

BRIDGEND HERITAGE TRAILS, BOLLINGTON

Circular walks that explore the local countryside and bring Bollington's past to life



TRAIL NO. 1 - BEE HAPPY

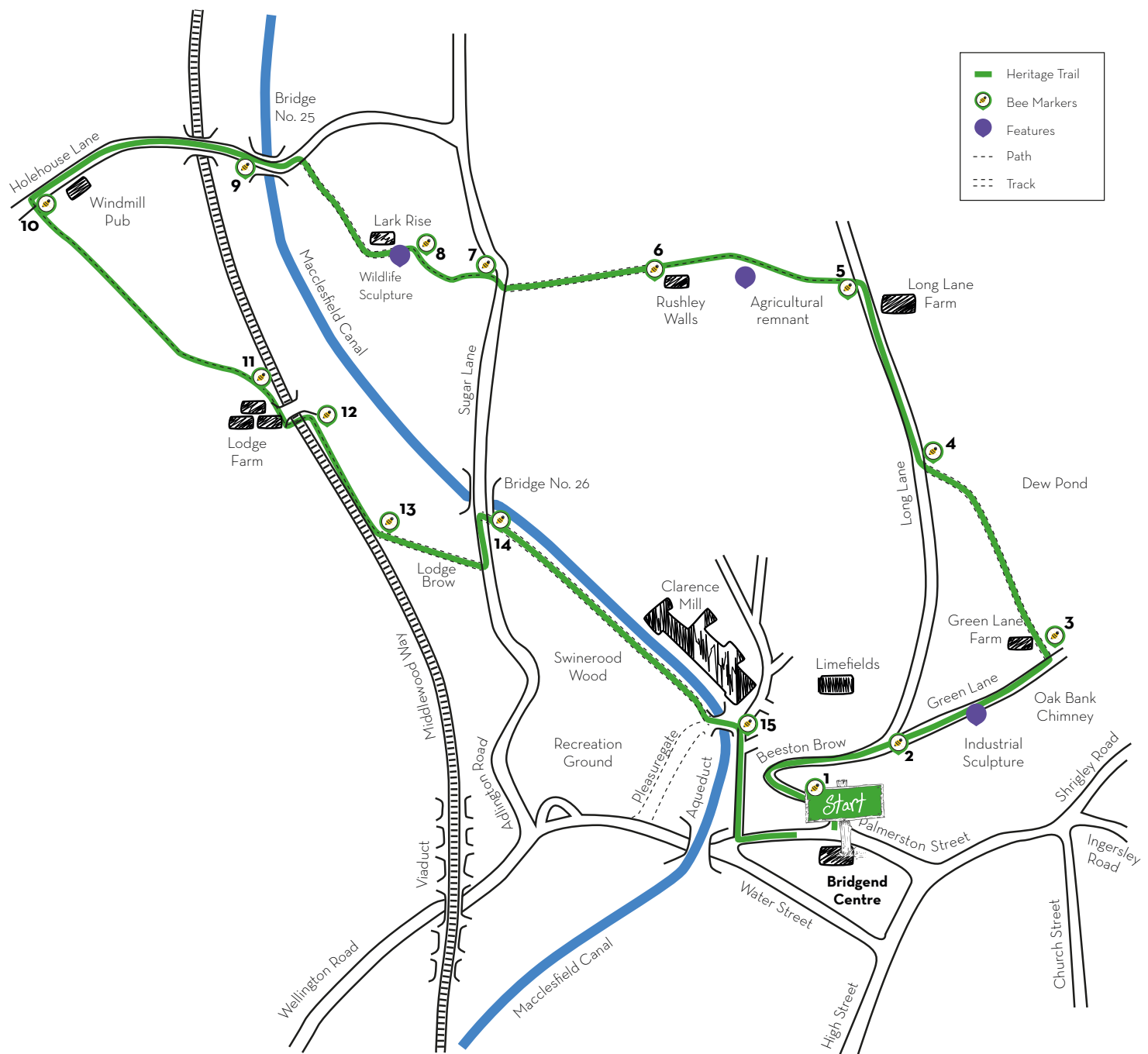
Walk to Whiteley Green through Bollington's unique landscape, taking in stunning views, majestic mills, local tracks and peaceful waterways. Discover intriguing places and half-forgotten artefacts including traces of ancient beekeeping.

Walking with Kids?
Ask for our "Bee Happy" kids quiz!

Distance: 3.25 miles
Difficulty: Easy after a steep climb at the start. Sections of the walk can be muddy.

www.bridgendcentre.org.uk





Beeston Brow and Long Lane

Start at the Bridgend Centre. Note the 'Bee' plaque at the top of the totem pole by the front door. Turn right on the pavement for a few steps, then cross the road and proceed up Beeston Brow, the only strenuous section of the Trail. **1** Before the summit of the hill, glance to the right for beautiful views across Bollington towards Kerridge Ridge and 'White Nancy', a folly built in the 19th Century by the Gaskell family. At the junction keep right into Green Lane. **2**



'Green Lane was known as "Salt Pie". The packhorses went this way from Liverpool Docks to Yorkshire'

Peeping through the trees on your right is Oak Bank Chimney. Look out for the Industrial Sculpture. After Green Lane Farm, with views of 'Blaze Hill' on your right, climb the stile on your left and follow the wall. 📍3

Climb over the next stile and then diagonally left, across a field to enter Long Lane. 📍4 From here, enjoy the views across the Cheshire Plain towards Alderley Edge. Turn right and follow the road to Long Lane Farm.

'It was built in 1610. The garden wall is a National Monument – it mustn't be destroyed or damaged. It's a stone wall with square indentations – they look like bricked-up windows, only very deep. That's where they put the bee-hives – in the wall.'

Directly opposite is a footpath. 📍5

Rushley Walls to Holehouse Lane

Follow the enclosed track to a stile and stone steps into an open field. Go downhill towards the Agricultural Remnant. The next bit can be very boggy, so go carefully. Keep to the left and then follow the gully to a stone path. Cross the first stile in front, over the next one and through a tree-lined path to a small gate next to Rushley Walls, and onto a gravel track. 📍6 Follow this track to Sugar Lane.

'I regularly cycled to work. During the war I remember going over Sugar Lane and a policeman held me up, and he said, "Get off. You've no lights." I said, "Well, somebody has taken my battery. See, with it being the war, things were hard to come by.'

Proceeding with caution, turn right and then sharp left over the stile into a field, 📍7 keeping the fence and hedge on the right and then cross over another stile into a tunnel of trees, noting the Wildlife Sculpture.

The path weaves around a building, belonging to 'Lark Rise'. 📍8 Follow the poplar-lined driveway onto Holehouse Lane.

'Lark Rise was originally a farm labourer's cottage attending to Adlington Hall. It was built around 1670. In the grounds there is a deep pond near the canal. It was a clay pit and was excavated to line the canal – early 1800's. Mineral bottles keep coming to the surface. They were probably used by the boat people or people digging the canal. They have the makers' names – from Stockport to the Potteries'

On turning left you will cross over the Macclesfield Canal at Bridge No.25. 📍9

‘There are stone signposts on the canal where the names are scored off. Apparently they did it in the war so the paratroopers wouldn’t know where they were. They also buried some stones. The lady across the road, the farmer, she had two of these huge big baskets and she used to walk from here to Marple with eggs. I bet she noticed every one of those milestones!’



Don’t go down onto the towpath; continue along Holehouse Lane, then cross over the old railway cutting and past (or into!) the Windmill Pub.

Almost immediately you will see another stile on the left. 📍10 Crossing over, proceed up the slope following the boundary on your left. When this starts to curve away to the left, strike across the field to meet a stile in the corner. Head across the large field towards a house. Do not cross the

waymarked stile directly ahead, but bear left to go over a stile onto a disused railway line. 📍11 This is now the Middlewood Way.

Middlewood Way to Macclesfield Canal

‘In the late 60’s the Middlewood stopped being a railway and became a walk – the dreaded Beeching axe. People would have gone from here to Macclesfield or Manchester and found it much easier. The station was down Grimshaw Lane. They tried to keep the railway going in 1967 with two carriages and an engine. Didn’t last long.’

Turn right, walk under the bridge and, after about 50 yards, 📍12 follow the upward path on the left and then immediately right to the top of the cutting.

Continue until a stile takes you over the hedge. 📍13 Ignoring the two paths running either side of the hedge, follow the track ahead with the fence on your right. This track is marked Lodge Brow on the map. Keep an eye on the lovely views. On reaching the road turn left.

‘My mother and father used to walk us all to the pictures in Bollington. Then we’d stop at a little shop that had chips and fish and that. We’d buy us chips and we’d walk up Lodge Brow and home. With a few chips we used to think we’d got the world at our feet.’

When you meet the Canal Bridge (No.26), descend the slope onto the towpath. 📍14 Turn right and you will soon see the majestic Clarence Mill.

‘There were two swing bridges at Clarence – one, a small rail track to take the cinders from the boilers in trucks over to the woods. It was coal in, cinders out. The other was a wooden footbridge with handrails on the side, for the workers. If they didn’t get there by 3 minutes to 8, they swung it back and they couldn’t get in and missed their pay.’

Opposite the Mill, you’ll pass a signpost and gate that leads onto a track called Pleasuregate. Your route stays on the canal, but you might like to take a detour down this track and explore the tree-fringed recreation ground in the valley bottom.



‘They used to bring coal up the canal in boats. They unloaded it there, at Pleasuregate, opposite Clarence Mill. No money changed hands but they had a pledge – a token, you know. Knowing Bollington, “pledge” pretty soon became “pleasure”, so it became Pleasuregate. It still is to this day.’

The Canal back to the Bridgend Centre

If you’ve taken the detour, come back up Pleasuregate to the canal and use the footbridge just after the Mill to cross over the canal. Turn right 📍15 to continue down Clarence Road, admiring the aqueduct rising above you on the right.

‘This was designed by Thomas Telford and was a marvel at the time. The area was all boggy and he had to divert the River Dean through a culvert under the road before he could even start to build that aqueduct!’

Reaching Palmerston Street, turn left for a few steps, then head over the road at the crossing point and continue leftwards. If you like, go through the stone gateway on your right to take a turn round the Memorial Gardens before heading back out onto Palmerston Street and back at the Bridgend Centre. ■



Be aware that the waymarkers placed in the landscape may be subject to unknown forces such as the weather, groundwork and vandals. Treat the map and directions as your primary guide!

And that's it! We hope you enjoyed your taster of the people and places that have made Bollington what it is today.

Don't forget to check out our other Bridgend Heritage Trails!

Walking with kids? All the walks have a specially designed kids quiz that you can download yourself or pick up from the Bridgend Centre.



Bridgend Heritage Trails

The Bridgend Centre has created eight circular local walks that explore how industry, transport and farming have shaped the fascinating heritage of Bollington, with local people bringing the trails to life in their own words.

Walking with kids? The trails have special interests for younger walkers with markers to follow and surprises to uncover on the way. **Plus there's a kids' quiz for each trail to add to the fun!**

Download it yourself or pick one up at the Bridgend Centre...

All the walks start and end at the Bridgend Centre, 104, Palmerston Street, Bollington, Cheshire SK10 5PW. Open Mon-Fri 10-4.30, Sat 10-1.

Parking: Pool Bank car park on Palmerston Street just along from the Centre.

Toilets are available at the Bridgend Centre.

Recommended map: OS Explorer 268.

Although we aim to be accurate, be aware that things can change, structures become wobbly and surfaces slippery. Make your own judgements, stay safe and be prepared!

The Bridgend Centre

The Bridgend Centre is a local, independent charity, playing an active role at the heart of the Bollington community. We offer many services and activities that help to promote quality of life for everyone.

Our range of walking activities and information provide a great opportunity for people to exercise in the great outdoors, which has been demonstrated to improve physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Find out more at www.bridgendcentre.org.uk. Drop in after your walk for tea and cake, or a browse in our Aladdin's den of a charity shop...

Bee Happy

A 3.25 mile circular walk to Whiteley Green, starting and ending at the Bridgend Centre.

Follow the bee markers.

The first of the Bridgend Heritage Trails, this is the perfect way to get a flavour of Bollington. Heading towards the nearby hamlet of Whiteley Green, it leads you over ancient tracks and more recent pathways shaped by rail and canal.

The hills and farms of Derbyshire roll away to the East, and the Cheshire plain stretches West towards the sea. Mill chimneys, spires and towers grace the skyline and the canal meanders past the mighty splendour of Clarence Mill.

“I was a cop-winder and beamer at Clarence. My husband was an overlooker, first at Clarence and then, when it closed, at Olivers. Thomas Olivers spun the finest cotton in the world – 420/1 – used for making Belgian lace. It’s never been made since. They tried in France but could never make it”

Younger walkers! Follow the trail of Bees, and look out for surprises along the way. Plus there’s a ‘Bee’ Quiz to get you buzzing... Download it yourself or pick one up at the Centre.



With thanks to The Hobson Trust

Drawings courtesy of Paul Lewis, Carlo Eaves, Eric Holmes and Ken Mosley