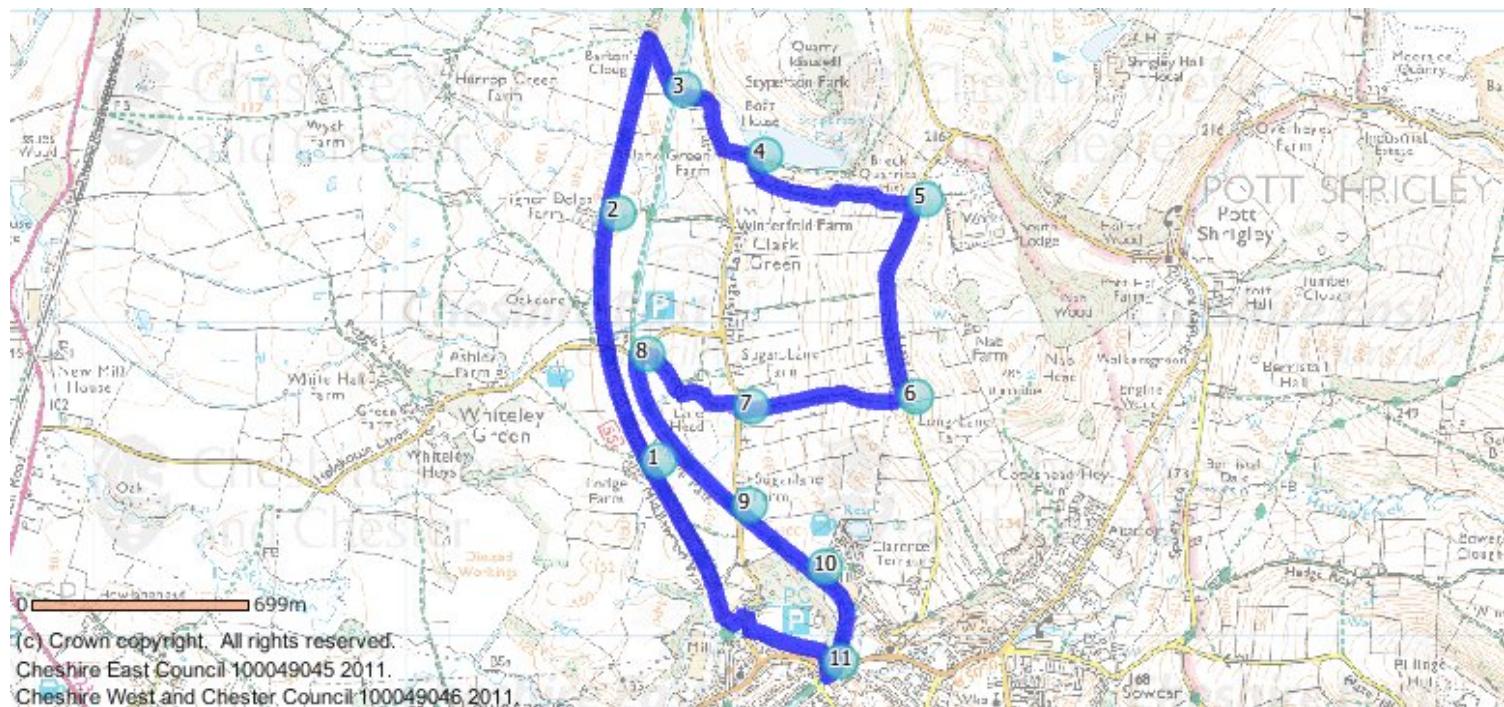


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Bollington Circular Walk 4

The fourth in a series of circular walks around Bollington and Kerridge starting from the Rangers Office, Adlington Road.

Grade	Moderate
Distance	8 km/5 miles
Time	2 hours 30 minutes
Start	Bollington Rangers Office
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Moderate
Barriers	N/A
Toilets	Available 364 days a year between 9.30am and 4.30pm at the Start and End of the route.
Contact	01625 383700



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Route Details

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.

Shortly after starting the walk, you will notice Reedmace growing in raised ponds. 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.

You will cross the Macclesfield Canal which opened in 1831. Thomas Telford surveyed the route, which runs from Marple to Hall Green, a distance of 26½ miles. In its heyday the canal carried coal in horse drawn barges; raw cotton to Bollington; silk from Macclesfield and gritstone from Kerridge.

A feature of the walk is Clarence Mill. Local entrepreneurs, Joseph Brook and the Swindells family built this 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

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fine cotton for high quality clothing, table linen and Nottingham Lace.

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Cheshire West
and Chester



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Directions

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.
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'.
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.
9. Walk under Sugar Lane Bridge (no. 26), and continue along the towpath.
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.
11. Cross the road, walk slightly left and through the gates into the Recreation Ground. After a few yards, turn left,

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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.



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