

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

3

Facts

Distance

8 km (5 miles)

Time

2½ hours

Start

Bollington Rangers Office

Terrain

Partly strenuous (see introduction)

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



**Rangers Office ▶ Macclesfield Canal ▶ Kerridge
▶ White Nancy ▶ Kerridge Hill ▶ 'Rally Road' ▶
Middlewood Way**

Introduction

The third 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. This walk includes a visit to White Nancy. The path to Nancy is steep, and the 'Rally Road' path can be slippery when wet. However the view over the Cheshire Plain from the Kerridge Ridge makes the climb well worthwhile.

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 gates to the road. Cross the road and turn left, then right through the hole in the wall and walk up the steps. At the top turn right onto the Macclesfield Canal towpath.

i The Macclesfield Canal was one of the last 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.'

i Just before bridge 27 notice the stacked planks of wood. These can be slotted into the grooves located near the bridge, where the canal is narrow; to seal off a length of canal so that it can be drained for repairs.

1 Continue walking along the towpath, under bridge 27 and past Adelphi Mill.

Did you know?

Canal locks were invented by Leonardo da Vinci for the San Marco Lock in Milan, making possible the interconnection, formerly prevented by their different levels, of the Martesana Canal and the Naviglio Grande.

2 As you reach Greens bridge (no.28), walk up the steps on the right. Turn left over the bridge and continue ahead passing the entrance to Beehive Cottage and then Bobbins Cottage on the right, until reaching a main road.

3 Turn left, walk uphill. At the junction with the Bulls Head pub, turn right and walk up Redway. Pass in front of Redway House then turn left by the side of the house and up the footpath (signpost).



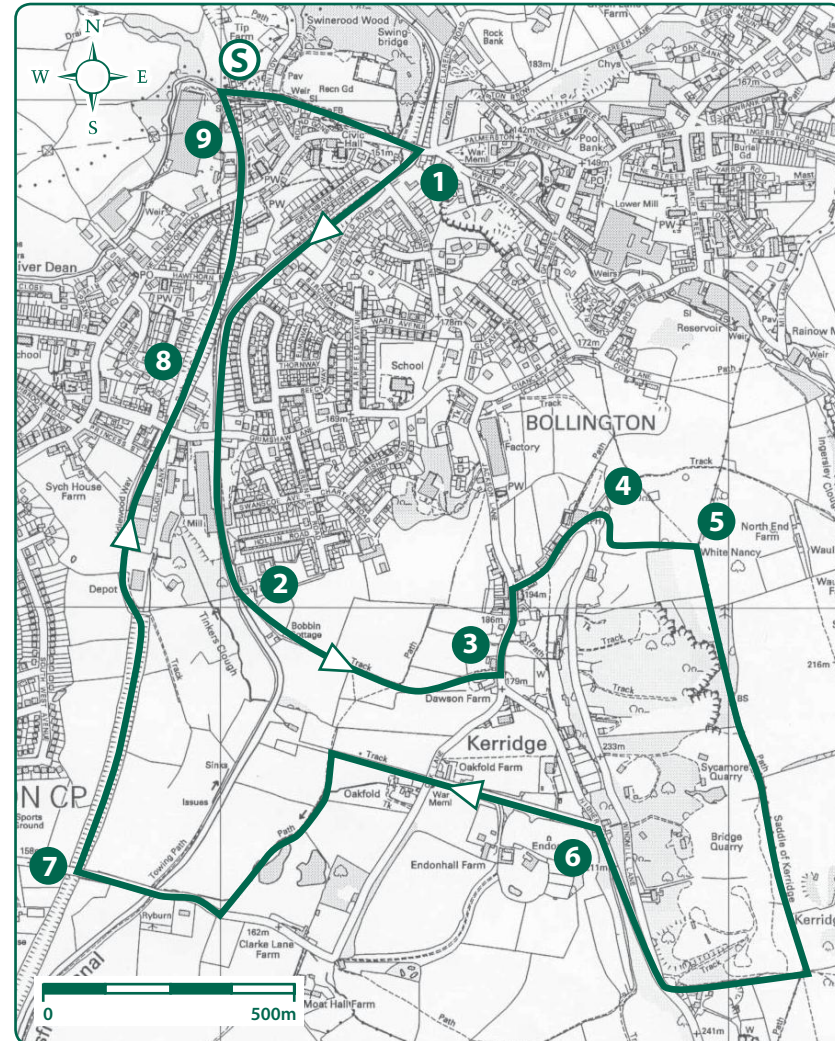
i Redway House and Cottage were formerly The Redway Tavern and before that a farm and three cottages owned in 1848 by a widow, Anne Gaskell. The farm comprised only three fields, two for meadow and one pasture. The car park occupies the meadow area. Anne Gaskell had nine children, seven of whom lived with her; plus

4 Walk over the cattle grid and turn immediately right. Continue up the stone steps and rough track to White Nancy and the Gritstone Trail.

i A member of the Gaskell family of Ingersley erected White Nancy between 1815 and 1818 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo. It is probably named after Nancy Gaskell of Rainow and her daughter also called Nancy. Originally it was fitted with an access door and furniture for the family to enjoy a picnic. Note the letters in the paving stones showing compass directions. Using the compass signs look southwest and see the Jodrell Bank dish.

i The Gritstone Trail, a 35-mile walk from Disley to Kidsgrove runs past Nancy. The Trail is split into three sections, each of which can be walked in a day. Cheshire East Council publish a free booklet; 'Gritstone Trail Walkers Guide'.

5 Passing White Nancy on your left walk straight ahead. Pass through three metal kissing gates and continue along the ridge. Follow the dry stone wall as it turns right and goes downhill with a row of cottages on the left. Turn left by the Endon Quarry and walk to the road. Turn right, walk about 300yds (275m) until reaching the sign for the Macclesfield Stone Quarries, turn right and walk down and under the bridge. You are now following the tramway known as 'Rally Road'.



i The tramway, Rally Road was driven by a steam engine located at the top of Kerridge Hill and serviced the nearby quarries, taking the stone downhill to the Macclesfield Canal. Look carefully as you walk under the bridge and see where the tramway cables have worn the stone.

6 At the bottom of the steps turn right and then left following the Rally Road downhill. Cross the road and continue ahead along the Rally Road. As you reach the gates marked Private, turn left and through the gate. Walk parallel to the stream on your left until you reach the road (Clarke Lane). Turn right, walk over the Macclesfield Canal bridge and continue until you reach the bridge over the Middlewood Way.

7 Turn right down the ramp onto the Middlewood Way. Turn left and continue along the track. After crossing Grimshaw Lane continue slightly uphill. Look back and see the red brick building on Clough Bank, this was an engine shed for the railway.

i The Middlewood Way was originally a railway, the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple line that opened on 2nd August 1869 and closed in 1970. The first class fare in 1869 from Macclesfield to Bollington was 4 old pennies (1½p), the journey took 7 minutes!

8 About 250yds (230m) before the next bridge, notice the remains of Bollington Station platform on your right.

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 10 services a day each way, 3rd Class only, at a maximum speed of 40mph. It was withdrawn in 1935.

9 Walk under the bridge and onto the wide Bollington Viaduct. At the end of the viaduct go through the gates, turn immediately sharp right and walk down the path to the bottom of the viaduct. Look ahead and you are back at the Rangers Office.

i Bollington Viaduct has 23 arches straddling the Dean river. 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'.

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.