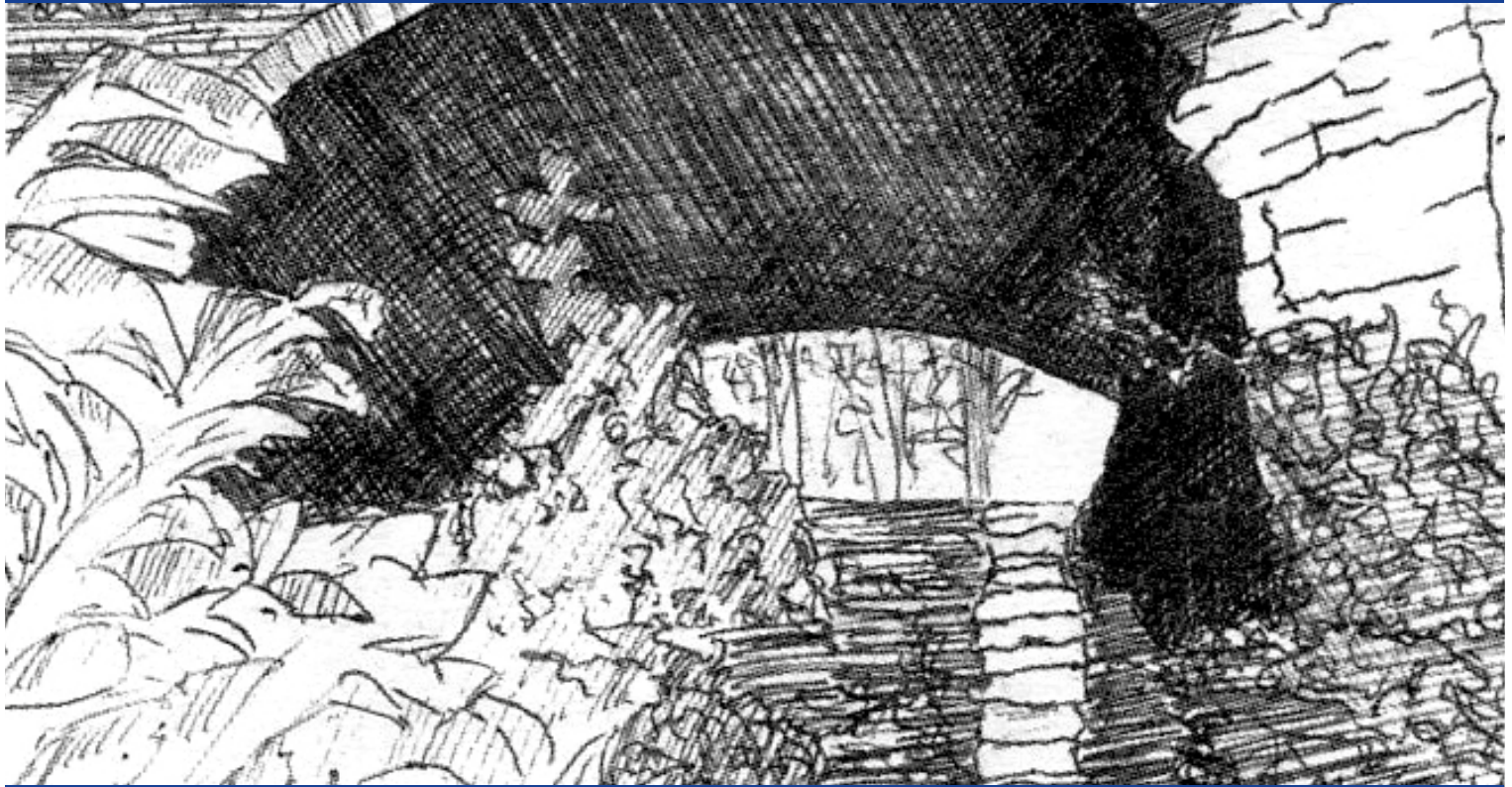


BRIDGEND HERITAGE TRAILS, BOLLINGTON

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



TRAIL NO. 3 - WRITTEN IN STONE

Head up to the spectacular viewpoint of Kerridge Ridge before winding your way through Bollington's network of paved and cobbled paths to explore how stone and quarrying have shaped the town.

Walking with Kids? Ask for our 'Written in Stone' kids' quiz!

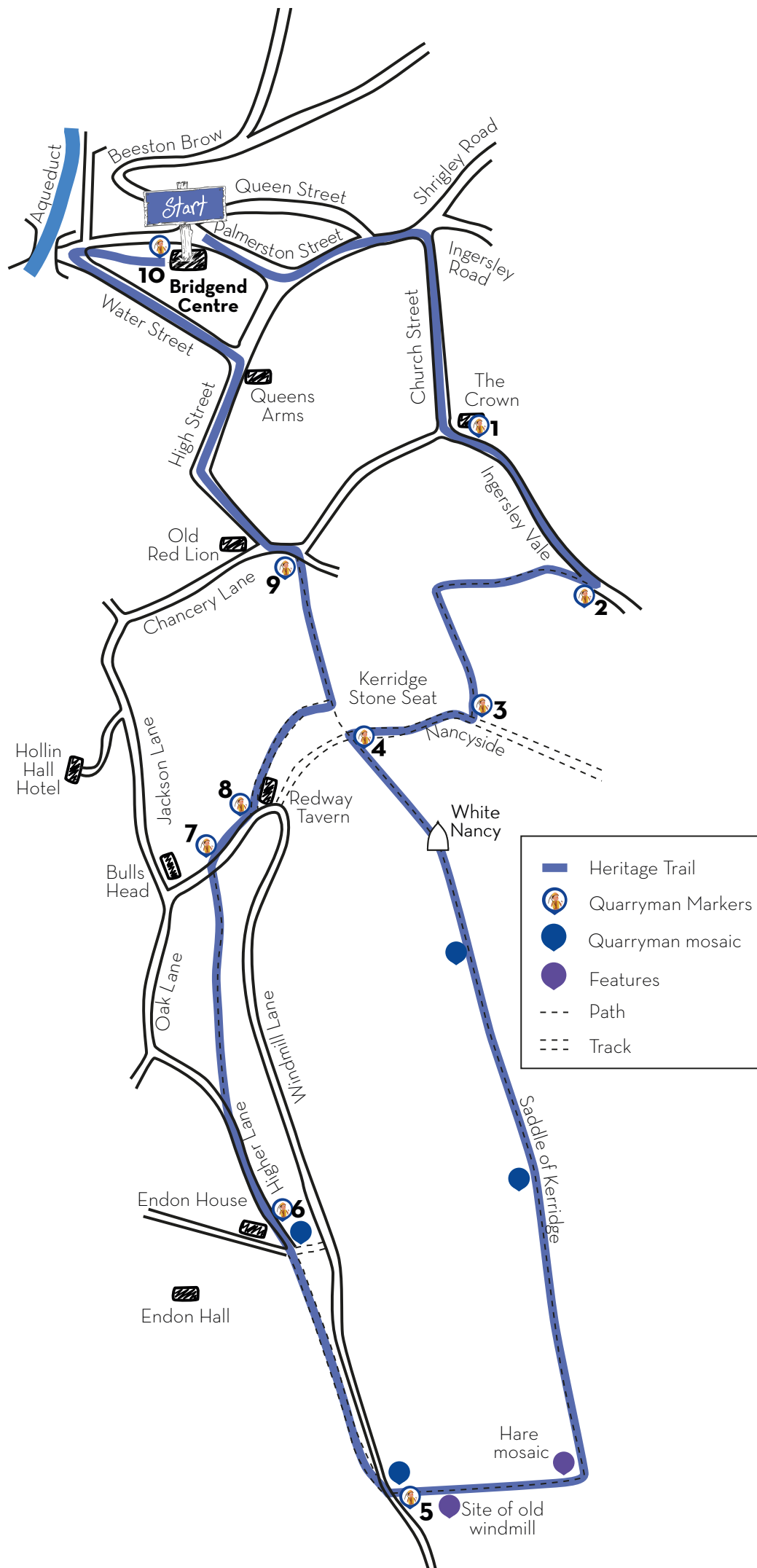
3 miles

Difficulty: Moderate, with a couple of very steep sections. Can be slippery when wet!

www.bridgendcentre.org.uk



 **Bridgend Centre**
at the  of our community



Bridgend Centre to Ingersley Vale

With your back to the Bridgend Centre, turn right and proceed along Palmerston Street. After approximately 500 yards you will come to a mini-roundabout at the Turner's club. Turn right into Church Street.

'Now, in those days pubs made beer on the premises, and each beer was a different taste 'cos it was different water. About 1840s there had been a mine disaster and a newspaper cutting reported that the Turner's Arms had lost its water for its beer. It meant this publican had lost his business – he went to court and sued the mine and everybody else. The fact that something like 40 miners lost their lives was an incidental thing!'

Continue up Church Street, passing St John's Church building. This was Bollington parish church until 2003, when this status was transferred to St Oswald's. St John's was built and consecrated in 1834. Walk down the hill to the Crown Inn, just before the road bends to the right. Directly in front, the new houses stand on the site of Shrigley Dyers. Their motto was 'We live to dye!'

'The Parrott and Horsfall Brewery was where Shrigley Dyers was. They had a big fire there. The paper mill yard fire brigade fought the blaze with water from the stream, but it burnt to the ground anyway.'

Around 1790 George Antrobus built the original Higher Mill here. Turn left just past the Crown Inn 📍1, passing Higher Mill pool on the right. You are now walking along Ingersley Vale, where the numerous mills created a hive of industry in bygone days.

'I started in the mill when I was twelve. We used to work from six o'clock till five o'clock. Then, when I was sixteen and went for a rise, they gave me the sack, 'cos they could get young ones doing your job! So I went in the quarry.'

Continue past Rainow Mill Cottages on your left. You have now entered Rainow. After about 75 yards, take a very sharp right turn up a hilly track 📍2 and through a gate. Continue up the grassy slope and some steps.

Ascent of White Nancy

The path takes you through a gate in some bushes and then carries on climbing to meet, after a few yards, another path on the left. Follow the left path which curves to the right and then turns left at a finger post up towards a gate and cattle grid on a track 📍3.

'The mines just drifted in from the Rainow side into the hill. They didn't go down, they went sideways into the coal seam. In the early 1900s they were getting blue clay out. At one stage they got blue shale, to make tiles with, but that was a long time ago.'



Upon reaching a crossing path, turn left 📍 4 and you will start a steep climb up some steps to White Nancy. The story goes that this curious folly was built by the Gaskell family to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

‘It’s been said that it was put there so when the Gaskells’ son came back from fighting Napoleon and sailed into Liverpool, he’d look across the plain and he would know he was almost home.’



White Nancy was built of Kerridge stone and used to have a doorway so you could go inside. It is used as the centre of community activities on many occasions.

‘When news came that the war was over, most people went up to White Nancy – children in pyjamas and nightdresses! They were so excited. We had one grandmother with us, and we were pushing her up. She was determined to get up. One gentleman that was a photographer from Pott Shrigley, he lit Nancy all up with his camera lights. They had a bonfire and just generally went mad. That will be remembered by our generation.’

Enjoy the panoramic views, and look out for the white bowl of the Lovell telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory out on the Cheshire Plain.

Keeping the wall on your left, go through a gate. Look out for the first Quarryman mosaic! Go through a second gate and continue along the ridge with the wall now on your right.

Looking to your left is the village of Rainow, nestling in the valley, with the Cat and Fiddle pub visible on the skyline.

The Saddle of Kerridge to Bridge Quarry

Noting the second Quarryman mosaic, pass through a gate and start the gradual descent along the Saddle of Kerridge.

Glancing to your right, you can clearly see extensive quarry workings. Quarries have been worked on the western side of Kerridge Hill since the fifteenth century. It was gruelling work.

‘First of all the “overburden” had to be taken off. That is what they called the shale and topsoil on top of the rock. That was done by labourers, with picks and shovels and wheelbarrows. Then the rock splitters would split the rock into usable sizes.’



The British Sculptor Alfred Gatley began his training in stone carving as a child in Kerridge, where his family owned two quarries. Sadly he died in Italy in 1863, without the recognition his work later received.

‘Some say that the Italians were jealous of Gatley’s skill in carving, so they bumped him off!’

Because of the danger, the quarry face has been fenced off. With Kerridge Hill rising in front, you will reach a stone wall. Look out for the Hare mosaic! Ignoring the gate, take a sharp right down the hillside. Take care in wet weather as the path can be very slippery. Eventually you come off the path onto a quarry driveway. Keep left to reach Windmill Lane, and watch out for the third Quarryman mosaic. The site of the old windmill is on your left.

‘There used to be a windmill at Five Ashes. It was said they pulled it down during the war to make ballast for the airfield. The Yanks wanted to make another runway – ridiculous, because there’s an open quarry behind it full of stone that they could have used instead!’

Cross the road diagonally to your right, and go through a gate 🚪 5 and take the track running downhill, parallel to Windmill Lane. At the bottom of the track, just before Endon Cottage, you can glimpse some narrow steps on the right leading up to Victoria Bridge above. These steps connect to the lane that you are on and is known as the ‘Rally Road’. ‘Rally’ is probably short for ‘railway’, as this is the site of a railway that linked Bridge Quarry with the canal.



Endon House to the Bridgend Centre

Look out for the fourth and final Quarryman mosaic by the stone trough and then walk straight on to the right of Endon House 🚪 6. The track looks like a private drive, but it is a public right of way. Head past Endon House and through a gap next to a white gate into Higher Lane. You can see the old black-and-white schoolhouse down below, with Macclesfield Canal and Bollington’s Adelphi Mill further afield.

‘The gardens were called “The Hanging Gardens” – big gardens that came down in terraces. A customer of ours had raspberries and quinces – cherry trees. She used to bring me a jar or two of raspberry jam.’

Walk along the road until you reach Garrett End Cottage, and bear right onto the cobbles between the houses. Almost immediately, go left through a facing slab stile, with wrought-iron gates to the right, and follow the ginnel leading you round the back of a house. You are following in the steps of the men and women who would have used these stone-flagged paths to walk to the quarries and back after a hard day’s work.

STONE
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‘We came to Kerridge because there was the work. My brother, God rest him, served his time to be a stonemason, but they couldn’t pay him – they had no money. There was no help at all then. But when the war was on he was in the quarry, and they made him the foreman.’

Keep forward along this path, passing through three squeeze gates on the way and noticing other stone-flagged paths leading from this one to various cottages and other tracks.

‘There’s a railway went straight from Bridge Quarry down to the canal. Stone was loaded from the quarry. The full wagon going down would drag the empty one up. It was loaded onto barges – working until 1871 or 2, when they built the railway in Bollington. Soon as they did that, the rail to the canal was redundant.’

Continue across a field along the flags, climb over the old stone stile in the wall 📍7 and cross right onto the pavement of Redway Lane. As the road curves to the right in front of Redway House (formerly the Redway Tavern), take a gravel then slabbed path running between the houses 📍8, which will lead you to a kissing gate, just below White Nancy.

At the kissing gate follow the steps down and go along the stone slabs. Going through the gate 📍9, descend to Chancery Lane where it meets Lord Street and turn left. At the former Red Lion Pub (now a house), turn right onto High Street. You now descend steeply. A few yards before the village green, take a left turn into Water Street, noting the old shopfronts on many of the cottages.



‘I’m going to tell you now, there were 116 shops in the village. You could get anything you liked from the shops – no need to go to Macclesfield! You could get things ready made or measured.’

Walk to the end of the street and Bollington aqueduct is now facing you. On the right-hand bend enter the wrought-iron gates into the Memorial Gardens. Walk through the gardens and then exit through the other gate 📍10 onto Palmerston Street. Turn right to bring you back to 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...

Written in stone

A 3 mile circular walk that takes in Kerridge Ridge, starting and ending at the Bridgend Centre

Follow the quarryman markers.

The third of the Bridgend Heritage Trails explores how the local Kerridge Stone has shaped Bollington. Everywhere you look you can see its warm colours in the old workers' cottages, the majestic mills, and even in the paving stones and cobbles. The walk takes you up to the local landmark of White Nancy to enjoy a dramatic 360-degree view, before heading past the ancient quarries of Kerridge Ridge. Return via a delightful network of paths and alleyways in the footsteps of the men and women who worked these hills.

'They would take the bogie on the rails and put it in front of the stone dressers, who were lined up, perhaps ten or a dozen, and the foreman or chargehand would say, "I want curbs, setts, flags", or whatever. Cut up with hammer and chisel – no mechanical tools at all!'

Younger walkers! Follow the trail of Quarrymen, and look out for the mosaic quarrymen along the way. Plus there's a 'Written in Stone' quiz to get you digging ... Download it yourself or pick one up at the Bridgend Centre.



With thanks to The Hobson Trust

Drawings, pictures and facts courtesy of Bollington Photo Archive, Carlo Eaves, Sue Hinch, Anthony Holland, George Longden and Bill Wetton