

BRIDGEND HERITAGE TRAILS, BOLLINGTON

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



TRAIL NO. 8 - TRAVELLING IN TIME

Heading west from Bollington, this largely flat walk meanders through farmland and the grounds of fine houses to Butley Ash and back.

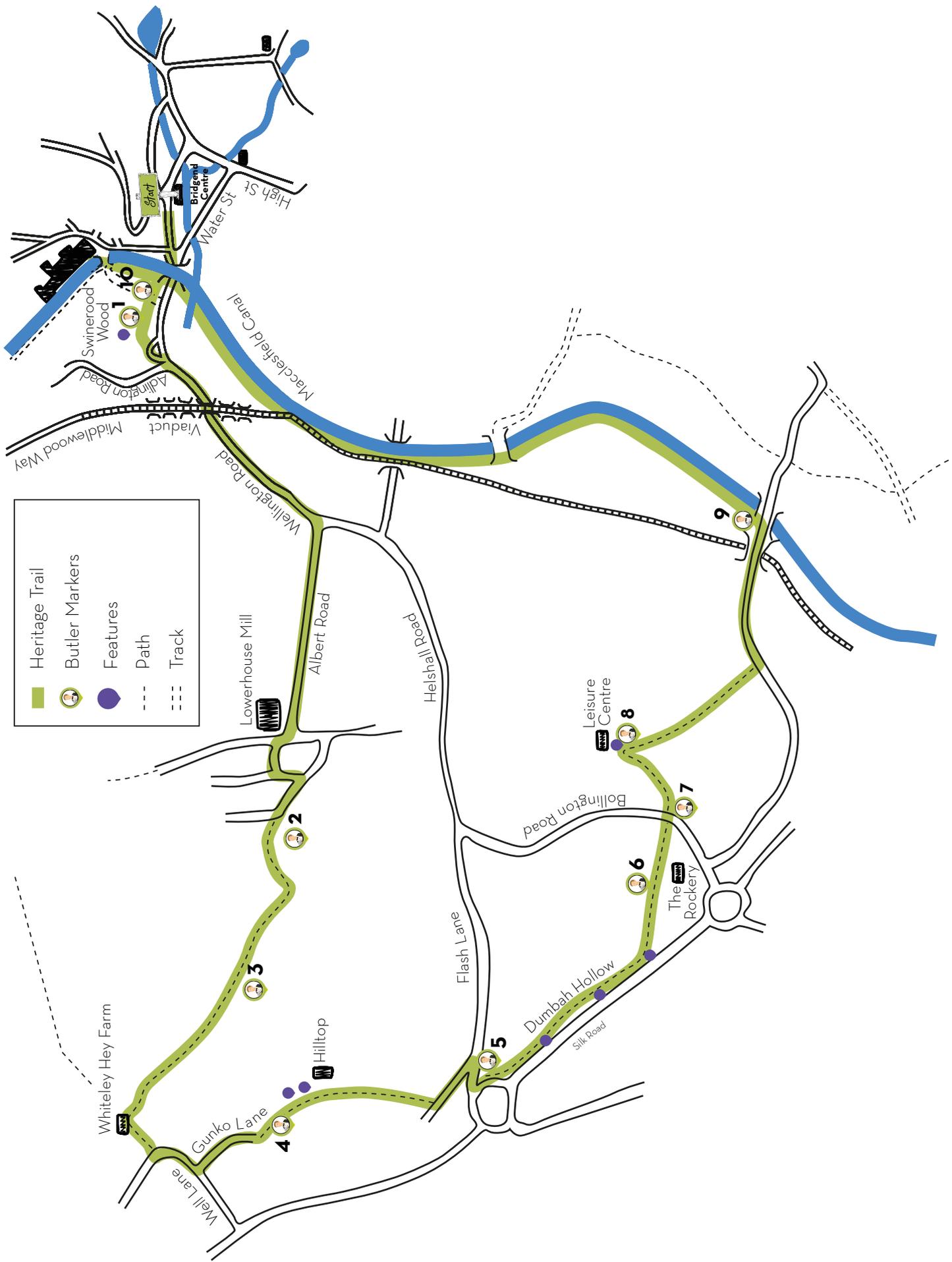
Walking with Kids? Ask for our 'Upstairs Downstairs' kids quiz!

6 miles

Difficulty: Easy with a couple of short, sharp climbs. Can be muddy!

www.bridgendcentre.org.uk





	Heritage Trail
	Butler Markers
	Features
	Path
	Track

From Canal to Cotton Mill

With your back to The Bridgend Centre, turn left and walk through the Aqueduct which carries the Macclesfield Canal. Cross the road to the Recreation Ground, turning left down the steps and along the path following the River Dean. This Ground was donated to the people of Bollington by the Greg family in 1901.

‘The Gregs were wealthy cotton manufacturers and the family was very religious. Samuel Greg was renowned for his advanced social thinking and wanted to create the perfect mix of employers and workers. He really believed that, under the right conditions, everyone could live in harmony.’

Continue forwards and then fork left up the slope with the grassy bank on your right. 📍1 Going through the archway, turn right and follow the road round to emerge back on Wellington Road, where you turn right. Go under Bollington Viaduct and past the site of Oliver’s Waterhouse Mill. In the 1950s a place had been desperately needed for Bollington’s handicapped children and the mill’s gatehouse subsequently housed the Bollington Spastic Clinic.

‘It was a daunting task but one that Bollington took to its heart. Within weeks, Mr. Ian Oliver of the Mill offered us the brand new nursery that had been built for his employers’ children, as they preferred to stay in the building already in use. Slowly the children thrived and every one, even though some were terribly handicapped, blossomed in the love and care they received.’

The Waterhouse Mill was demolished in 1962 but The Waterhouse, home of the Oliver family and now the Bollington Medical Centre, can soon be seen on your right.

One famous Bollingtonian, Terry Waite was born at No. 60 Wellington Road, opposite the Waterhouse.

Heading into Happy Valley

Continuing forward, on your right you will pass Bollington Hall Farm, one of the oldest buildings in the area. A corn mill stood just behind the farmhouse and its wheel was fed by a leat, bringing water all the way from near the Bridgend Centre. Turn right and walk down Albert Road.

Ahead of you on your right you will see Lowerhouse Mill. Acquired by Samuel Greg in 1832, he went to great lengths to make his workers happy, renovating their Long Row cottages, making allotments, and building a Sunday School and gymnasium.

Detour: To view Long Row Cottages cross over the road and turn left down a ginnel between houses just after Dean Valley School. After 150 yards take the next ginnel on your right and rejoin Albert Road, where you turn left.

Many of the child labourers who worked in the Mill were orphans.



‘Greg farmed the children out to the workers – “You’ve got a job here, but you’ve got to have one or two children as well!” So they had to adopt them. In a way it was a marvellous idea. Those youngsters were now part of a family for probably the first time ever. They suddenly found themselves in Utopia – from the streets of Liverpool or Manchester to this – ‘Happy Valley!’



At the bottom of Albert Road, where the road bends to the right, turn sharp left into Ridley Road. Now turn right down Moss Lane and you will pass a house on the right which has a sign above the door, ‘Lowerhouse Library, 1862’. Greg also built this library, followed by a reading room and crèche.

Sadly, Greg’s vision evaporated when, in 1847, he tried to introduce labour-saving machinery for stretching cloth. His workers went on strike, plunging him into a deep depression, and he never set foot in the Mill again.

Butley Town to Flash Lane

Continue to the end of the lane 📍2 and bear left on the track round the edge of the field. To your left you can see The Mount situated in trees over a hillock. Samuel Greg lived in there and years later Kenneth Burrows, a rich Lancastrian colliery owner, resided there. He too was a philanthropist and became the benefactor of Bollington Cross School.



At the end of the track ignore the turn into the farmyard and continue ahead through the gate with a stone in front 📍3, and into a field, where you follow a hedge and then a fence on your left. Cross over a stile next to a stone slab and climb diagonally, between a hedge and trees towards farm buildings. At the corner of the field, drop down to a track passing the PNFS sign 559 and going left up a slope through some metal gates, taking care underfoot.

‘The discovery of the remains of a Saxon burial ground in a field beside the Manchester Road suggests a settlement of considerable age and the name ‘Butley’ may originate with Saxon “Butt” meaning open fields. Butley Town was a council in its own right until 1932, when it amalgamated with Prestbury.’

Upon reaching a green triangle, turn left up Gunco Lane track.

Pub detour: Instead of turning into Gunco Lane continue forwards. Turn right along the main road and The Butley Ash is 100 yards on the left.

Continue forward through a kissing gate and walk straight ahead. To the left beautiful views can be seen of the Nab, Billinge Hill, Rainowlow and White Nancy, with The Mount in front. Through the next kissing gate bear right and up by a stile next to a gate 📍4. Climb straight up, staying close to the hedge through

a copse of trees and bearing right to the kissing gate onto a lane in front. The house on your left is called 'Hilltop'.

Continue to the end of the drive and turn left. At the end take great care to cross over Flash Lane, turning right to steps on the left just before the roundabout.

Sheep, Rooks and Skating Parties

Go down the steps 📍5 and follow the path through two kissing gates and up the steps. You are walking between the Silk Road and Dumbah Hollow.

'Sir Richard Burton mentions Dumbah sheep in the diary entry for 22nd October 1854, from his book, 'First Footsteps in East Africa'. Apparently the wool from these sheep has been used for centuries by the indigenous people of Africa and the Middle East to make highly prized rugs.'

At a junction of paths continue forward and through a kissing gate. Follow the path over a hillock, through a gap in the fence and down and over a stream. Walk straight ahead towards a kissing gate, going past a pylon on your right and then straight up 📍6, passing 'The Rookery' on your right. One time home to the Antrobus family, they built several mills in Bollington including Lowerhouse Mill. In 1832, when the Macclesfield Canal was being constructed, the engineer William Crossley is believed to have lived there.



Friends of mine moved into part of The Rookery. It was an amazing place - really run down at that point - but the library was wonderful, with beautiful wood panelling and outside were remnants of extensive formal gardens. Upstairs lived an opera singer. She was very old and she obviously couldn't cope with it all and had moved upstairs.'

Go through a kissing gate and cautiously cross over Bollington Road and slightly right 📍7, to follow a footpath sign by the side of a house, which leads into a ginnel. Continue forward by the side of playing fields. In front is the Leisure Centre.

'Originally it was to help the disabled children from the Clinic at Waterhouse Mill - so they could all learn to swim, but it soon became for all Bollington's children. We scrounged money from here, there and everywhere and the 'Buy a Brick' scheme raised hundreds and hundreds of pounds. That Centre was completely built by Bollington!'

Before the Leisure Centre, turn right and down a path between a fence and a hedge 📍8. When you emerge onto a track, continue forward and then right down a ginnel. Turn left along Clarke Lane, next to Mode Hill Barn.

Pub detour: Instead of turning left into Clarke Lane, turn right. After 30 yards the Lord Clyde is on your right.

Carry on over the railway bridge. Steam trains used to chug along this route, which was the Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway and is now a linear walkway called the Middlewood Way. At the next bridge turn left on to the Macclesfield Canal 📍9, passing a dry dock on the right and Adelphi Mill on the 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 a hundred degrees. Then, during the war, they started issuing us with rope-soled sandals. You couldn’t wear shoes because the floor was just like an oil slick – oiling all those spindles.’

Carry on under the Bridge no 27 and over the Aqueduct, with Clarence Mill in front. Turn left through the gate opposite the Mill 📍10 and left down the track. Cross the road and go left under the Aqueduct, into the Memorial Gardens. Go through the gate on the left, then right and 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...

Upstairs, downstairs

A 6 mile circular walk to Butley Ash starting and ending at the Bridgend Centre.

Follow the butler markers.

The eighth of the Bridgend Heritage Trails takes you back in time to discover the vastly different lives of the rich and poor. Leaving the town via millworkers cottages the route takes you through farms of cattle and sheep skirting past stone built mansions made possible by the Industrial Revolution. Consider the lives of the rich and poor as you make your way back to Bollington past mills and along the canal now used more for leisure than labour.

'I started in Clarence Mill when I was 12. We used to work from 6 o'clock to 5 o'clock. Then when I got to 16 and went for a rise they gave me the sack because they could get young ones doing your job. I could've stopped on working on the same wage but I went in the quarry.'

Younger walkers! Follow the trail of butlers, and look out for surprises along the way. Plus there's an 'Upstairs, downstairs' quiz to get you moving ... Download it yourself or pick one up at the Bridgend Centre.



With thanks to The Hobson Trust

Photographs courtesy of the Bollington Photo Archive