

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

4

Facts

Distance

8 km (5 miles)

Time

2½ hours

Start

Bollington Rangers Office

Terrain

Moderate

Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments

See inside for location details

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Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers



**Rangers Office ► Middlewood Way ► Bartons Clough
► Sugar Lane ► Long Lane ► Macclesfield Canal**

Introduction

The fourth 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. Some of the footpaths across fields on this walk can be very muddy after wet weather. The views across the Cheshire Plain from Long Lane on a clear day are superb, and a pair of binoculars would be useful.

Route

From the entrance to the Rangers Office walk straight ahead a short distance to join the footpath. Climb the sandy path to the top of the Bollington Viaduct and walk north along the Middlewood Way.



- 1 Shortly after passing under the first bridge notice reedmace growing in the raised 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.

In June look for the pink or pale purple flowers of the Water violet. This handsome plant is not common in the wild. The long roots growing from the floating stems are silvery-white, and glisten in the water. The plant does not belong to the violet or pansy family, but is, in fact a variety of primrose.

- 2 Continue along the Middlewood Way, passing under bridge No. 8. Shortly before bridge No. 9, opposite the 'train wheel' distance marker, turn right over the stile, and walk slightly uphill with woods on your left, heading for the top left of the field.
- 3 Cross the stile and over the Macclesfield Canal (bridge no. 22). Walk a short distance until reaching a road, (Sugar Lane), turn right and walk about 200yds (183m) slightly uphill and then turn left up a wide track, signed 'To Long Lane and Shrigley Road'.

i The Macclesfield Canal opened in 1831. Thomas Telford surveyed the route, which runs from Marple to Hall Green, a distance of 26¼ miles. In its heyday the canal carried coal in horse drawn barges; raw cotton to Bollington; silk from Macclesfield and gritstone from Kerridge.

- 4 After about 100yds (90m) reach crossroads and turn right along the chipped path. Where the grass in the middle of the path finishes follow the yellow footpath signs until reaching a road, (Long Lane).
- 5 Turn right and walk along the road. As you reach the brow of the hill look right for a beautiful view across the Cheshire Plain.
- 6 Turn right along the second signed footpath, opposite a white cottage with a white lamp post in the garden. At the end of the path walk down the steps and cross the field. Go slightly downhill between banks of holly. Continue ahead over two stiles and through a kissing gate to a wide track with a wooden fence on your left.
- 7 Walk to a road (Sugar Lane). Turn right, after about 20yds (18m) turn left over a stile. Walk slightly uphill adjacent to a fence. At the end of the hedging turn right over a stile and walk through an avenue of trees. The footpath continues across the entrance to a house and onto a wide gravel path. At the road turn left, walk over the canal bridge and down the steps to the canal towpath.
- 8 Turn right and walk along the towpath.

Did you know?

In 1806, Joseph Edge, at the age of 62 walked to London from Macclesfield. He took 49 hours and 20 minutes to get there at an average recorded speed of 3 miles, 1 quarter and 416 yards per hour.

- 9 Walk under Sugar Lane Bridge (no. 26), and continue along the towpath.

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 to the canal, with a twist or 'skew' requiring great skill by the stonemason who had to design each stone individually so that it fitted the overall plan.

- 10 Walk past Clarence Mill under the footbridge, and over Bollington Aqueduct. Opposite 'Red Joinery' and just before bridge 27, turn right through the kissing gate, right again and walk down the steps to the road.

i Local entrepreneurs, Joseph Brook and the Swindells family built Clarence Mill as a cotton mill between 1824 and 1845. It was the first local mill to be orientated towards the canal transport system. Raw cotton and coal were delivered by barge for the mills' huge steam engines Success and Perseverance. A swing bridge across the canal carried skips loaded with boiler ash from the mill, which was tipped over the bank. The mill produced fine cotton for high quality clothing, table linen and Nottingham Lace.

- 11 Cross the road, walk slightly left and through the gates into the Recreation Ground. After a few yards, turn left, walk down the steps and follow the path, crossing and re-crossing the River Dean. At the exit to the Recreation Ground the Rangers Office will be opposite, across the road.

Refreshments

Vale Inn (01625 575147)

Adlington Road. Left from the exit of the car park.

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

The Middlewood Way

The Middlewood Way is nearly 11 miles long and was originally the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple railway 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. After closure the area became derelict until opened again as the Middlewood Way.



The Way, open to pedestrians and cyclists along its whole length and to horse riders from Bollington northwards, is an important wildlife corridor linking together wildlife habitats along its length. The Cheshire East Ranger Service manages the majority of the Way.

Bollington Viaduct has 23 arches straddling the Dean River and comprises 21 openings at 33 feet each, one of 36' and one of 10'.

