

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

1

Facts

Distance

2.4 km (1½ miles)

Time

40 minutes

Start

Bollington Rangers Office

Terrain

Easy. The canal tow-path can be muddy

Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments

See inside for location details

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

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers



i The Middlewood Way is nearly 11 miles long and was originally a railway, the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple line that opened in 1869 and closed in 1970. It was built as a result of pressure from mill owners in Bollington, and pit owners in Poynton, at a time of depression to improve the distribution of coal and bring down costs. Costing nearly half a million pounds to build, the line struggled to make a profit. Between 1873 and 1888 it had losses of around £26,500.

7 Continue along the Middlewood Way.

i After closure of the railway in 1970 the area became derelict until 1985 when the Macclesfield & Stockport Councils opened the route again as the Middlewood Way. The Cheshire East Ranger Service manages the majority of Middlewood Way.

8 Just before Bollington Viaduct, which has gates across the entrance, walk down the path slightly to the left. At the bottom of the viaduct follow the footpath. Look ahead and you are back at the Rangers Office.

i Bollington Viaduct has 23 arches straddling the river Dean. Identified by the North Staffordshire Railway, one time owner of the line as Bridge 18 in its register of bridges, it comprises 21 openings at 33 feet each, one of 36' and one of 10'.

Did you know?

Bollington has the nickname 'Happy Valley'. There are two explanations for the origin of the name. The first is that Samuel Gregg who came to Bollington 1832 to take over the Lowerhouse Mill, was a forward looking philanthropic man who valued his workers and endeavoured to improve their living conditions. Gregg called Bollington 'GOLDENTHAL', German for Happy Valley. The other explanation is that in its heyday Bollington had a pub on every corner and full employment!

Refreshments

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

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

Windmill Pub at Whiteley Green (01625 574222).
About 250 yds from the Middlewood Way. Food served lunchtime and evenings.

Rangers Office ▶ Macclesfield Canal
▶ Holehouse Lane ▶ Middlewood Way

Introduction

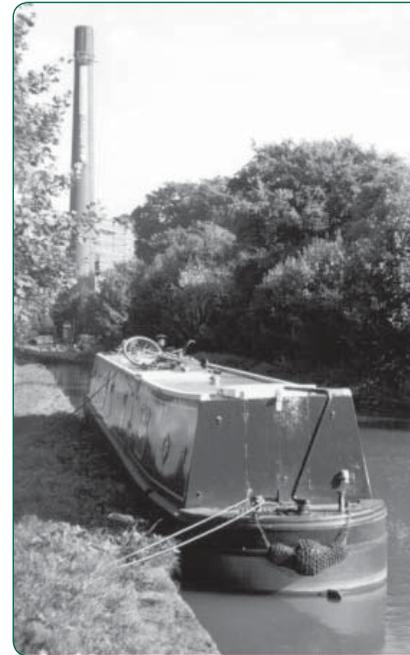
The first in a series of circular walks around Bollington (the Happy Valley) and Kerridge starting from the Rangers Office, Adlington Road. The routes vary in length highlighting points of interest and provide pleasant views of the countryside. This walk is brief but pretty and is ideal at any time of the year.

Route

From the Rangers Office cross Adlington Road and enter the Recreation Ground. Continue along the path, crossing and re-crossing the River Dean. After the second bridge, turn right and walk up the steps. Turn right through the metal gates to the road. Cross the road (take care, it is a busy road) and turn left. Look ahead at the Bollington Aqueduct and Embankment 60ft (18m) above the road. After about 10yds (9m) turn right through the hole in the wall and walk up the steps.

i Local man Charles Nicol, constructed the 60ft (18m) high embankment and the stone Bollington Aqueduct. To prevent potential slippage caused by the river below, he simply diverted the river.

1 At the top of the steps walk through the kissing gate and turn left onto the Macclesfield Canal towpath.



i The Macclesfield Canal was opened in 1831. In its heyday the canal carried coals from Poynton by horse drawn barges; raw cotton to Bollington; silk from Macclesfield and gritstone from Kerridge. It also carried some unusual cargoes. In the 1850's manure from Manchester Corporation stables and 'night soil' from cesspits was transported to be sold to farmers as fertilizer!

2 Walk over the aqueduct and continue ahead passing Clarence Mill.

i Local entrepreneurs, Joseph Brook and the Swindells family built Clarence Mill as a cotton mill between 1824 and 1845. A swing bridge across the canal carried skips loaded with boiler ash from the mill, which was tipped over the bank. The mill stopped spinning cotton in 1970. It was then used for light industry until 2001 when it was converted into offices and apartments.

3 Continue along the towpath under Sugar Lane Bridge (no. 26).

i Sugar Lane Bridge is a 'skew' bridge. To avoid having to make a Z-bend across the canal, this bridge was built at an oblique angle. It has a twist or 'skew' requiring great skill by the stonemason who had to design each stone individually so that it fitted the overall plan.

4 About ¼ mile (400m) beyond bridge 26, look back and see White Nancy on the apex of the hill on the horizon.

i A member of the Gaskell family of Ingersley, sometime between 1815 and 1818 erected White Nancy, probably to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo. For a close view of White Nancy pick up Bollington Circular Walk no.3. That walk takes in both White Nancy and Kerridge Hill with spectacular views across the Cheshire Plain.

5 About 25yds (27m) before bridge 25 you will pass a toll milestone.

i Milestones were installed for the collection of the toll, which was fixed at between one and two old pennies per mile. During World War 2 the milestones were buried for security reasons. They were restored in the 1980's by the Macclesfield Canal Society.

6 Reaching bridge 25 turn left and walk up the steps to the road (Holehouse Lane). Turn left and walk downhill past Rushmere Close. Cross the stone bridge over the Middlewood Way. At the end of the bridge turn left, walk down the steps and turn right onto the Middlewood Way.

