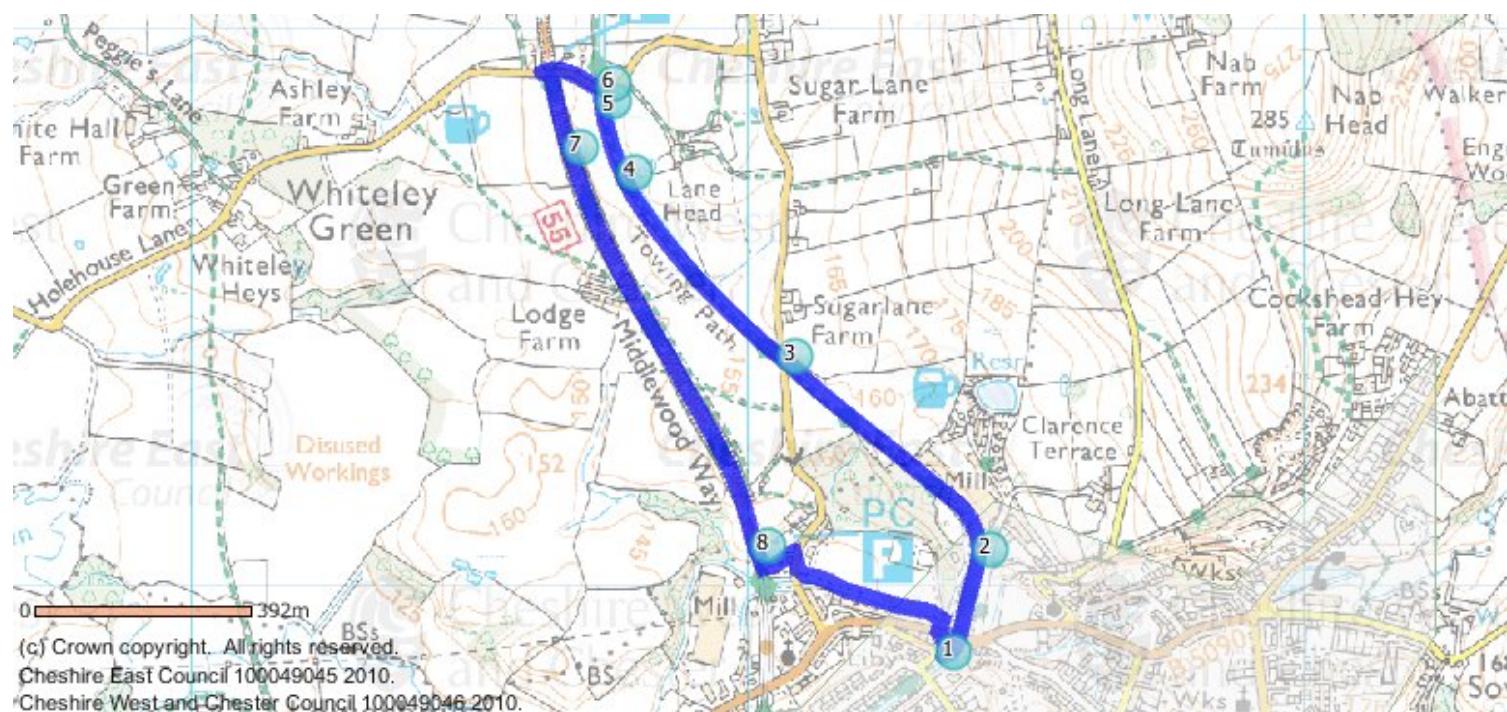


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Bollington Circular Walk 1 The first in a series of circular walks around Bollington (the Happy Valley) and Kerridge starting from the Rangers Office, Adlington Road.

Grade	Easy
Distance	2.4 km/1½ miles
Time	40 minutes
Start	Bollington Rangers Office
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Easy. The canal tow-path can be muddy
Barriers	N/A
Toilets	Available 364 days a year between 9.30am and 4.30pm at the Start and End of the route.
Contact	Countryside Rangers Tel: 01625 504528



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Route Details

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.

An early feature of the walk is Bollington Aqueduct. Local man Charles Nicol, constructed the 60ft (18m) high embankment and the stone aqueduct. To prevent potential slippage caused by the river below, he simply diverted the river.

You will follow the Macclesfield Canal, which 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!

Clarence Mill, which you will pass along the way, was built by local entrepreneurs, Joseph Brook and the Swindells, 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.

Further along the route, you will enjoy a distant view of White Nancy. A member of the Gaskell family of Ingersley, sometime between 1815 and 1818 erected this folly, probably to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo. For a closer view pick up Bollington Circular Walk no.3. That walk takes in both White Nancy and Kerridge Hill with spectacular views across the Cheshire Plain.

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Directions

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.

1. At the top of the steps walk through the kissing gate and turn left onto the Macclesfield Canal towpath.
2. Walk over the aqueduct and continue ahead passing Clarence Mill.
3. Continue along the towpath under Sugar Lane Bridge (no. 26).
4. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (400m) beyond bridge 26, look back and see White Nancy on the apex of the hill on the horizon.
5. About 25yds (27m) before bridge 25 you will pass a toll milestone.
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.
7. Continue along the 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.



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