The Village for Self-Programmed Groups

Important Information

On any given day there can be over 200 students from different schools using the site. Please be considerate to other groups.

In order for you to get the most from your time in the village, this booklet outlines two potential routes around Styal which should help to cut down any waiting time.

Self programmed groups are asked to supply a copy of their risk assessment at least one month in advance of their visit to comply with our Health and Safety regulations and we also ask any teachers who are unfamiliar with the site to complete a free preliminary visit.

Group size and supervision is particularly important for self-programmed groups. Large school parties must be divided into groups no larger than 25.

We require supervision rations of at least 1:8 for Primary students and suggest 1:15 for Secondary.

Please note: The village is owned by the National Trust and is still inhabited. Please respect the privacy of the householder as you move around the site.

Arrival and Payment

Upon arrival, please bring your group down to the Mill Yard where you will be greeted by our School Liaison Officer where you will be asked to confirm the number of children and adults in the group.

Please ensure:

• You bring your booking confirmation form and Education Group Membership card if applicable. If your EGM number is not presented on the day, you will be invoiced at the full amount.
• Each member of staff has a copy of this booklet to guide them around the Village and a copy of the timetable for the day.

We invoice after your trip however if you wish to pay on the day please contact the Learning Office to arrange this.

How to use this guide:

Your self-programmed tour around the Village should take you around 40-45 minutes to complete. Approximate timings for each aspect of the village are stated at the top of each section.

The ‘Fast Track’ notes and bullet points contain the main information for each aspect and can also be used as additional prompts to aid all members of staff on the day.

What’s included?

• Detailed information and teacher prompts about the different aspects of the village
• The village Risk Assessment
• Fast track bullet points - for teachers short on time
• Why Styal? - activity investigating the reasons why Samuel Greg built his business on this site.
• Activity ideas
• A map of the village

This pack has been designed to supplement and coincide with our Self-Programmed guide to the Mill.
Upon arrival at Quarry Bank Mill, you will be given your finalised timetable which includes starting points for both your Mill tour (if applicable) and the village.

Please adhere to this schedule to avoid waiting and overcrowding around the estate.
Late 16th century:
Styal is a small hamlet made up of a few cottages and farmsteads. Villagers work on the land, digging and selling peat to earn their living.

1783: Samuel Greg comes to Styal.

1790-1800: The conversions of existing buildings take place to provide housing for a limited number of Mill Workers.

1810: Four larger cottages added.

1816 - 1833: Samuel Greg responds to the heightened production capacity of the Mill by providing more housing for his growing workforce. The number of labourers grows from 252 to 380.

1822: Oak Cottages built. Two sets of a double row of houses built, forming 27 dwellings for Millworkers.

1823: Nordcliffe Chapel officially opened, its allegiance to the Baptist Church.

1826: ‘Mutual Improvement Society’ created for Male Villagers.

1831: The shop comes under the management of the employees.

1833: Nordcliffe Chapel becomes firmly established as a Unitarian Chapel.

1837: Corn Store of Farm Fold converted into the Methodist Chapel.

1900: Clubroom and Library opened next to the Ship Inn.

1939: Quarry Bank Mill gifted to the National Trust.

1959: Mill Closes.

1931: The shop comes under the management of the employees.

1806: The first eight purpose-built cottages constructed.

1900: Clubroom and Library opened next to the Ship Inn.

1817: Village ‘Sick Club’ formed.

1823: Nordcliffe Chapel officially opened, its allegiance to the Baptist Church.

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1833: Nordcliffe Chapel becomes firmly established as a Unitarian Chapel.

1837: Corn Store of Farm Fold converted into the Methodist Chapel.

1900: Clubroom and Library opened next to the Ship Inn.

1959: Mill Closes.
Background Information

When Samuel Greg first came to Styal in 1783, the village was a small hamlet which consisted of a few thatched cottages and farmsteads. The inhabitants of these properties made their living digging and selling peat, a source of fuel. By the late 16th Century, Styal was a thriving agricultural community and a cattle market was established in the village. You are stood next to the restored Market Cross.

However, by the 18th century their methods of farming were far behind those elsewhere in the country, which was said to be the reason behind the decline in prosperity of the site. The villagers were thought to have been entirely self-sufficient with regards to food as Styal at this time was fairly isolated, not lying on any of the turnpike roads to Stockport or Manchester. In the late 18th century there were no shops although there was a large bread oven at Tudor cottage suggesting a community bread oven. Purchases could be made in Wilmslow, a growing town. To supplement their income, residents began to take on extra work they could do in their homes, the putting out system. They made silk and mohair buttons for the Silk Industry in Macclesfield and when this industry declined began to spin jersey, a mixture of cotton and wool to support the growing Yorkshire woollen industry alongside their agricultural work.

Samuel Greg chose to build his Mill in Styal as the surrounding areas offered him everything he needed, principally the source of water, apart from a local workforce. He leased the land from the Earl of Stamford (Dunham Massey). By recognising he could convert the original buildings of the village and create many new cottages, Greg overcame this problem and was able to provide accommodation for his workers, creating a local workforce for his Mill.

Teacher Prompt | Pupil Responses
--- | ---
**Why did Samuel Greg need to develop the village?** | • To house his imported workforce so he was able to expand his business.
• To ensure a constant source of income.
• To enable the expansion of his business.

**Why was Styal a good place to build?** | • The land was cheap to rent.
• There were existing buildings he could adapt and refurbish quickly.
• Jobs were scarce and many people were willing to travel to find work.
• He could build quality accommodation to attract workers from all over the country.
• The water source to power the mill
• Readily available building materials.
Point B: Norcliffe Chapel

Background Information

Norcliffe Chapel was first opened in 1823 initially with a Baptist minister even though Samuel and Hannah Greg were Presbyterian and Unitarian respectively. Hannah would have been keen to promote Unitarianism in order to improve the moral welfare of her husband’s workforce, however Unitarianism did not become legal until 1813.

The 1802 Health and Morals of Apprentices Act obliged factory owners to provide religious instruction. However before this Act the Apprentices visited the Anglican church in Wilmslow every Sunday walking along the ‘Apprentice walk’

In 1833, Robert Hyde Greg appointed Norcliffe Chapel’s first Unitarian Minister, who also taught the Greg children, and from then on the chapel became **firmly established as a Unitarian place of worship**. The villagers did not have to attend this church, some residents choosing instead to walk to the C of E church in Wilmslow, however the Greg family used the buildings to provide education for adults, Christmas parties for the children and various other activities throughout the year.

**What is Unitarianism?**

Unitarianism is a non-conformist religion. It appealed to Liberal intellectuals and religious free-thinkers. Unitarianism was illegal until 1815 and its members were not allowed to enter the professions eg. law, teaching, university.

**FAST TRACK: Norcliffe Chapel**

- Norcliffe Chapel first opened in 1823 with a Baptist Minister appointed by Samuel Greg.
- In 1833, Robert Hyde Greg appointed the first Unitarian Minister. From this appointment onwards, Norcliffe Chapel became firmly established as Unitarian.
- Some Styal residents walked to the church in Wilmslow as they did not have to go to church in the village.
- The Apprentices went to church in Wilmslow.
- The Greg family put on various activities in the Church buildings, such as education for adults and Christmas parties.

**Teacher Prompt**

**Pupil Responses**

Why did Norcliffe Chapel originally owe its allegiance to the Baptist faith?

- Unitarianism was still illegal in Britain.
- Samuel Greg did not favour Methodism so appointed the Baptist Minister Reverend Henry Halford Jones instead. This decision was favoured by both the Greg family and the residents of Styal as the villagers were both Baptists and Methodists.

How do we know religion was important to those that lived in the Village?

- They later campaigned to receive a Methodist Chapel and so had two churches in such a small village.
- Some Villagers walked to attend church services in Wilmslow.
Background Information

Hannah Greg was a ‘forthright and capable person’ with strong social, educational, moral and religious views. She was highly influenced by the outlook of the early Unitarians and it is clear that she tried to put her beliefs into practice in her involvement with her husband’s business. It seems she took personal responsibility for the education and welfare of the millworkers. Long before education for children became compulsory, the Greg family were providing basic schooling for the Apprentices, in which the children were taught to read and write.

Oak School was built in 1823 in response to the demand from families living in the village for an education for their children, like those living in the Apprentice House. Samuel was happy to hand the social concerns to his wife. The cost of building and equipping the school is found in Hannah’s personal accounts. Young children attended during the day and older ones at night. Apprentices would have continued to have been taught in the Apprentice House. In 1833, education was made compulsory for children aged 9-13 and it was the job of the Mill Manager to ensure each child attended school. Some parents did not favour this and tried to keep their children working in the Mill to earn extra money for the family. In the Late 19th Century, children became ‘half-timers’ spending four hours at school and four hours at work.

In 1826 a Saturday night meeting for male adult workers was established which developed into the ‘Mutual Improvement Society’. This society fitted in nicely with the self-improvement ethic of Unitarianism to which the Greg family subscribed. Education made it possible for the Greg family to promote from within, employing former apprentices as Mill Managers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teacher Prompt</th>
<th>Pupil Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Why did Hannah Greg build Oak School?</td>
<td>• In response to families in the Village asking for education for their children, like those living in the Apprentice House.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• It is in line with her Unitarian beliefs that a happy and learned workforce is of more use, more productive and less likely to cause trouble.</td>
</tr>
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<td>When did the children of the Village go to school?</td>
<td>• Young children went during the day and older children in the evening. Apprentices would have continued to be taught in the Apprentice House.</td>
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<td>• It was the job of the Mill Manager to ensure all children attended lessons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a ‘half-timer’?</td>
<td>• The nickname given to the children in the late 19th century as they had to split their time evenly between school and work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Background Information

The Shop was built and opened in 1823 and occupies part of Oak Cottages. It was originally intended to supply the needs of millworkers, but gradually came to be used by others in the district.

Styal Shop was first owned by Samuel Greg and operated under the ‘Truck’ system, whereby his employees would have the cost of those items deducted from their wages every week. The ‘Truck’ system was highly criticised at the time as many employers exploited their staff by marketing goods at extremely inflated prices and selling adulterated products. However, there does not appear to have been any exploitation of the workers living in Styal through the ‘Truck’ system. Indeed, Samuel Greg showed his eagerness to help his employees through difficult financial periods by lending money which was repaid out of their wages each week. Workers were free to spend the rest of their earnings elsewhere.

The Shop sold butter churned at the Apprentice House and meat, such as pork, beef and mutton, from Oak Farm. They sold other basic foodstuffs such as flour, meal, potatoes, bacon, milk and cheese. Vegetables were also sold, but many villagers would have grown their own in their allotments.

In the 1830s, the demand for household goods such as chairs, bedsteads, ‘peggy-tubs’ and cooking utensils increased which suggests an upsurge in prosperity throughout the village. Greater spending power is also indicated through the increase in purchasing of clothes and shoes, whereas in the poorer trade period of 1825-6 clogs and patens were more popular. There was also a rise in luxuries like hosiery and handkerchiefs at Christmas and Easter.

FAST TRACK: Styal Shop
- Built and opened in 1823 and first operated under the ‘Truck’ system.
- Workers would have the value of goods they have purchased from the shop taken out of their wages.
- In 1831 after the Truck Act, the shop came under the management of the employees.
- It seems certain that there was no exploitation of the workers living in Styal through the ‘Truck’ system.
- The demand for household goods, clothing and shoes to be sold in the shop indicates prosperity in the Village during the 1830s.

Teacher Prompt | Pupil Responses
--- | ---
What is the ‘Truck’ system? | A system used by many employers at the time in which workers would be paid with currency substitutes, such as vouchers.
Why was the ‘Truck’ system criticised? | In other workplaces, employers would exploit their workers by selling goods at inflated prices. As their workers were paid in currency substitutes, employers knew their workers had no choice but to buy their items at an inflated cost, creating more profit for the owner.
Did Samuel Greg exploit his workers through the ‘Truck’ system in Styal? | There are no records to show that there was any exploitation at Styal Shop. Samuel Greg showed his eagerness to help his workers through tough financial situations by lending money to be deducted from his employee’s wages each week. Workers were free to spend the rest of their earnings elsewhere.
Point D: The Cottages

**Teacher Prompt**

What would the living conditions be for the workers if they were living in a city?

**Pupil Responses**

- Whole streets of families would share a water pump and a privy which led to the rapid spread of disease because of large numbers of people sharing.
- In cities, one family would share one room of a house, meaning it was very overcrowded.

How was the standard of living different here for the millworkers as opposed to living in cities such as Manchester?

**Pupil Responses**

- Fresh air, countryside.
- Hygiene: Each house had a privy and a water pump used by a small number of people.
- The number of people living in these cottages was considerably less, on average around 6-7 people per house.

**Background Information**

When he first arrived in Styal, the local population was sparse. His workforce initially lived in the surrounding area but as married couples moved into the area the need for accommodation increased. Samuel Greg converted the original farm buildings, such as Farm Fold, Shaws Fold and Cruck Cottage, into smaller cottages between 1790 and 1800. As far as he could, Samuel Greg used local resources as building materials and paid boys from the Apprentice House to work as labourers after factory hours.

Most of the new building occurred in the 1820’s. Oak Cottages, two sets of a double row of houses containing 27 dwellings, were built from 1822. Each consisted of two rooms on each of the two floors, an allotment, an outdoor privy. At this time, having your own privy was the pinnacle of success, elsewhere millworkers would have been sharing with whole streets of families which could cause the rapid spread of disease. In addition, some cottages have cellars which families could rent out to earn some extra money. On average, there were 6-7 inhabitants in each cottage, considerably less than if they were to live in a city where one family could be living in one room. **Salaries were lower for Styal villagers but in return their standard of living was higher.**

The Weavers’ Cottages behind Styal Shop consist of an additional floor which could be adapted to house looms if any extra weaving was required to supplement the cloth woven in the Mill. This is an example of how the workers benefitted from better living conditions, but were beholden to the Greg family. If you lost your job; you lost your house.

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Background Information

In 1833, there was a strong Methodist reaction to the decision by Robert Hyde Greg to establish Norcliffe Chapel as a Unitarian place of worship. The Methodist villagers used one of the cellars of Oak Cottages for Methodist services and there was an increase in house meetings and field preaching.

After four years of campaigning, in 1837, Robert Hyde Greg gave permission for the conversion of the corn store in Farm Fold into a Methodist Chapel to accommodate the differing religions in the village.

Alongside services, the Methodist Chapel hosted social evenings which could include music, dancing and crafts. Adults could attend classes in the evenings to gain a basic education. Both the Methodist Chapel and Norcliffe Chapel formed an important foundation for village life in Styal, in particular the social and educational activities they could generate.

This building still serves as a Methodist Chapel today.

The chapel sits in the oldest part of the village. It is surrounded by the original farming cottages and barns that were converted for the workers. Some of the cottages date back to the late 15th century.

Teacher Prompt | Pupil Responses
---|---
**Why did Robert Hyde Greg give the Methodists permission to have their own chapel?** | - He was receiving an increased amount of pressure by The Methodists, who were strongly opposed to Norcliffe Chapel establishing its allegiance with the Unitarian movement.  
- To accommodate another religion in the village.

**What did the Methodist villagers do to pressurise the Greg family into allowing them to have a Methodist Chapel?** | - Field preaching and house meetings.  
- Campaigning.  
- One cellar in the village used for Methodist services.

**What was the Methodist Church originally?** | - The corn store of Farm Fold.

**Why was it important for the village to have the two chapels?** | - To promote a sense of community.  
- It gave all residents the opportunity to become more educated and sociable.
### ‘Why Styal?’

The primary aim of ‘Why Styal?’ is for students to understand and discuss in more detail the factors which contributed to Samuel Greg’s decision to build his Mill on this site.

A worksheet for students to record responses from any of the prompts can be found overleaf.

<table>
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| What would have affected the **year** in which Samuel Greg built his Mill here? | **Technological Developments:** In 1783 patents of Arkwright’s water frame (a spinning machine) expired making machinery cheaper to buy.  
**End of the American War of Independence in 1783:** This opened up the supply of cotton and opened up the market for goods. |
| What were the **three** main reasons for Samuel Greg choosing Styal?           | **River Bollin:** Water power was the cutting edge technology of early Industrial Revolution. Greg needed a river to install a water wheel which would power the machines in the Mill.  
**Cheap Land with the Possibility of Expansion:** Land in Styal was cheaper and plentiful as it was not suitable for farming. Water rights were cheaper here too.  
**Location/Transport links:** Access to Liverpool Docks and close to Manchester - the commercial centre of the cotton industry. Manchester was also known as ‘Cottonopolis’. Cotton was transported to Quarry Bank via the Bridgewater Canal from Liverpool. |
| What other factors contributed to Samuel Greg choosing Styal?                  | **Building materials:** The site contains it’s own building materials. Quarry for stone, clay soil for bricks and river stones for cobbles.  
**Business links:** Greg had contacts from the Unitarian Society and his marriage to Hannah in 1789. He had inherited a successful business in Manchester and had a lot of experience. |
| What **didn’t** Styal offer to Samuel Greg?                                   | **A Local Workforce:** The number of workers was limited by how isolated the area was. The first workers at Quarry Bank rented rooms in nearby villages. |
| How did he **overcome** this problem?                                        | **Converting existing buildings and constructing new accommodation for his workers.** |
What were the reasons for Samuel Greg choosing to build at Styal?

What factors affected the year in which the Mill was built?

| What didn’t Styal offer Samuel Greg and what did he do to overcome this? | What do you think is the most important reason for building the Mill here in Styal? |
KS3/4 Activity

Point A: How did Villagers make their living before Samuel Greg arrived?

Why do you think Styal Village was a good place to establish this new community?

Point B: Why did Greg decide to appoint a Baptist Minister?

Who was the first Unitarian Minister?

Point C: What times during the day did the children of the Apprentice House and Village attend Oak School?

Why did Hannah Greg fund the building of Oak School?

What goods did Styal Shop sell?

Point D: For the millworkers, what were the pros and cons of living in Styal as opposed to living in a city?

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<tr>
<th>PROS</th>
<th>CONS</th>
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Point E: Why did Robert Hyde Greg allow the Methodists to convert the Corn Store into a Chapel?
**KS2 Activity**

**Your task:**
Sketch two different types of buildings you can see in the village.
Label the key features and the differences between the buildings.
Include the materials used in the building.

Eg. The Methodist Chapel has an arched door made from wood.

**Buildings you can choose from:**
- Norcliffe Chapel  
- Methodist Chapel  
- Oak Cottages  
- Weavers’ Cottages

Would you have liked to live here? Why?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of hazard</th>
<th>Worst outcome</th>
<th>Groups at risk</th>
<th>Current precautions</th>
<th>Estimation of risk</th>
<th>Further precautions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Slips on muddy paths | Major injury | Visitors and volunteers | Warnings if weather poor, activity cancelled in extreme weather conditions. | Severity of hazard: serious  
Likelihood of event: likely | None |
| Falling trees | Fatality | Visitors and volunteers | Activity cancelled in extreme weather conditions. Trees risk assessed regularly. | Severity of hazard: extreme  
Likelihood of event: remote | None |
| Dogs in the village, contact with dog excreta | Serious ill - health. | Visitors and volunteers | Dogs should be on a lead in the mill yard. Students should be supervised by adults. Teachers should ensure students are supervised by adults. | Severity of hazard: serious  
Likelihood of event: possible | None |
| Contact with cows and bulls in fields on the walk | Fatality | A Visitors and volunteers | Electric fence in place when there is a bull in the field. Alternative routes used when necessary to avoid contact with cattle. | Severity of hazard: extreme  
Likelihood of event: remote | None |
| Insect stings and bites | Serious ill – health | Visitors and volunteers | First aid kits carried by guides. Radios carried to get medical assistance. | Severity of hazard: serious  
Likelihood of event: possible | None |
| Contact with animal excrement causing ill health. | Serious ill – health | Visitors and volunteers | Where possible, the route follows tarmac paths or other ‘made’ surface. Cattle are avoided wherever possible. Teachers should advise students to wash their hands before eating meals; washing facilities are available at the Mill. | Severity of hazard: possible  
Likelihood of event: possible  
Adequacy of controls: fair | None |
<table>
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<tr>
<td>Cars on the road causing accidents.</td>
<td>Fatality</td>
<td>Visitors and volunteers</td>
<td>Students warned to keep to one side of the road. Students told to walk in an orderly and sensible manner.</td>
<td>Severity of hazard : high</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries caused by use of toys/handling objects/equipment that children may not be used to using such as donkey stones, hand brushes and shovels.</td>
<td>Injury Serious Ill-health</td>
<td>Children</td>
<td>Activities supervise at all times. Children instructed on how to undertake activities safely. Children instructed to wash hands thoroughly after use.</td>
<td>Severity of hazard : moderate</td>
<td>None</td>
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</table>

Assessment carried out by Julie Pugh

Date of previous assessment 21/9/14

Job title Formal Learning Officer

Date of this assessment 1/9/15

Signed J Pugh

Next assessment before 1/9/16