

BRIDGEND HERITAGE TRAILS, BOLLINGTON

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



TRAIL NO. 6 - AS THE CROW FLIES

Taking a fairly straight out and back route to Higher Hurdsfield, this walk initially rises and then gradually descends as it wends from town to farm to canal back to Bollington.

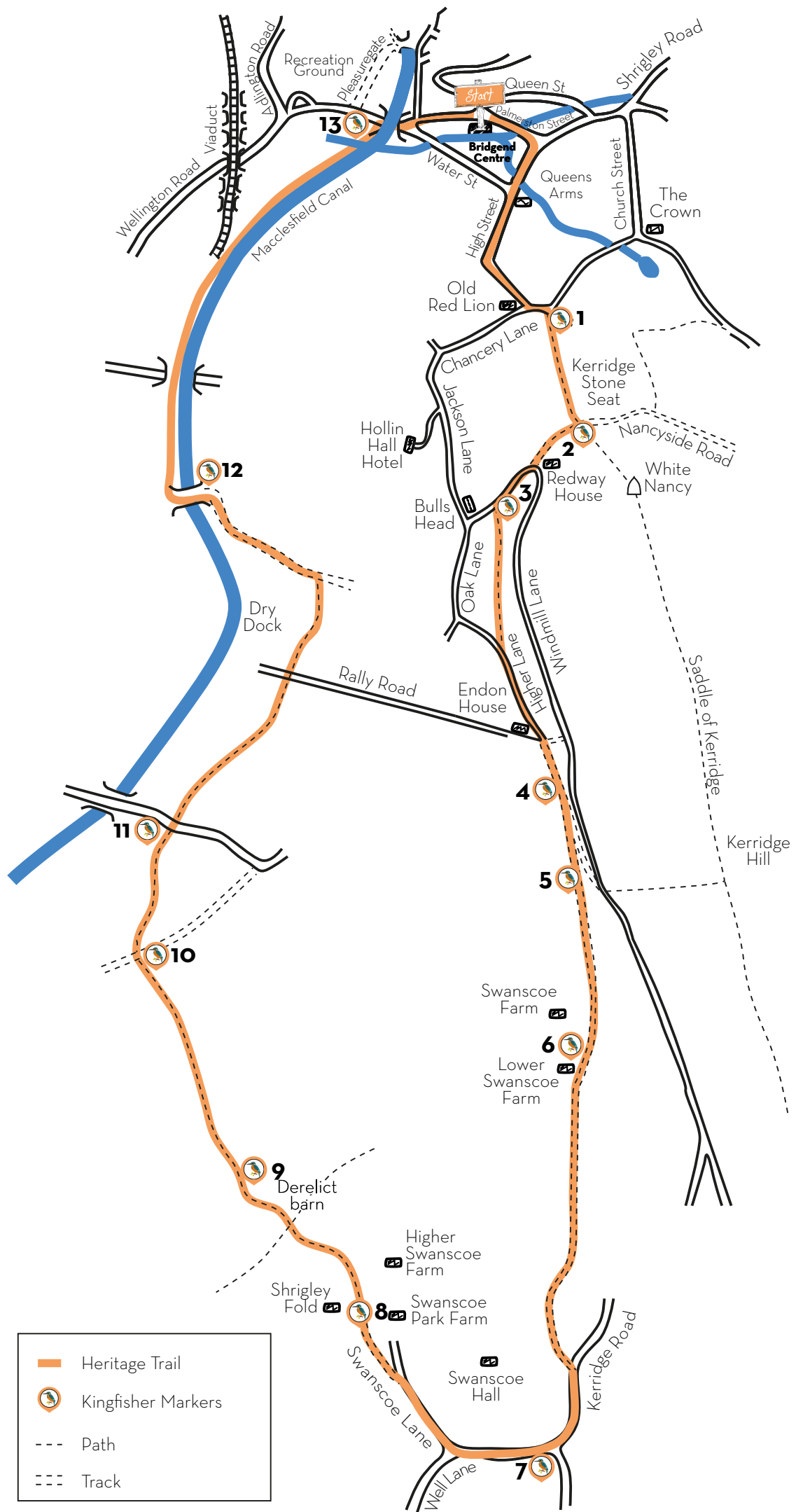
Walking with Kids? Ask for our 'Kingfisher' kids quiz!

5.5 miles

Difficulty: Easy after one climb near the start.

www.bridgendcentre.org.uk

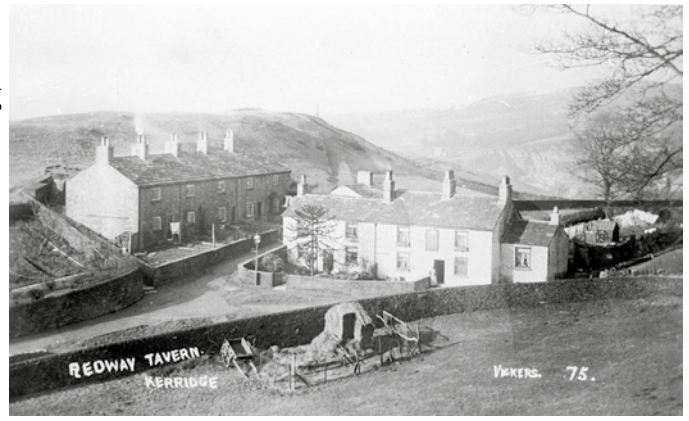




Bridgend to Rally Road

With your back to the Bridgend Centre, turn right along Palmerston Street. Take the first right into High Street, past the Village Green, and the 'Queen's Arms'.

Continue uphill and at the top, known as Red Lion Brow, turn left and, where the road bends sharply left, take the stile on the right by the water trough. 📍1 Go through a gate up a stone-slabbed path and steps to another gate taking the stone path to the right.



Emerging by the side of the old Redway Tavern, now Redway House, bear right along the pavement with iron railings on your left. 📍2

'If you were a carter you got a pint of beer for a penny. If you were an ordinary quarryman you had to pay a penny ha'penny. Old George Cavill was a rockgetter, who used to drink in the 'Redway'. The foreman said, "George, would you go down to the Adelphi and borrow some rope for us?" Now, the wheelbarrows were made of wood and were heavy in their own right, without anything in. So he had to go down and borrow this rope, hundreds of yards long, and pulleys and things like that. He pushed it up Grimshaw Lane, and up, and he was outside the 'Redway'.

So he said to the landlord, "I'll have a carter's pint."

"Now then, George", the landlord said. "You're not a carter." "Look through the window" says George. So he looked through the window. "Good grief", he said. "Where've you pushed that from?" George says, "The Adelphi Mill." He says, "You'll have a carter's pint!"

At the end of the railings, cross the road and over a stone stile in the wall. 📍3 Follow a slabbed path through three stiles to reach a facing slab stile by the side of a house. The path bends to the right, to emerge by Garrett End Cottage onto Higher Lane. Bear left along the lane, through gaps next to two gates to pass Endon House on the right. The small road leading downhill opposite Endon Cottage is the Rally Road, 'rally' being short for railway.

'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.'



Remnants of the Ice Age


Continue ahead for a couple of minutes before taking the lower right fork at the divide. 📍4 You can see a wood on your left.

‘There’s been some sort of a wood there for a long time. The woodland is left alone and it is fenced from the sheep so they can’t interfere. We are trying to encourage wildlife. We have nuthatches, greenfinches, great spotted woodpeckers, green woodpeckers, owls – we’ve got several owls and bats. I’ve got swallows nesting under the porch – we feed the birds. And we’ve got rare butterflies, loads of them. We have a wildlife area behind the house and I counted 32 butterflies on one plant. The best year I think we’ve ever had for butterflies.’

After crossing the stile next to a gate, you will enter a short grassy track. To the right you may catch a glimpse of llamas and then you see AstraZeneca, covering 90 acres, with Macclesfield in the distance. In front of you is the shallow valley following the line of Kerridge Ridge, which appears to have been created during the last Ice Age.


‘I wanted black sheep. When we went to Chelford Market the only black sheep they had were ‘Balwins’, so I bought six of them and it started from there. They are a Welsh Mountain Sheep – they are a rare breed. We’ve had them for nearly ten years and they lamb once a year. Its normally March or April and its outside lambing – I bring them in as soon as they’ve had their babies. We had eight sets of lambs this year and no deaths at all. Very rare to have triplets because they are a primitive breed and they have not been interfered with genetically. Now we have 39 lambs and 70 sheep altogether.’

At the end of the track descend a few steps and go through a wooden gate on your left into a field,  **5** walk along with Swanscoe Farm on your right. Emerging onto a tarmac track, turn left and after a short distance turn right through a gate, down some steps and turn left at the gate at the bottom.  **6** Walk across a field keeping Lower Swanscoe Farm on your right, through a kissing gate to turn left onto a lane.

Continue along the lane, over a cattle grid to reach Kerridge Road. Follow this to the right into Swanscoe Lane  **7**, passing the entrance to Swanscoe Hall.

‘On the 23rd March 1907, a letter was sent to Winston Churchill from T. Horsfall, who lived at Swanscoe Park. He was obviously an early environmentalist because the letter advocated stricter controls of the extensions to towns. Apparently, according to Mr. Horsfall, Continental Europe, the Transvaal and the United States already exerted such controls.’

Mines, Quarries and Industry

You are now in Higher Hurdsfield. Keep forward, passing Well Lane on your left then keeping left ahead. At Shrigley Fold immediately fork right  **8** along a fenced track. Where the buildings end, continue forward on a grassed path to a kissing gate. The path bends round to the left, down to another kissing gate, over a stream and up to a derelict barn, where paths cross.

Go forward with barn on your right and after passing a pond turn right to a kissing gate. 📍9 To your right you may see the quarries of Kerridge Ridge.

‘The mining round here was for coal – beehive mines. The ponds are all old mineshafts or clay pits from when the canal was being built. The clay was used to line the canal.’

Greatgrandfather owned them right the way from Northend to Marksand. He was Joseph Wetton, grandfather was William, and Percy was my father’



Continue, with a hedge and fence on your left. Having gone over a stone stile in a wall, continue straight ahead, passing between two ponds on the left and one on the right then bearing slightly left to a gate into a lane. 📍10 Cross over the lane and the gate in front, and go diagonally right along the path to a metal gate by yet another pond.

Skirt the pond to a squeezer stile, and go forward with a fence on your left, through a gate to reach Clarke Lane. 📍11

Along the Tow Path and Back

Cross over the road and through a kissing gate, crossing the stream and keeping it and the barbed wire fence on the right until you reach a gate leading into Rally Road.

Cross Rally Road, go through the stone squeezer stile and over the field to a gate and bridge. Cross the bridge, continuing forward and then through the gate, turning left down the track past Bobbin Cottage.

Continue along the track and bear left when you reach Beehive Cottage.



‘Forming the entrance to the garden of Beehive Cottage is a pair of massive stone gateposts. These are virtually all that remain of a canal-side cotton mill, the five-storey Beehive Mill, which was built in or around 1862 and demolished in 1939.’

Cross the canal bridge 📍12, turning right to descend the steps to the towpath and continue forward, passing the Adelphi Cotton Mill on your left.

‘I got the shock of my life when I went in the Adelphi for the first time – you worked stripped – you just wore trousers and bare feet. The temperature was roughly 100 degrees!’

Follow the towpath, crossing the aqueduct where you will be passing over Grimshaw Lane.

‘The building above the aqueduct has had various uses over the years. It stored canoes in recent times, but prior to this during the height of the Industrial Revolution, it was used as stabling for the horses drawing the barges. Then, in the Second World War, it became a lookout post for the Home Guard.’

Continue along the towpath for about half a mile, under Bridge 27 and through a wooden gate on your left. 🗺️

13 Turn immediately right in front of Aqueduct Cottage and down the Hole i’ the’ Wall Steps.

‘My Great-Great Grandfather ran the ‘Navigation’ Public House, which is now Aqueduct Cottage. His name was Nathaniel Shatwell and he was one of 13 children brought up in Church Street. His gravestone is one of the oldest in St John’s churchyard.’



Turn right through the aqueduct and into the Memorial Gardens. Exit through the gate on the left and then turn right, 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...

As the crow flies

A 5.5 mile circular walk to Higher Hurdsfield starting and ending at the Bridgend Centre.

Follow the kingfisher markers.

The sixth of the Bridgend Heritage Trails, this walk takes us gently through past industries of town and country with stories of a way of life now changed. The names of farms and homes hint at long-gone occupations or introduce us to new ventures.

As you stroll along tracks, fields and towpaths to Higher Hurdsfield and back take in the view and notice how the landscape continues to be shaped and moulded by nature and man for work and pleasure.

‘We stopped having milking cows four years ago – collapse of the industry. Now there’s only one dairy herd left in the district out of fourteen. Horses and leisure are the thing now. Actually AstraZeneca helps us because we look after a number of horses for their employees.’

Younger walkers! Follow the trail of kingfisher markers and see what else you can spot along the way. Plus there’s a ‘Kingfisher’ quiz that will make the walk fly by ... download it yourself or pick one up at the Bridgend Centre.



With thanks to The Hobson Trust

Photographs courtesy of the Bollington Photo Archive
Illustrations courtesy of Ann Stringer