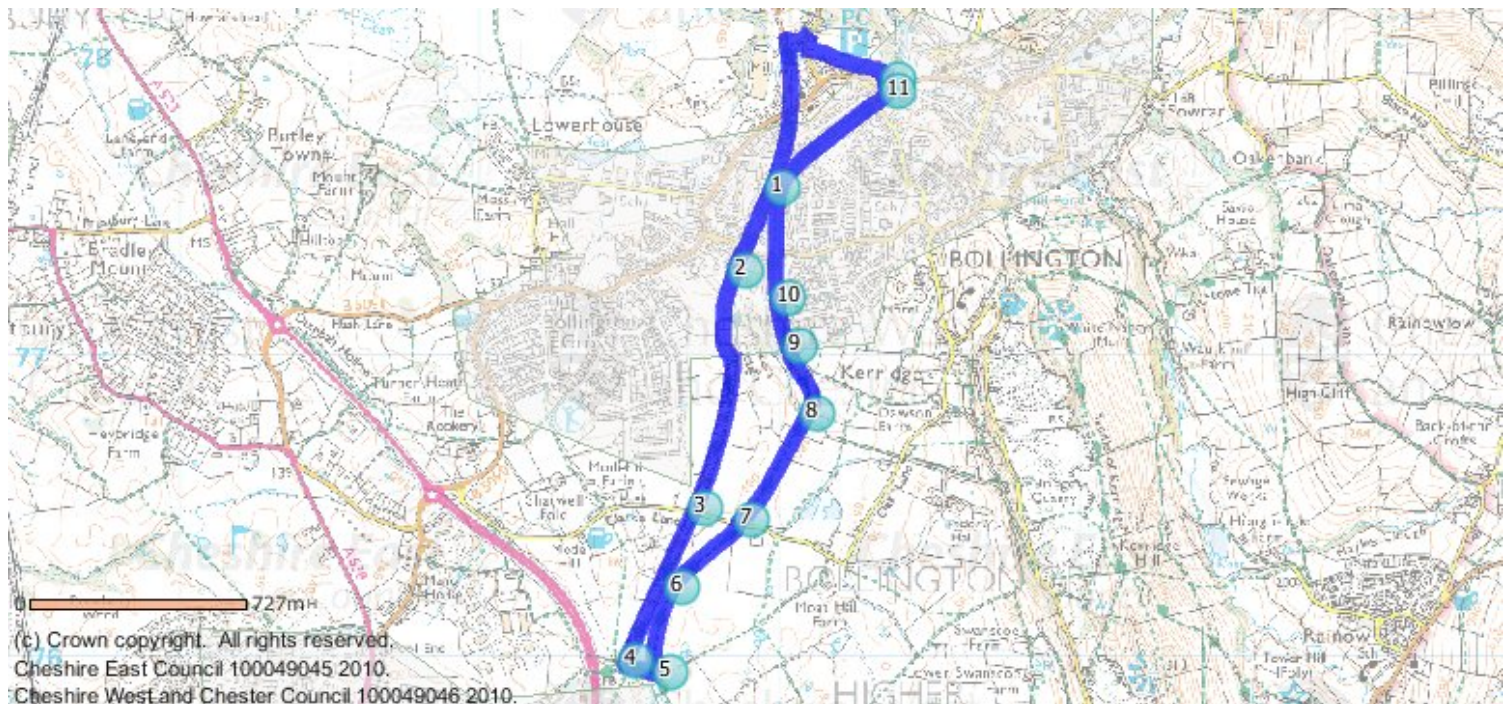


## Bollington Circular Walk 2

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

Grade	Easy
Distance	5.6 km/3½ miles
Time	1 hour 30 minutes
Start	Bollington Rangers Office
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Easy - steep climb at the start
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



## Route Details

The second 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.

Early in the route you ascend to the top of the Bollington Viaduct. The Viaduct has 23 arches straddling the Dean River valley. Plans to demolish the Viaduct in the early 1980's were the subject of local protests. The Department of the Environment eventually agreed to save it.

You then join the Middlewood Way. Dr. David Bellamy opened the route in May 1985. At nearly 11 miles long it runs from Marple to Macclesfield. The majority of the trail lies within the Borough of Cheshire East and is managed by the Ranger Service. Originally a railway, it opened on 2 August 1869 and closed in 1970.

Within a week of opening the line ran an 'excursion' to Manchester from Macclesfield carrying 600 passengers. The 1st class fare from Macclesfield to Bollington was 4 old pennies (1½p), for a journey taking 7 minutes. Look out for the remains of Bollington Station. This 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 ten services a day (3rd Class only), at a maximum speed of 40mph. It was withdrawn in 1935. The first accident on the line in 1875 happened at Bollington Station when a goods train collided with a furniture wagon that had become detached during shunting. The driver, Mr. Champion Lunn was killed instantly.

Another feature of the route is the Adelphi (Greek for brothers) Mill. This was built in 1851 as a cotton mill by brothers George and Martin Swindells. The Swindells family was a major force in transforming Bollington from an agricultural village of 1,200 people in 1801 to an industrial town of 4,600 people by 1851. Just past the mill you will notice a stone single storey building that now houses canoes. In Victorian times it was a stable, and during World War II a lookout post for the Home Guard.

## Directions

From the entrance to the Rangers Office walk straight ahead for about 40yds (44m), join the footpath and climb the sandy path to the top of the Bollington Viaduct. Turn left, through the gates to join the path along the Middlewood Way.

1. Shortly after the first bridge, look for the stone remains of Bollington Station platform on the left. Continue to meet Grimshaw Lane. Across the road walk ahead through the kissing gate and continue along the Middlewood Way.
2. Walk down the wooden walkway, under the bridge and continue along the wide tarmac path. About 300yds (275m) beyond the bridge notice reedmace growing in the ponds.
3. Walk under the next bridge (Clarke Lane).
4. Reaching the end of a line of trees, as the tarmac path goes slightly uphill, turn sharp left following the narrow path past the north entrance to AstraZeneca and onto a bridge over the Macclesfield Canal.
5. This is bridge 30. Turn left at the end and walk down the steps onto the towpath. Continue with the canal on your left.
6. Along the towpath, notice a toll milestone.
7. Using bridge 29 (Clarke's Turnover), rejoin the towpath with the canal now on your right.
8. Continue along the towpath passing Kerridge Dry Dock on the opposite bank.
9. Walk under Greens Bridge (no.28).
10. Continue past Adelphi Mill.
11. Shortly after bridge 27 turn left and walk through a kissing gate adjacent to Aqueduct Cottage. Turn right; walk down to the road. Before crossing, look right, at the 60ft (18m) high Bollington Aqueduct.
12. Cross the road, go through the metal gates into the Recreation Ground. Turn left, walk down the steps to the path adjacent to the River Dean. Exit the Recreation Ground, the Rangers Office is opposite, across the road.