

The River Bollin (right) rises in Macclesfield Forest and joins the Mersey near Lymm.



St Elizabeth's Church, Ashley (1880)



Ashley Hall was where the local gentry met in 1715 to decide whether to support the Hanoverians or the Stuarts. They chose the former. Although restored, it dates back to the 16th century.

Broad Oak Cottage is a Grade II listed mid-17th-century thatched cottage near New Mills.



THE GREYHOUND

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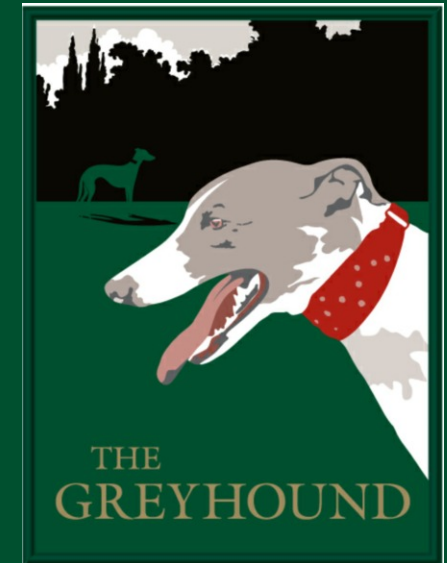
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THREE CIRCULAR WALKS FROM



River Bollin and Rossmill Woods

4 miles: fairly easy

Riverside and woodland walking.

Ashley Hall and the River Bollin

4½ miles: fairly easy

Historic buildings and pleasant riverside walking on quiet permitted paths.

New Mills and Mobberley Brook

(7¼ miles: moderate)

A varied walk along the wooded River Bollin, returning via quiet farmland.

River Bollin and Rossmill Woods

4 miles: fairly easy

Allow 2 hours. May be muddy in places, and includes some road walking.

1 From the front door of the Greyhound, cross the road carefully and turn left along the pavement. **2** Continue out of the village and under the M56 bridge. **3** Continue along the pavement to the junction with Castle Mill Lane, where you turn right. **4** After 300m, shortly before the road crosses the motorway, turn left through a metal kissing gate and follow a fenced path along the edge of a small wood. On emerging into a field, keep to the right-hand hedge to a second wood, where you keep left to a hand-gate in a hedge. **5** Continue along the path beyond, between a fence (left) and hedge (right), into a wood above the River Bollin. **6** Cross a small wooden footbridge and follow the path parallel to the river until you reach a narrow metal footbridge. **7** Cross the river and turn right. **8** Follow a hedged path over a sidestream into Hale Golf Course. Keep left at a gate and climb the bank to a T-junction of tracks. **9** Turn right and shortly keep left when a track heads off across the course on your right. **10** The track/path continues above a side-valley then narrows to a kissing gate. Follow the path beyond between garden fences and out to a road (Rossmill Lane). **11** Turn right and follow the road past the buildings of Ross Mill Farm. **12** When the road bends left, turn right onto the Rossmill Woodland Walk. Follow the broad path as it swings left and passes an open area then runs above the River Bollin. Ignore a path off to the left before a waymark post. **13** Continue upstream alongside the Bollin to the motorway bridge, where you pass under the carriageway next to the river. **14** On the other side, continue through a kissing gate into a meadow. **15** Follow the river upstream and cross a footbridge over a side-stream, then cross a similar meadow before a wooded section leads to a footbridge over the Bollin. **16** Cross the river via the footbridge. *(In very dry conditions you can take the footpath to the right from the end of the bridge to cut a corner and save a stretch of road-walking – see map – but the path gets very muddy after rain.)* For the standard normal-weather route, take the path ahead, which climbs the bank then swings left along a fence at the bottom of a field. **17** Swing right above a side-stream and pass through a gate between flights of steps, beyond which climb a stile into a field. **18** Bear right along the narrowing field to a kissing gate beside a field gate. **19** Follow the green lane beyond out to a road. **20** Turn right and follow the road (Castle Mill Lane) past the turning to Higher House Farm on the left and then past the brick buildings of Chapel House Farm. Take care along this stretch, as the road is quite busy and the verges are narrow. **21** After half a mile, turn left into Back Lane, a much quieter, narrow road. **22** At a junction with a no-through road, keep right along Back Lane. **23** Beyond Back Lane Farm, you meet the larger road again. **24** Cross carefully and turn left along the pavement, passing the former school on your way back to the Greyhound.

New Mills and Mobberley Brook

7¼ miles: moderate

Allow 3–4 hours. May be muddy in places, and includes some road walking and a railway crossing. Livestock may be encountered.

Follow steps **1–19** of the **River Bollin & Rossmill Woods** walk, left. Even in dry weather, follow the main route as described at step **16**.

20 Turn right along Castle Mill Lane for a short distance, then turn left into the driveway to Higher House Farm. **21** Follow the driveway as far as the farmhouse then go through a kissing gate on your left. **22** Walk along the field edge past the house to a stile. In the next field, turn left and walk along the field edge with the hedge on your left. **23** Pass a stile by a gap in the hedge and cross the next field to a stile in the far hedge. **24** Beyond the stile, turn right along the field edge with the hedge on your right. **25** At a stile in the far corner, keep right of the ditch, and cross the field aiming to the right of a clump of trees around a pond on the far side. **26** Cross another stile and in the next field, bear left, passing to the left of a pond surrounded by trees. **27** Near the far corner of the field, a metal kissing gate leads into a long narrow field. Walk up the middle to meet a perpendicular path by a footpath sign at the top of the field. **28** Turn right to a kissing gate in the right-hand corner. **29** Cross a final field to a kissing gate by a gateway into Breach House Lane. **30** Turn left and follow the lane to a junction. **31** Turn right into a driveway. At the end of the track, beyond the buildings, a gate leads into fields. Cross the field, parallel to the brook on your left. **32** Towards the far corner, a path leads down through the brambles on your left to a stile and a bridge over the Sugar Brook. **33** Two paths cross here; turn left, away from the stream, and cross a belt of scrubland to a stile. **34** Walk up the field, along a gappy hedge, to a further stile by a gate onto the railway. **35** Cross the railway with care and climb a second stile. Follow the driveway out to the road. **36** Turn left to a junction; turn right (Pepper Street) signposted to Knutsford. **37** Walk down to the Mobberley Brook past the former Chapel House Inn and cross by an old watermill. **38** Continue to a crossroads by a thatched cottage, where you turn right (no through road). **39** Follow the drive past a farm on the left to a second farm. **40** Cross the farmyard and join a fieldside track to the left of a hedge. **41** Walk for two fields to a stile by a gate, then shortly afterwards cross a stile on the right and continue in the same direction, with the hedge now on your left. **42** At the end of the field, as you approach Birtles Farm, bear right to a kissing gate next to a gate into the farmyard. **43** Turn right past the end of a barn, then left in front of the farmhouse. **44** Beyond another brick barn with an external staircase, turn right between farm buildings to a gate into a field. **45** Walk down the field edge to a hand-gate, then bear slightly left down to a footbridge with gates at both ends. **46** Walk up the bank to another metal hand-gate, then cross the next field diagonally, in front of Arden House. **47** By a wire fence in the far corner, turn right past the end of the garden hedge and follow the fence out to the drive. **48** Turn left across the stream, then go through a metal hand-

gate on your right. **49** Climb a bank to the edge of the field and follow it round to the right. **50** When you meet a path leading up from the right, turn left across the field, passing a telegraph pole. **51** At the far side of the field, go through a hand-gate in the hedge.

Now jump to step **24** of the **Ashley Hall & the River Bollin** walk, below.

Ashley Hall and the River Bollin

4½ miles: fairly easy

Allow 2–3 hours. May be muddy in places. Uses a permitted path to the River Bollin that may be closed without notice.

1 From the front door, turn right and right again into Ashley Lane (signposted 'Rostherne Mere'). **2** Follow the road past the entrance to Egerton Moss and over the railway above the station. **3** Continue past the church. **4** When the road bends left, turn right into the drive to Ashley Hall, passing through a gate and past the lodge house. **5** Follow the road left and right and over the M56. **6** Continue past the buildings of Ashley Hall. **7** After 400m, exit beyond the lodge house and follow the road ahead. **8** Take the first left, Ashley Mill Lane. **9** Beyond the buildings and parking, turn right at a junction. **10** Shortly before Ashley Mill, turn left by some bins. Don't take the path across the field (unless the permitted path is closed), but instead bear right along the field edge, shortly descending to a bend in the River Bollin. **11** Continue beside the river then leave it to climb around a wooded bank, before returning again to the riverside at a bend. **12** At the next wood, leave the river again; the path leads up the woodland edge to a track. **13** Turn right and follow the track through fields for ½ mile. **14** Shortly before Ryecroft Farm, turn left off the track through a kissing gate. **15** Walk down to a second kissing gate, beyond which bear left along the edge of a wood. **16** At the end, turn right and cross the M56. **17** On the other side, turn left and follow the wooded path parallel to the motorway. **18** After ¼ mile, follow the path right, away from the M56, and along the left-hand side of a field. **19** Beyond a conifer plantation, continue to the road. **20** Turn left along the narrow pavement past Birkin Farm. **21** After the bends, turn right into Lamb Lane. **22** When the lane bends right by a house, take the footpath ahead. **23** After 100m, turn left through a gate in the hedge. **24** Aim for the distant cricket pavilion, passing to the right of a small pond. **25** Go through a further hand-gate in the far left-hand corner of the field and follow the hedge beyond to a third gate. **26** Walk past the cricket pavilion and along the drive to the road. **27** Cross and turn right, shortly passing the turning to Ashley Hall on the left. **28** Follow the public road back to the Greyhound, passing the church and station on your left.