

Places to visit

Bollington Discovery Centre
Tel: 01625 572985
www.happy-valley.org.uk

Visit

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers

For the latest news and information about Ranger events and the sites we manage.

Plus why not sign up to our monthly e-newsletter?

The Ranger Service protects, enhances, encourages and promotes the proper use of the Council's outdoor recreational facilities.

For further information telephone 01625 504528 or go to:
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers

Follow The Countryside Code

Helping everyone to respect, protect & enjoy our countryside.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



www.nhs.uk/change4life

Bollington

Circular Walks

2

Facts

Distance

5.6 km (3½ miles)

Time

1 hour 30 minutes

Start

Bollington Rangers Office

Terrain

Easy - steep climb at the start

Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments

See inside for location details

5 Sep 09/167

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Cheshire East Council
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers

Cheshire East
Council

**Rangers Office ► Middlewood Way ►
Macclesfield Canal ► Tinkers Clough ► Adelphi Mill**

Introduction

The second in a series of circular walks around Bollington and Kerridge starting from the Rangers Office, Adlington Road. The routes vary in length highlighting points of interest and provide pleasant views of the countryside.

Route

From the entrance to the Rangers Office walk straight ahead for about 40yds (44m), join the footpath and climb the sandy path to the top of the Bollington Viaduct. Turn left, through the gates to join the path along the Middlewood Way.

i Bollington Viaduct has 23 arches straddling the Dean River valley. Plans to demolish the Viaduct in the early 1980's were the subject of local protests. The Department of the Environment eventually agreed to save it.

Dr. David Bellamy opened the Middlewood Way in May 1985. At nearly 11 miles long it runs from Marple to Macclesfield. The majority of the trail lies within the Borough of Cheshire East and is managed by the Ranger Service. Originally a railway, it opened on 2 August 1869 and closed in 1970. Within a week of opening the line ran an 'excursion' to Manchester from Macclesfield carrying 600 passengers. The 1st class fare from Macclesfield to Bollington was 4 old pennies (1½p), for a journey taking 7 minutes.

1 Shortly after the first bridge, look for the stone remains of Bollington Station platform on the left. Continue to meet Grimshaw Lane. Across the road walk ahead through the kissing gate and continue along the Middlewood Way.

i Bollington Station was demolished in December 1971 just over 101 years after its opening. It had extensive warehousing and shunting facilities. In 1912 a petrol-electric railcar was introduced to run a shuttle service between Bollington and Macclesfield, called the Bollington Bug, it ran ten services a day (3rd Class only), at a maximum speed of 40mph. It was withdrawn in 1935. The first accident on the line in 1875 happened at Bollington Station when a goods train collided with a furniture wagon that had become detached during shunting. The driver, Mr. Champion Lunn was killed instantly.

2 Walk down the wooden walkway, under the bridge and continue along the wide tarmac path. About 300yds (275m) beyond the bridge notice reedmace growing in the ponds.

i Reedmace was made famous, in error, when Victorian artist Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema painted 'Moses in the Bulrushes' from the biblical story. He in fact showed the child's cradle in a clump of Reedmace. Because of the fame of the painting, the plant became popularly known as Bulrush, and later, what had started in error became the accepted common name for it! The plant originally called Bulrush has since been renamed Clubrush.

3 Walk under the next bridge (Clarke Lane).

4 Reaching the end of a line of trees, as the tarmac path goes slightly uphill, turn sharp left following the narrow path past the north entrance to AstraZeneca and onto a bridge over the Macclesfield Canal.

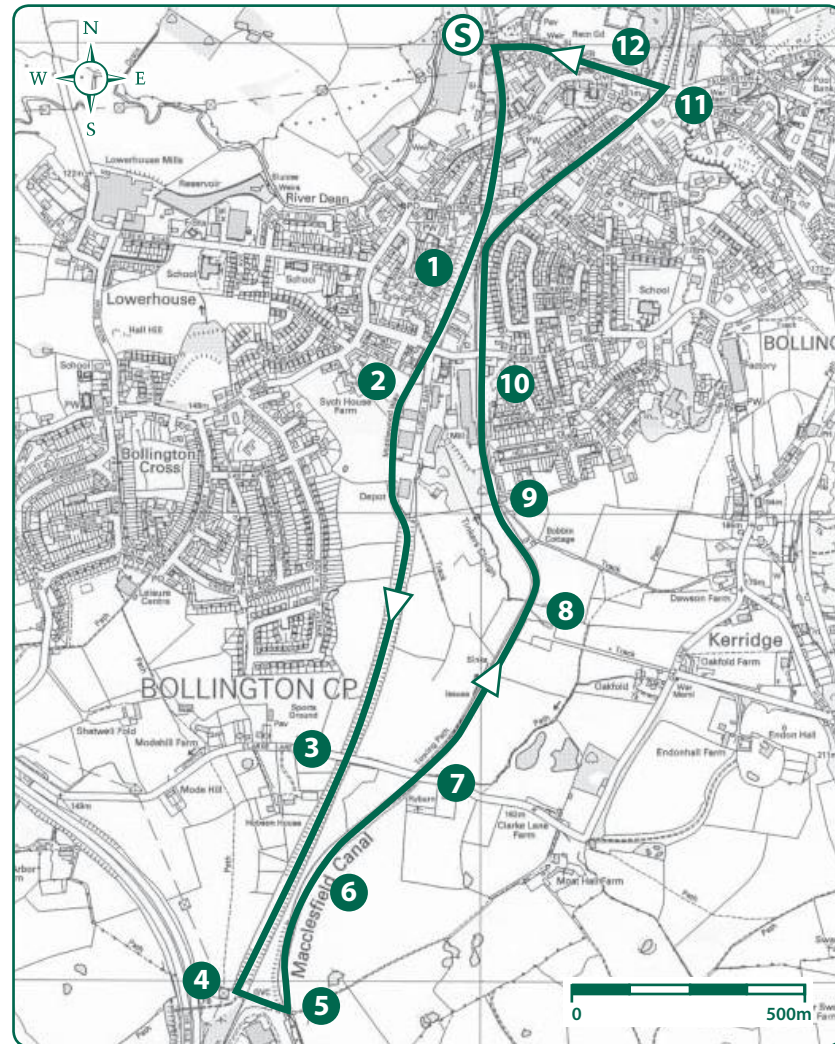
i The Macclesfield Canal was one of the last narrow canals to be built. The route was laid out by Thomas Telford and opened on 19th November 1831. The Macclesfield Courier reported in 1831 that around 20,000 people watched the opening by a procession of boats. Ladies were not permitted on the boats because, the Courier said, 'Of a very natural anxiety for the preservation of their health, which might have been endangered by exposure to the cold and damp atmosphere.'

5 This is bridge 30. Turn left at the end and walk down the steps onto the towpath. Continue with the canal on your left.

i Bridge 30 was a farmer's accommodation bridge. During World War 2 a defensive tank trap was fitted and remained in position until the bridge was restored by the Macclesfield Canal Society.

6 Along the towpath, notice a toll milestone.

i Milestones were installed for the collection of the toll, which was fixed at between 1 and 2 old pennies per mile. Some of them had their mileage obliterated or were removed and buried during World War 2 as a precaution against enemy soldiers using them for navigation. During the 1980's, the Macclesfield Canal Society restored the milestones along the whole course of the canal.



- 7 Using bridge 29 (Clarke's Turnover), rejoin the towpath with the canal now on your right.

i A turnover bridge was designed to carry the towpath from one side of the canal to the other without need to unhitch the horses' tow line from the barge. They were also called 'roving' or 'changeline'. The path switched to the opposite bank in towns such as Macclesfield, so that goods on the wharves did not obstruct horses and were safe from the thieving hands of passers-by.

- 8 Continue along the towpath passing Kerridge Dry Dock on the opposite bank.

i The driveway to Kerridge Dry Dock was once the course of a tramway known as the Rally Road. Constructed in 1836, it was driven by a steam engine located at the top of Kerridge Hill and serviced the nearby quarries.

- 9 Walk under Greens Bridge (no.28).

- 10 Continue past Adelphi Mill.

i Adelphi (Greek for brothers) Mill was built in 1851 as a cotton mill by brothers George and Martin Swindells. The Swindells family was a major force in transforming Bollington from an agricultural village of 1,200 people in 1801 to an industrial town of 4,600 people by 1851. Just past the mill you will notice a stone single storey building that now houses canoes. In Victorian times it was a stable, and during World War II a lookout post for the Home Guard.

- 11 Shortly after bridge 27 turn left and walk through a kissing gate adjacent to Aqueduct Cottage. Turn right; walk down to the road. Before crossing, look right, at the 60ft (18m) high Bollington Aqueduct.



i Charles Nicol, a local man, constructed Bollington Aqueduct and embankment. He diverted the river below to prevent potential slippage.

- 12 Cross the road, go through the metal gates into the Recreation Ground. Turn left, walk down the steps to the path adjacent to the River Dean. Exit the Recreation Ground, the Rangers Office is opposite, across the road.

Refreshments

Vale Inn (01625 575147) Adlington Road.
Left from the exit of the car park.

Dog & Partridge Pub (01625 572177)
Adlington Road. Right from the exit of the car park.

Lord Clyde Pub (01625 573202).
West of the Middlewood Way bridge along Clarke Lane.

Waggon & Horses Pub (01625 574042).
100 yds downhill from the Middlewood Way opposite Grimshaw Lane.