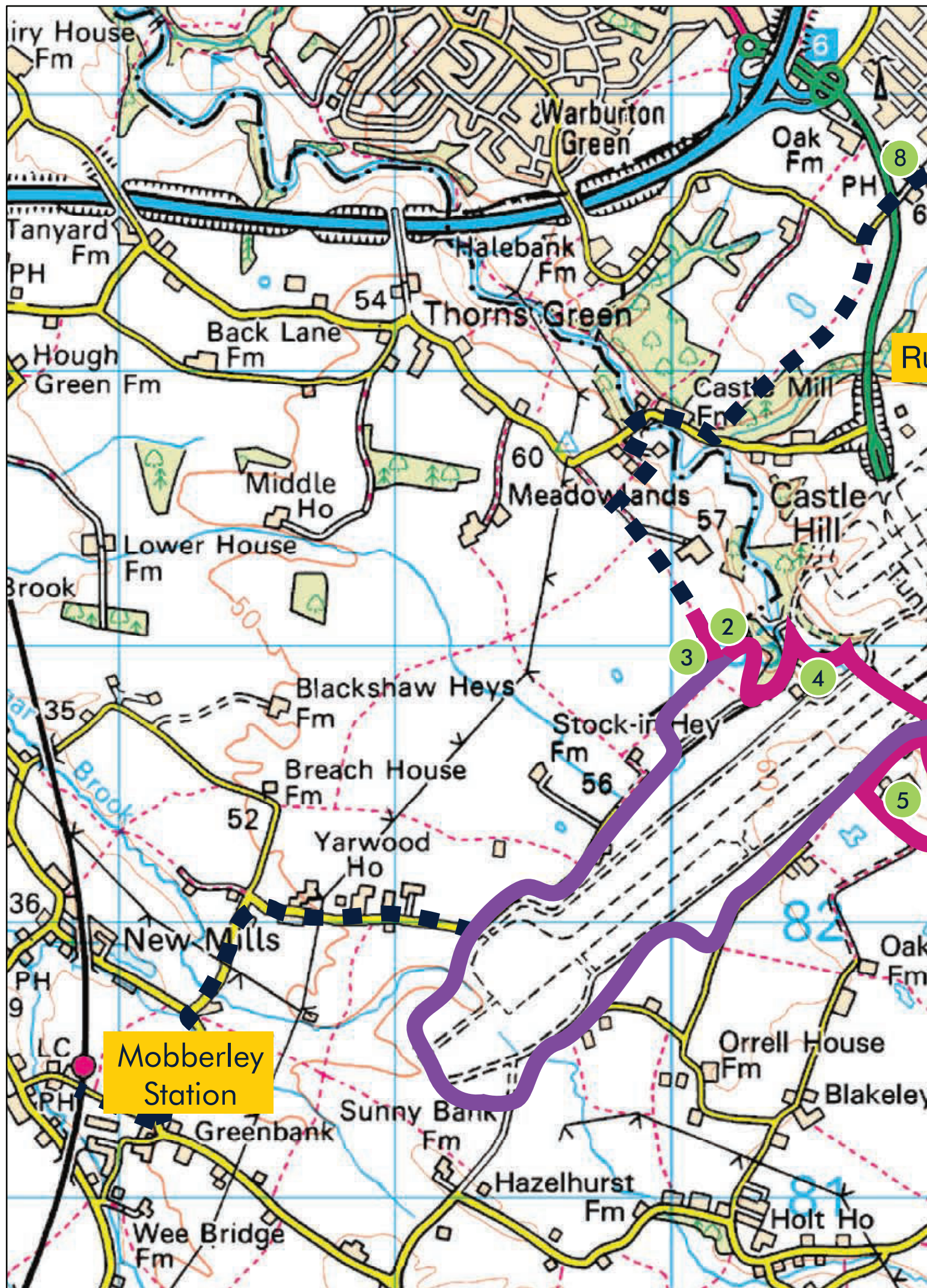
But the nature conservation potential of the structure was not forgotten. If you look up to the roof of the tunnel, you will see two bat roosting chambers and throughout the tunnel bricks and boards are fixed to the walls to provide additional roosting sites for bats.

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.









Manchester  
Airport Station

unway Visitor Park

Styal Country Park

Quarry Bank Mill

Key



Short Route



Long Route



Access





Three new bat barns were created as part of the Runway 2 construction. The barns were constructed with great care and sensitivity. Original timbers from the old 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 did not take long for the bats to start using their new homes.

As well as the new barns, 250 bat boxes were put up 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 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 have recorded, up to now, is 350 Pipistrelle bats in one of the barns. Unfortunately you are unlikely to see any bats, 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.





## 6 ARCHAEOLOGY



As part of the Runway 2 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 shards 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.

## 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 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 visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank), call 01625 527468 or email [quarrybank@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:quarrybank@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## 8 CHAINSAW CARVINGS IN RINGWAY PARISH



In 2019 carvings, made from trees removed for construction of the nearby Global Logistics hub, were installed on Sunbank Lane in the Parish of Ringway. They were created by local artist Andy Burgess and reflect the wildlife that can be found locally such as bats, owls and badgers. There is also a carved bench to take a breather.



## ACCESSING THE RUNWAY TRAIL

The closest railway station is Mobberley Station. The Trail is a 2 kilometres walk from Mobberley Station, or 4 kilometres walk from Styal Station. To join the Runway Trail follow the black dotted line marked on the map.

You can take bus service 313 (Stockport Cheadle Hulme–Manchester Airport) or 288 (Manchester Airport–Altrincham) to the Manchester Airport World Freight Terminal. Alight on Argosy Drive and can take the pedestrian path along Pinfold Lane/Sunbank Lane to cross the A538, Wilmslow Road, and keep walking through the World Logistics Hub to join the public footpath (marked on the map with a black dotted line).

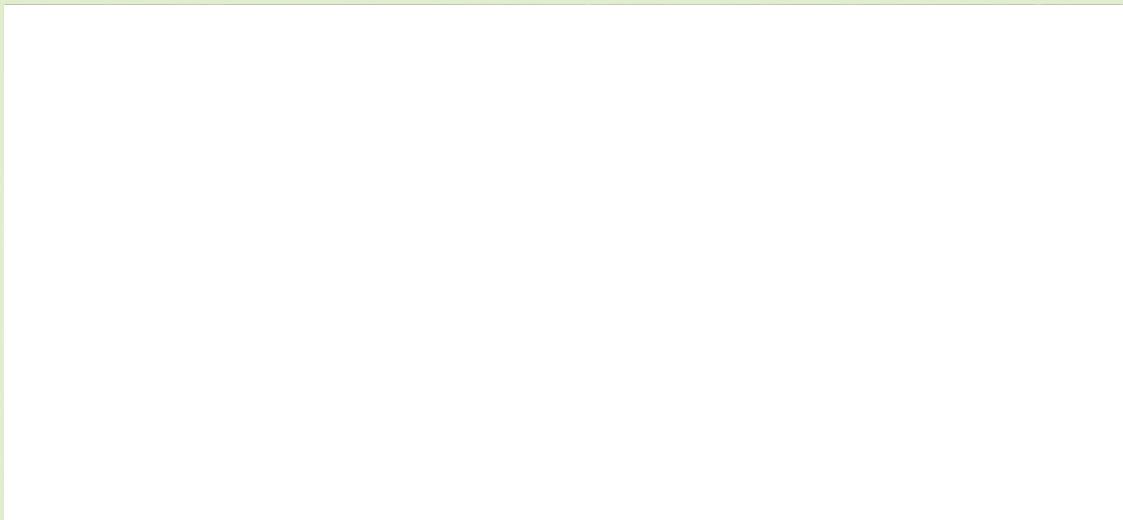
Alternatively take bus service 88 (Macclesfield–Wilmslow–Altrincham) and alight at the 'Sunbank Lane' bus stop on the A538, Wilmslow Road. Follow Sunbank Lane through the World Logistics Hub to join the public footpath (marked on the map with a black dotted line).

For the latest timetable information, please visit [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com) or call 0161 244 1000.

If traveling by car, parking is available at the Runway Visitor Park. Parking costs £5 up to 2 hours, £10 from 2 hours up to 4 hours, and £12 for all stays over 4 hours. There is a flat charge of £12 for coaches. The Runway Visitor Park opens at 0800 and the gates close at dusk.

*Please check with the Runway Visitor Park for exact closure times and any pricing updates ([www.runwayvisitorpark.co.uk](http://www.runwayvisitorpark.co.uk), call 0161 489 3932 or email [runwayvisitorpark.enquiries@manairport.co.uk](mailto:runwayvisitorpark.enquiries@manairport.co.uk)).*

It is a 3 kilometres walk from the Runway Visitor Park to join the Trail.



In 2014 we were awarded a Rural Action Award from Business in the Community. The award recognised our work to provide access to the countryside through the Runway Trail and our works with local primary schools. We attracted considerable praise from the judging panel:

**“Brilliant and innovative initiatives to bridge between the urban areas of Wythenshawe and the farmlands of Cheshire”.**

