

THE HOLLIN HOUSE HOTEL

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A stepped footpath follows a section of the **Rally Road**, a former tramway used to carry stone from the quarries on Kerridge to a wharf on the Macclesfield Canal. The tramway was constructed in the 1830s and was in use until the 1860s. The incline passes under Windmill Lane via **Victoria Bridge**, dated May 24th 1837 (the birthday of Queen Victoria in the year she was crowned).

Clarence Mill (built in various phases from 1834) is a former cotton-spinning mill on the Macclesfield Canal. The earliest steam-powered mill in Bollington, it was built by the Swindells family, who dominated the local cotton spinning industry and also built the later Adelphi Mill. The prominent tower on the front of the building is a former water tower and incorporates a staircase.



Bridge 29 is a **roving bridge**. These bridges, a speciality of the Macclesfield Canal, occur where the towpath changes sides, the spiral ramp allowing the towing horse to switch from one bank to the other without having to be unhitched from the boat.

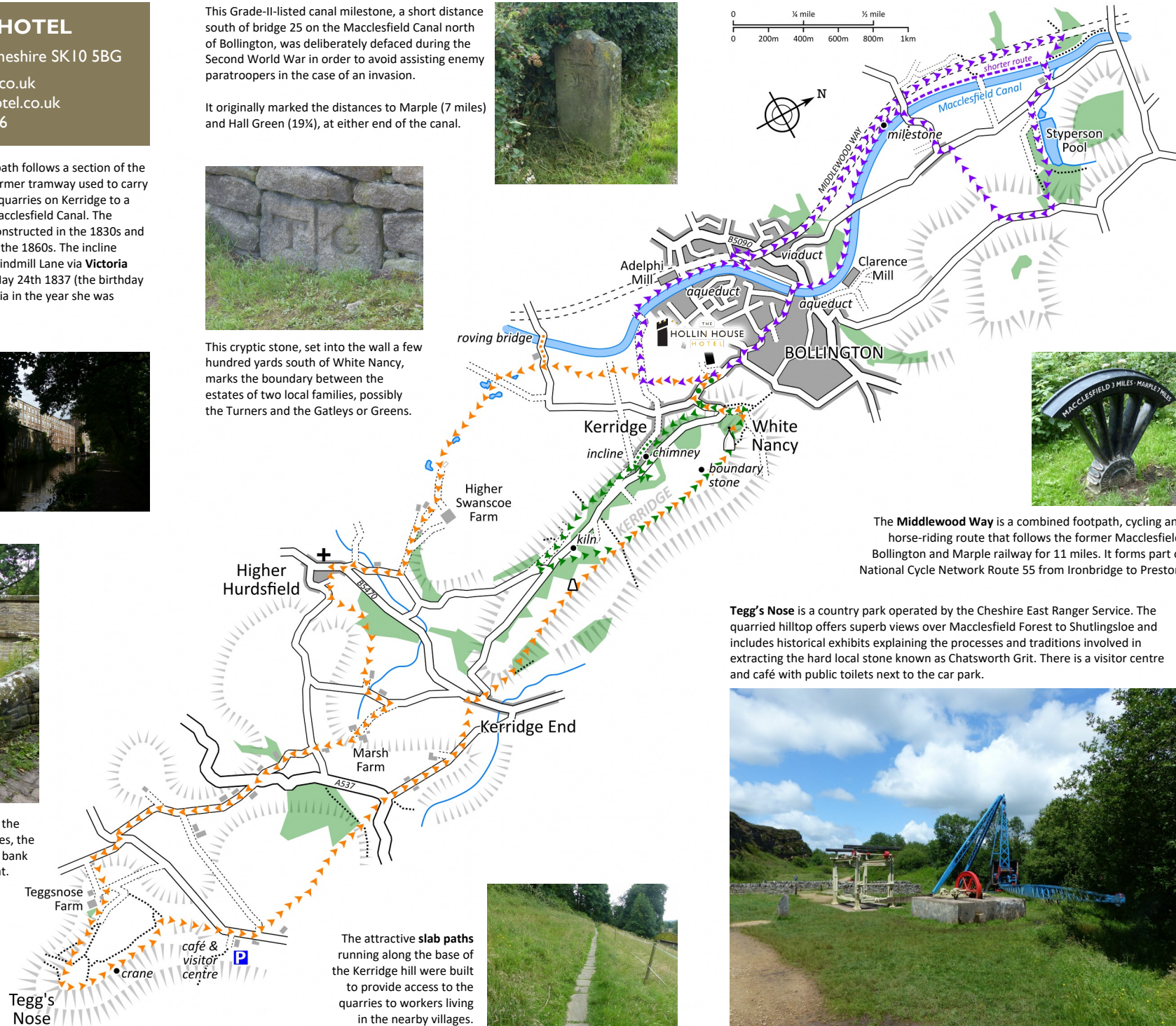
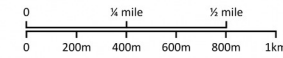


This Grade-II-listed canal milestone, a short distance south of bridge 25 on the Macclesfield Canal north of Bollington, was deliberately defaced during the Second World War in order to avoid assisting enemy paratroopers in the case of an invasion.

It originally marked the distances to Marple (7 miles) and Hall Green (19%), at either end of the canal.



This cryptic stone, set into the wall a few hundred yards south of White Nancy, marks the boundary between the estates of two local families, possibly the Turners and the Gatleys or Greens.



The **Middlewood Way** is a combined footpath, cycling and horse-riding route that follows the former Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple railway for 11 miles. It forms part of National Cycle Network Route 55 from Ironbridge to Preston.

Tegg's Nose is a country park operated by the Cheshire East Ranger Service. The quarried hilltop offers superb views over Macclesfield Forest to Shutlingsloe and includes historical exhibits explaining the processes and traditions involved in extracting the hard local stone known as Chatsworth Grit. There is a visitor centre and café with public toilets next to the car park.



The attractive **slab paths** running along the base of the Kerridge hill were built to provide access to the quarries to workers living in the nearby villages.



three circular walks from



White Nancy

2¾ miles: Moderate

Short but full of interest, this is a perfect evening stroll to Bollington's most famous landmark.

Middlewood Way & Styperson Pool

4½/5½ miles: Easy/moderate

Mostly level walking, with an extension to a pretty wooded lake with fine views from the adjacent hills.

Tegg's Nose & White Nancy

8½ miles: Fairly strenuous

A rewarding walk to a local country park with superb views over the Cheshire Plain and Peak District.

White Nancy

2¾ miles: Moderate

Allow 1–2 hours. Several stiles. Two short but steep and uneven climbs and descents (one optional).

1 From the hotel, follow the drive out to the road. **2** Turn right and walk along Jackson Lane to the Bull's Head. **3** Turn left into Redway Lane. **4** Before the pavement rises above the road with railings, cross to a stone stile on the right and follow a stone-paved path across the field. **5** Pass a stone squeeze stile and continue along the paved path between houses. **6** At a stone slab by the gates of Meadow Cottage, the easy continuation is to turn right then left and follow the cobbled Higher Lane past a row of cottages (rejoining the described route beyond Endon House at step **10**) but an entertaining alternative is to turn left and follow an intriguing path that passes behind the cottages and through gardens (including a passageway through a ruined building) before climbing to Windmill Lane. **7** Turn right along the lane past Clayton's Tower, an ornamental chimney. **8** At the entrance to Macclesfield Stone Quarries, turn left then left again and go down a steep stepped path following the old tramway incline under the bridge. **9** On regaining Higher Lane, turn left. **10** When the track divides, take the right-hand fork, which leads slightly downhill through the trees. **11** When you emerge into fields, go through a gate on your left and walk along the bank to a kissing gate into a farm drive. **12** Turn left and follow the metalled driveway until you meet Kerridge Road. **13** Turn left and walk up to the junction of Windmill Lane and Lidgetts Lane (detour briefly left to view a roadside kiln on the right). **14** Go straight over into the track beyond a stile and gate. Follow the path up the hillside past an old barn on the right and above an old quarry overgrown with trees. **15** After a stone squeeze stile and hand-gate, continue along the wall to reach the crest of the ridge at a kissing gate by a junction of paths. **16** Go through the gate and continue along the path between fence (left) and wall (right) along the ridge top. A kissing gate leads into a grassy field to a second and then a third, before emerging at White Nancy. **17** The direct pitched path down the slope beyond the landmark is somewhat uneven; a slightly easier alternative with steps and level sections leads through the woods on the left. **18** Either way, when you meet a concrete driveway, turn left and follow it downhill through the trees to Redway Lane. **19** Turn right and walk down the elevated pavement to the junction with Jackson Lane by the Bull's Head. **20** Turn right to return to Hollin House.



Middlewood Way & Styperson Pool

4½/5½ miles: Easy/moderate

Allow 3 hours. Mostly level along the canal towpath and a former railway, but with one optional climb through woodland.

1 From the hotel, follow the drive out to the road. **2** Turn right and immediately right again through a kissing gate into a field. **3** Follow a line of trees down the shallow valley and walk along a short path between hedges, then follow the right-hand field edge to a wooden kissing gate into a track. **4** Turn right down the track, then follow it to the right between houses and to the left of a pair of gateposts. **5** Cross the canal bridge and turn right down the steps onto the towpath. **6** Follow the towpath past Adelphi Mill and over the Grimshaw Lane aqueduct. **7** Shortly after the canal bends to the right, leave the towpath through a gate in the wall on the left into Hawthorn Road. **8** Follow the road over the former railway bridge and turn right onto a footpath running along the rear of some gardens. **9** Bear right onto the Middlewood Way and turn left to cross the former railway viaduct. Pass the distance marker in the shape of a railway wheel, reading "Macclesfield 3 miles Marple 7 miles", and pass under a stone over-bridge. **10** Continue beyond another bridge and pass a Line Hut on the left with a wooden rabbit carving. **11** At the next distance marker ("Macclesfield 4 miles Marple 6 miles"), turn right onto a footpath with an NCW waymark that leads through a kissing gate. **12** Walk up the field to a stile onto a bridge over the canal (for a shorter walk, turn right along the towpath to bridge 25, rejoining at step **23**). **13** Continue to Winterfold Farm and turn right along the road. **14** After 200 yards, turn left into a driveway with a sign reading "Footpaths to Long Lane and Shrigley Road". **15** Pass between houses and follow a footpath with the lake on your left. **16** Turn right onto a waymarked concessionary path that leads up steps into the woodland, passing some old stone quarries. **17** Keep right to the edge of the wood and follow the path uphill within the trees, then walk through a bracken area to emerge on Long Lane. **18** Turn right along the road, with views to Alderley Edge and beyond to your right. **19** After 300 yards, as the lane descends slightly, turn right onto a footpath through a stone squeeze stile. **20** Walk down the left-hand side of a couple of fields, then go through a gate and past a former chapel to the road. **21** Turn left, then right into Holehouse Lane. **22** Walk down to the canal; cross the bridge and turn left onto the towpath. Notice the defaced canal milestone (see overleaf). **23** Follow the towpath for a third of a mile (with views of White Nancy) to bridge 26, and beyond for further ¼ mile to Clarence Mill. **24** Beyond the mill, pass under bridge 26A and continue along the towpath across another aqueduct. **25** At bridge 27, leave the towpath and cross the canal. Walk uphill along Hurst Lane (passing the entrances to Highfield Road, Poplar Grove and Ward Avenue on the right and Gleave Avenue on the left). **26** At the junction with Grimshaw Lane turn left, then right into Jackson Lane, signposted "Hotels". The entrance to Hollin House is on your right after 150 yards.

Tegg's Nose & White Nancy

8½ miles: Fairly strenuous

Allow 4–5 hours. The first part of this walk is level, though field paths may be muddy. The latter part involves several moderate climbs.

1 From the hotel, follow the drive out to the road. **2** Turn right and immediately right again through a kissing gate into a field. **3** Follow a line of trees down the shallow valley and walk along a short path between hedges, then follow the right-hand field edge to a wooden kissing gate into a track. **4** Cross the track and go through the kissing gate opposite, crossing to a double stile and footbridge. Continue to another track. **5** Go through the hand-gate ahead and continue along a ditch and field-edge to a lane. (A short, optional diversion to the right takes you to one of the Macclesfield Canal's 'roving' bridges.) **6** Join the path opposite and continue through a stone squeeze stile and then a metal kissing gate by a pond, and cross the field beyond to a second kissing gate into a track. **7** Go through another kissing gate and between two ponds to a stone stile in a wall. **8** Follow the path beyond to a kissing gate that leads into a track by another pond. **9** Follow the track ahead past a ruined stone barn to a gate, and along a track between farms; when the track bends left, take the path on the right through a kissing gate that leads out past The Random Apple Company to a metalled driveway (Swanscoe Lane). **10** Follow the road ahead past a gabled cottage on the left, carrying straight on at a junction with another driveway until you reach Well Lane. **11** Turn right and follow the road past a house, then climb to the B5470 Highwayman road, bearing left by a private farm drive on the right. **12** Turn right along the pavement for 75 yards; cross shortly before a bus stop by the old Ebenezer Chapel and walk up a signposted path next to number 67. This path twists and turns between houses and gardens to emerge at the end of a cul-de-sac. **13** Climb a stile on the left and walk up the field to a narrow lane. **14** Turn left and then left again very shortly, leaving the road through a gate. A pleasant path climbs gradually through gorsy grassland to a stile and then through trees, before returning to more open country beyond a kissing gate. **15** After a stile in a walled corner, the path drops to a house, where a gate on the left leads down a flight of stone steps. Turn right past the house and out along the driveway to a narrow lane. **16** Turn left and follow the lane for 200 yards past a creeper-hung house on the left, then turn right between gateposts into the driveway to Marsh Farm. **17** Opposite the farmhouse, turn left at the corner of a barn and walk up to a kissing gate. Cross a couple of fields and in front of another farm to emerge in Cliff Lane. **18** Follow the lane opposite and descend to a valley before climbing to the A537 Cat & Fiddle Road. **19** Cross carefully into Back Eddisbury Road and follow the quiet lane for half a mile to Buxton Old Road. **20** Turn left then shortly right into Broadcar Road. **21** After 250 yards, just before a small stone barn on the left, cross a stile and climb alongside a driveway and over stone steps into a green lane. Go straight on over another wall stile and

along the hedge. **22** Bear right behind Teggsnose Farm above a stand of beech trees and over another step stile. Take the upper path at a fork and climb through bilberry and gorse to another path. Bear right into a grassy area. **23** Keep left towards a area of quarry spoil, where you turn left past a bench and up stone steps to a gate into the main path around Tegg's Nose. **24** Turn right and follow the obvious path with fine views to the right, passing a curved stone bench. **25** Bear left, still keeping to the obvious path, past a quarry and some old quarrying machinery below the banded rock face. **26** At a fork by a gate, turn right down stone steps. Turn right through the gate at the bottom and follow the obvious path past a Gritstone Trail fingerpost to the entrance to the Tegg's Nose café and car park. **27** Beyond the car park, continue to Kennel House, where you cross and turn left into a track, then immediately right over a wall, still following the Gritstone Trail. **28** Cross a meadow to a gate then bear slightly left across the hillside through a series of gates to a stile (ignoring a crossing path) and continue down to the A537. **29** Cross the main road and turn left along the pavement. Take the first right (Bull Hill Lane). Continue along the lane, ignoring the Gritstone Trail as it leaves to the right. **30** Pass through a farm, then continue past the entrance to another on the left. A third of a mile after leaving the main road, take a signposted footpath through a gate on the left and walk down the hedgerow before crossing to a hand-gate and down steps to the B5470. **31** Turn right, then take the first left by Rose Cottage. When the lane bends left, go straight on over a step stile by a field gate into a track. **32** Continue past a second and third gate then, when the path divides, take the left-hand path and climb steadily through the trees between old quarries. **33** Beyond a kissing gate in a wall, climb a slightly rocky section to emerge at the top of the ridge with wide views over Macclesfield to Jodrell Bank. **34** Turn right and follow the wall to a kissing gate that gives access to the trig point at the highest point of the ridge. **35** Continue beyond the trig in similar vein above quarries to the left with views over Rainow to Shining Tor on your right. **36** At a kissing gate by a footpath junction, continue along the path between fence and wall along the ridge. A kissing gate leads into a grassy field to a second (look out for the boundary stone in the wall – see overleaf) and then another before emerging at White Nancy. **37** The direct pitched path down the slope beyond the landmark is somewhat uneven; a slightly easier alternative with steps and level sections leads through the woods on the left. **38** Either way, when you meet a concrete driveway, turn left and follow it downhill through the trees to Redway Lane. **39** Turn right and walk down the elevated pavement to the junction with Jackson Lane by the Bull's Head. **40** Turn right to return to Hollin House.



Route descriptions, mapping and photography
(excluding cover photo)
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