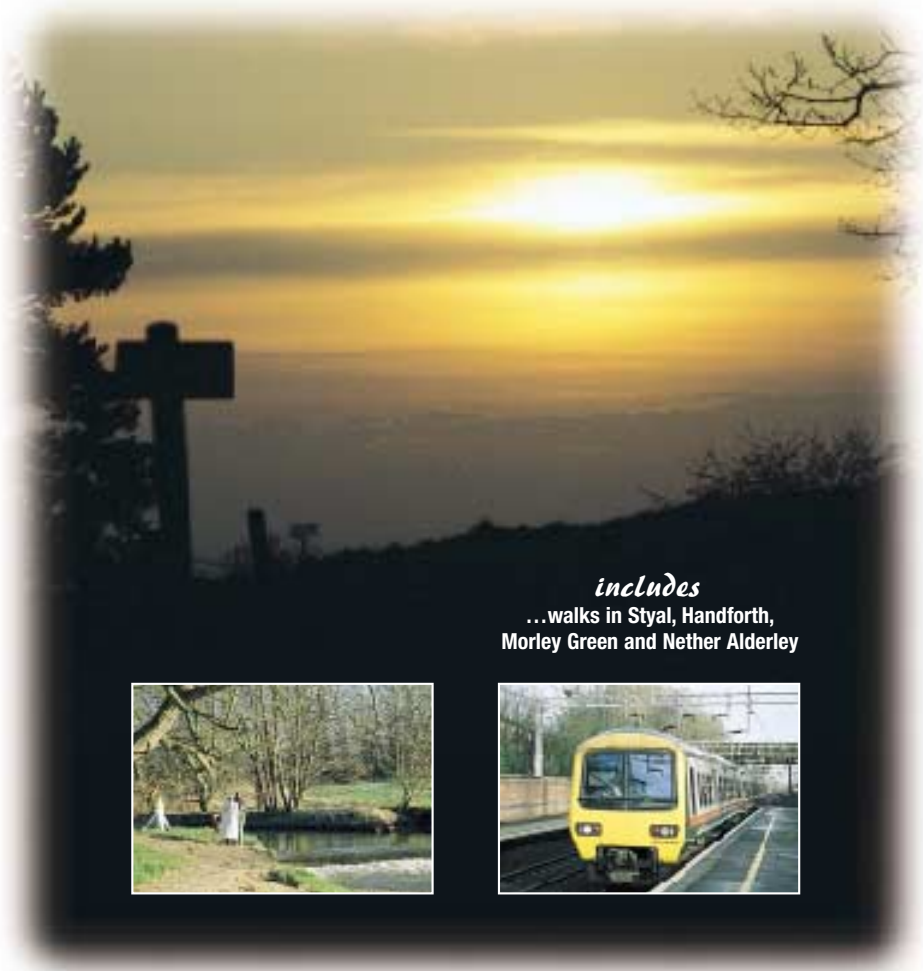


Green Walks

They're good for you and the environment!



includes
...walks in Styal, Handforth,
Morley Green and Nether Alderley



Wilmslow and Alderley Edge

Take a bus or train ride out and a healthy walk home

Green Walks ... Routes to healthy living!

Welcome to the third booklet of Green Walks from Transport 2000 Cheshire, produced with the support of Macclesfield Borough Council and the benefit of major sponsorship from a local employer, Royal London. As with the Macclesfield and Poynton/Disley booklets the walks show how easy it is to explore your local countryside on foot without the need to use a car. Walking helps to keep you fit - that's official! So these are routes to healthy living. They're also very easy to reach by just a short bus or train ride to the starting point, so a car isn't necessary. For short journeys that reduces pollution and it's healthier for the environment. So there are benefits all round. That's why we've called them Green Walks!



Each walk starts with a short bus or train journey and then follows a linear route back on foot. So this means there's no problem of missing a bus or train to get home, and you can take as long as you like on the walk! Starting a walk by bus or train also has other advantages. There's no need to walk in a circle back to the start, so it's more flexible. There are no problems of parking, and no worries about whether it's safe to leave a car in an isolated spot.

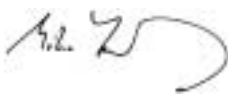
Bus times are displayed at the bus stops, or you can call Cheshire Traveline on 01625 534850 daily from 8 am to 8 pm. Train times are posted up at the stations, or you can call 08457 484950 (24 hrs). Finally, it's advisable to wear sensible footwear for each of these walks, since many of the paths could be muddy and slippery at certain times of year, especially after rain.

A Message from Royal London

We all share a concern for our environment and all try to play our part in doing what we can to preserve our natural heritage for future generations. That's why we at Royal London are delighted to offer our support to the Green Walks initiative.

As a major employer occupying a substantial site in the heart of Cheshire we provide a large number of jobs within the community and play our part as a responsible neighbour, recycling materials wherever we can and using fuel efficient ways to meet our operational energy needs. We are looking at ways of reducing car journeys, including encouraging use of public transport and car sharing and are constantly looking at ways in which we can improve on all aspects of managing our business, whilst minimising the effect on our working and living environment.

We owe it to ourselves and to our children to ensure that we all do what we can to protect our shared environment for all our futures.



Mike Yardley, Chief Executive



Walk 1: Styal - The Carrs - Wilmslow

Distance: 3 miles (4.75 kms)

Allow 1½ - 2 hours

A walk full of variety, through Styal Village, past Quarry Bank Mill and along the River Bollin.

Terrain: Easy going on good clear paths, mostly on the level.

Travel details: From the bus stop outside Wilmslow Station travel by the Manchester Airport service 200 (201 at weekends) operated by Selwyns, hourly during most of the day. Ask for the cross roads at Holly Lane, ½ mile beyond Styal Village. Alight from the bus by a postbox where Holly Lane joins from the left, just before the 'end of speed limit' signs. The walk starts at the cross roads and finishes at Wilmslow.

1. Turn left off the main road, down Holly Lane. After Holly Farm turn left down the drive to Lode Hill Farm. Beyond the farm keep straight ahead over a stile into a field. Follow the fence on the right to a gap in the hedge at the far end, with a stile and signpost. Continue straight ahead to a stile leading onto a road.
2. Cross over and continue opposite, between hedges, on a path which becomes cobbled. Pass the cottages and turn first left just beyond the Estate Office, to the remains of Styal Cross. Go through the gate on the right (signposted to Quarry Bank Mill) and follow the path, to the left of a pond. Cross a farm road and continue on a gravel path across the field. Beyond another gate reach the drive to Quarry Bank Mill.
3. Turn right briefly and then diagonally left up steps to the car park. Follow the path ahead along the edge of the car park. (For a detour to the Mill, turn right here. Afterwards, retrace steps and return to the car park.) At the far end of the car park pass a pond and cross a farm track through two gates. Follow the path ahead, to the left of a hedge, and through a gate in the far corner.
4. Eventually cross a stile to emerge into a sloping field. Aim for a National Trust sign ahead, with a road beyond. Go through the kissing gate, stay on the path through the trees and cross a footbridge over the river. Continue ahead to the car park and turn right over the brick bridge across the river.



5. Turn sharp left and follow the path along the river, through an avenue of trees. Stay on the main path, which veers away from the river but returns to it further on. Ignore the first footbridge, where a path joins from the left, and continue past the tennis courts to reach a second footbridge.
6. Cross here and keep to the path as it bears right through another avenue of trees, parallel to the river. At a fork keep left and pass to the left of the Parish Hall to reach a road. Turn right on the road, past the Hall and children's playground. Continue over the bridge towards the Church. Bear right and climb uphill past the George and Dragon pub. At the road junction at the top, turn left towards the traffic lights. Cross here and continue straight ahead to Wilmslow Station.



Quarry Bank Mill

Walk 2: Handforth - Dean Row - Wilmslow

Distance: 3³/₄ miles (6 kms)

Allow 2 - 2¹/₂ hours

A walk through the farmland around Handforth and along part of the Bollin Valley Way.

Terrain: Undulating, with one short climb and two steep descents.

Travel details: Travel by train from Wilmslow station to Handforth, mostly half hourly during the day (hourly on most Sundays but check for alterations). The walk starts at Handforth station and finishes at Wilmslow.

1. Leaving Handforth station turn right, then second left down Hall Road. Pass the school and keep straight ahead where Woodlands Road leads off to the right. Continue past Old Hall Crescent and Wadsworth Close.
2. Just after the last house, cross a stile on the right and follow a signposted path between fences, behind the houses. Reaching the last house, cross a stile on the right and continue in the same direction towards the A34 Bypass.
3. On reaching the bypass boundary turn right, keeping to the right of the fence. Continue downhill along the edge of a wood. The path bends left and goes under a bridge below the bypass, alongside the river. Keep to the path, heading back now in the opposite direction, with the river on the right, towards a beechwood on the slope ahead. Veer right alongside the river to reach a footbridge on the right.
4. Cross the bridge and climb up the grassy slope, alongside the right hand fence. At the top of the slope veer diagonally left at a waymarked post to reach a stile in front of a large oak tree, with a pond on the left. Follow the path along the fence to the right of the pond, towards the houses. Cross three stiles close together and then a further stile to reach a road.
5. Turn left on the road, cross over and turn diagonally right down Hunters Close. Cross a further road at the far end and cross a stile opposite into a field. Keep to the right of the hawthorn hedge and continue to the left of a large oak tree where paths cross. Continue ahead over a rough marshy field to a stile in the hedge opposite, and reach a road. Turn right here, then left at the T-junction opposite Lendel Cottage.

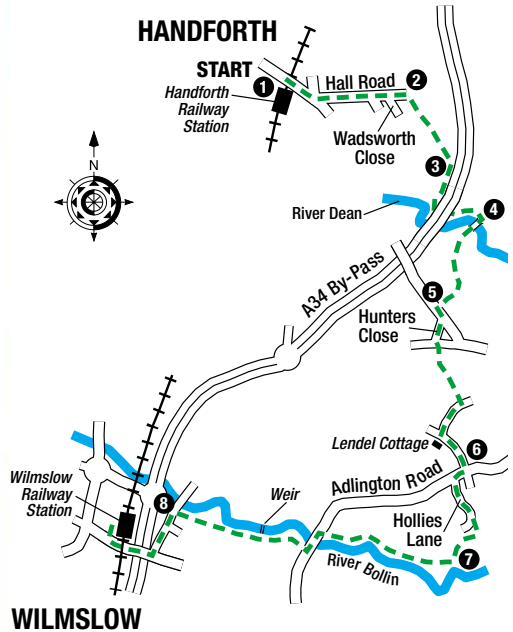


The Bollin Valley, approaching Wilmslow

Walk 2



Beechwood near Handforth



6. Reaching a main road, turn right briefly, then turn left down Hollies Lane. At the end, pass to the right of Hollies Cottage and continue behind it for a few yards. Just before a garage turn right down a narrow path between hedges, which turns sharp right and then left again through a gate. Cross a stile at the bottom of the slope and continue ahead to a signpost in the middle of the field.
7. Turn right (signposted 'Wilmslow') and keep to the right of the river. Cross two stiles, each with a bridge across a stream, and continue towards the road bridge seen ahead. Cross a stile to the right of the bridge and reach the road. Turn left over the bridge and then immediately right again down steps to reach a path along the river. Cross a stile into a field, where the path forks. Take the right fork, along a fence and over another stile, and continue along the river. Keep ahead where another path joins from the left, and keep alongside the river, passing a weir. Reaching a brick bridge, cross a small footbridge and stile, climb up steps to the left of the bridge and reach a road.
8. Turn left on the road, and at the main road at the top, turn right over the bypass. Go under the railway bridge and turn right up steps to reach Wilmslow Station.



River Bollin

Walk 3: Row of Trees - Morley Green - The Carrs - Wilmslow

Distance: 5 miles (8 kms)

Allow 2½ - 3¼ hours

This walk follows some green lanes through the flat peatlands around Lindow Moss.

Terrain: Level and easy throughout, but likely to be boggy in places.

Travel details: From the bus stop in Bank Square, Wilmslow (opposite St. Teresa's Church) travel on the Knutsford service 288 operated by Arriva, hourly during most of the day (not Sundays). Ask for the first bus stop *after* Brook Lane Corner. (After passing Lindow Cricket Ground on the right, the bus turns right at the mini roundabout at Brook Lane Corner, and passes the Berrisford Art Gallery. The place to get off is the next bus stop after the roundabout, just before the garage and filling station on the right. The walk starts at this bus stop and finishes at Wilmslow.)

1. From the bus stop cross the road and follow the track immediately opposite (Upcast Lane). Turn sharp right at a junction after 100 yds (100 metres) and continue through some bollards, with sports grounds on the right and a school on the left. Opposite the cricket ground, turn left into the drive alongside Davenport House Farm, which becomes a grassy track between hedges. Continue straight ahead for ½ mile (0.8 km), keeping to the right of the fence and hedge all the way.
2. At a T-junction turn right on a rough road. Pass through a gate, and immediately after the kennels on the right, turn right on a narrow path between hedges. After Hetlee Farm veer left past houses to reach a road junction by a small traffic island.
3. Turn left briefly, then immediately right down Rotherwood Road. Where this very straight road becomes a bridle path, continue ahead through the trees, passing peat workings over on the left, and avoid all turnings.



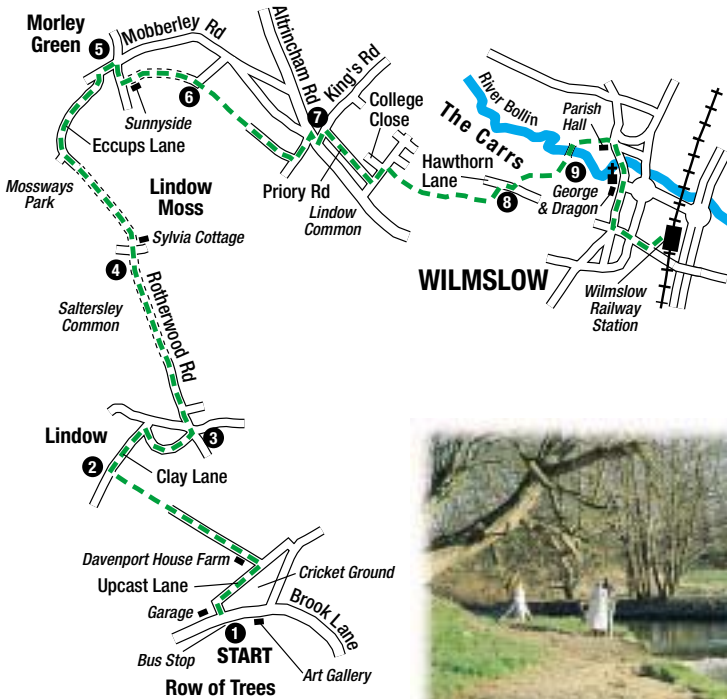
Near Lindow Moss

4. Reaching a cross roads by Sylvia Cottage, keep ahead on a rough road (the 'Private' sign refers to vehicles). Pass to the right of a chalet park, and at its entrance (Mossways Park) follow the surfaced road ahead, which bends to the right and joins another road (Burleyhurst Lane) near some speed limit signs. Turn right for a short distance to Morley Green.
5. Opposite the road junction (signposted 'Altrincham') and in front of a bungalow, turn right down a rough track. Turn first left just before a house called Sunnyside and follow a footpath between hedges, which widens to become a green lane.



Frost on the peat workings, Satterley Common

Walk 3



The Carts

6. Just where it bends left at a corner, leave the lane and cross a stile by a gate straight ahead, into a field, still keeping in the same direction as before. Keep to the right of the field, along a hedge and small stream, aiming for a stile in the far corner. Cross this and follow a footpath between hedges. Cross another stile to reach a rough track, still keeping in the same direction, passing a farmhouse and then a cottage (White Pines). Turn left at a T-junction opposite Black Donkey Cottage and continue to the main road.
7. Cross the main road and go down Kings Road, opposite, passing between two blocks of flats. Turn first right down Priory Road. At the far end turn left at a T-junction, and just after passing College Close, turn right down a footpath between fences, signposted 'Hawthorn Lane'. Continue behind gardens, keeping alongside the fence on the left, and pass two open grassy areas, the second one a sports field. At the far end of this, where another path joins from the right, by some posts, keep straight ahead between two fences and pass the ends of two terraces of houses. Just beyond the second one, fork left at a lamp post by a brick wall. Continue on a wider path between fences to reach a road (Hawthorn Lane).
8. Turn right on the road for a short distance. Just beyond house number 50A on the left, turn left at a footpath sign and follow a surfaced drive downhill past a barrier. Keep to the drive as it bends right and drops down to the River Bollin, leading to a footbridge across the river.
9. Cross here and continue to Wilmslow as described in Walk 1 (section 6).

Walk 4: Chelford - Nether Alderley - Alderley Edge

Distance: 4¾ miles (7.5 kms)

Allow 2½ - 3 hours

A walk through pleasant farmland and on ancient paths skirting the villas of Alderley Edge.

Terrain: Mostly undulating, with a gentle climb towards the end.

Travel details: Travel by train from Alderley Edge station to Chelford, mostly hourly throughout the day (but no daytime Sunday service). The walk starts at Chelford station and finishes at Alderley Edge.

1. From Chelford station turn right over the bridge, and right again down some steps. At the bottom turn left and join the end of a road. Turn first right after house number 4 and continue to a T-junction.
2. Turn right and pass the cattle market. Where the road is stopped up, turn right down a footpath between a fence and a hedge. Just before a bridge under the railway, turn sharp left. After 300 yards (300 metres) the path turns left again, away from the railway.



Leaving Chelford

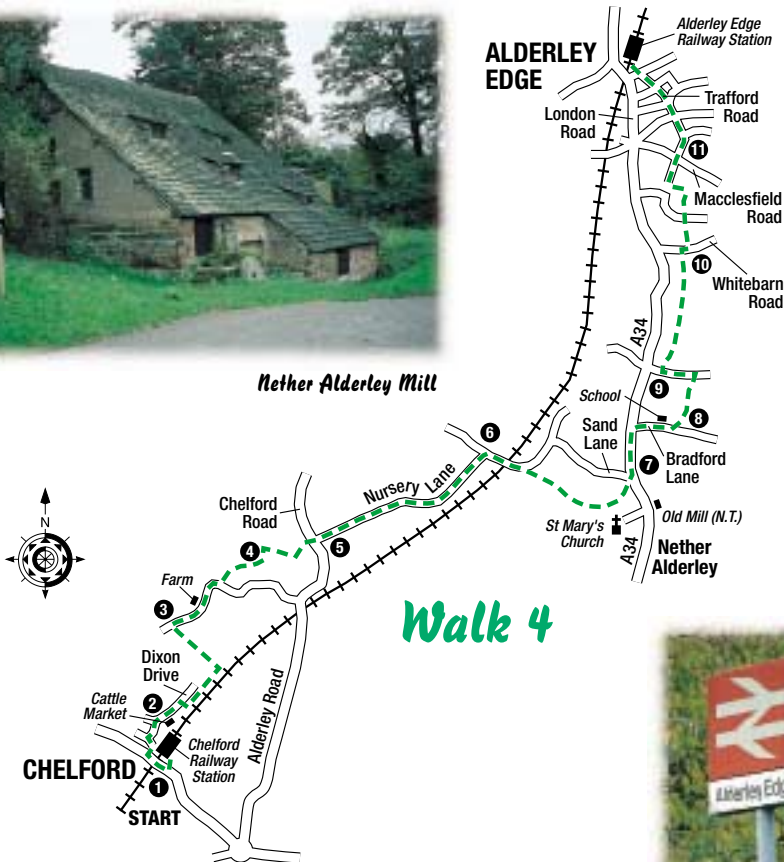


The journey to Chelford

3. Turn right onto a track at a T-junction. At a farm, keep straight ahead, to the right of the buildings. Beyond, carry straight on where a track joins from the left. After another track joins from the left, continue to a signpost on the left. Leave the track here and follow the path through the gate. Continue past two oak trees and cross a stile on the left of another gate. Follow the right hand side of the field, keeping along the hedge.
4. At the corner of the field cross a stile and turn left, following the direction of the signpost. Follow the hedge to the field corner, then turn sharp right, above a steep slope. After 250 yards (250 metres) cross a stile on the left into the wood. Cross a footbridge over a stream and follow the path through the trees. Cross a stile to reach a road.
5. Turn half right and follow the road almost opposite (Nursery Lane) for about ¾ mile (1 km).
6. At a T-junction turn right over the railway. Just beyond the bridge turn right at a footpath sign by a gate and cross a stile by a large poplar tree. Keep to the right of the hedge and cross a track leading from farm buildings on the left. Bear slightly right and keep along the right of the hedge. Below an ash tree, cross a stile on the left, by a water trough. Keep left of a stream and hedge to reach two stiles in the hedge at the far end, and cross into the field beyond. Still keeping left of a stream and hedge, reach an opening by a signpost. Veer slightly left, aiming for a gate in the far corner,



Nether Alderley Mill



Walk 4



- by an electricity pole. This leads to a road junction where Sand Lane joins the main A34 road. (For a detour to Nether Alderley Mill, worth visiting if open, turn right along the main road. Afterwards, retrace steps and return to the road junction.)
7. Cross Sand Lane and keep straight ahead on the pavement along the main road. Beyond the houses turn right up Bradford Lane past the school. Continue on the cobbled lane and just beyond a house called Parkend, cross a stile by a footpath sign on the left.
 8. Follow the path to another stile below an electricity pole, into a field. Keep along the hedge on the left as it curves round. Just before a house, turn left over a stile by a gate, and reach a road. Turn left for 200 yards (200 metres). Just beyond Yew Tree Cottage, cross a stile in the hedge on the right.
 9. Keep to the left of the field, aiming for a fence on the slope above. Keep to the right of this and cross a stile. Go through an opening ahead, then through a gate below some oak trees, between a beech hedge and a fence, and reach a road.
 10. Turn right for a few yards, then left again just beyond Whitebarn Cottage down a footpath between fences. Keep straight ahead across a drive and pass a tree in the middle of the footpath. Still between fences, continue across another drive and keep to the path which turns sharp left and then right again past The Coach House to reach a road.
 11. Cross over and go down Trafford Road opposite. Continue ahead over two crossroads to reach a T-junction almost opposite Alderley Edge Station.

Walk 5: Alderley Park - Hocker Lane - Alderley Edge

Distance: 4¾ miles (7.5 kms)

Allow 2½ - 3 hours

A walk of contrasts, through tranquil rolling farmland to the wooded escarpment of Alderley Edge.

Terrain: Quite a challenging walk with several short climbs and a steep descent towards the end.

Travel details: From the bus stop opposite the NatWest Bank in Alderley Edge travel on the Macclesfield service 130 operated by Arriva, at least hourly including Sundays. Ask for Matthews Garden Centre. The walk starts at the bus stop outside the Garden Centre and finishes at Alderley Edge.

1. From the bus stop continue on the main road past the Garden Centre entrance to a footpath sign on the left, beyond the lodge. Go through the wall and cross a stile into a large field. Aim for the highest point, passing between two electricity poles and over a fence. Towards the end of the field beyond, veer left to a stile in the far corner, by a gate. Cross this and two further stiles close together, and reach a field with a farmhouse beyond.
2. Keep left along the hedge, and cross another stile into the small field on the left of the farmhouse. Cross a stile opposite, to the right of a gate. Head slightly right to skirt the right hand side of some trees opposite, around a pond. Beyond, keep in the same direction along a fence and reach a stile below some beech trees.



The Wizard's Well

3. Cross the narrow copse to another stile with a plank bridge, and turn sharp left. Aim for a gap in the trees ahead, and cross a stile to the right of the gap. Keep to the path along the left of the hedge, which curves to the right. Beyond a gate, turn sharp right to reach a stile on the right of another gate. Cross into the field and keep to the left of the fence, heading towards another stile in the distance, below an electricity pole. Do not cross that, but just before reaching it, beyond an isolated oak tree on the right, reach a gate at the end of a farm drive leading to buildings off on the right.
4. Turn sharp left, away from the gate, past a clump of hawthorns and then an isolated oak tree. Keep to the right of the large undulating field. Aim for a stile in the far corner, by a gate. Cross here, with holly bushes and a pond on the right, and follow the depression in the large open field ahead, aiming to the left of some buildings below trees on the skyline. Towards the end of the field, head slightly left and cross a stile in the fence, by a junction. Keep to the right of the fence through a marshy area. Cross a further stile and veer diagonally right to a stile in the fence, in line with two cottages at the top of the slope beyond. Cross here and keep on the left of the field, along the hedge, towards the trees on the skyline. Just to the right of some stables cross a stile by a gate, and turn left up a rough track. Pass some cottages and climb up to a road junction.
5. Turn first left on the stony track for about a mile (1.6 km), passing Bull Pen Cottage and several converted farm buildings.

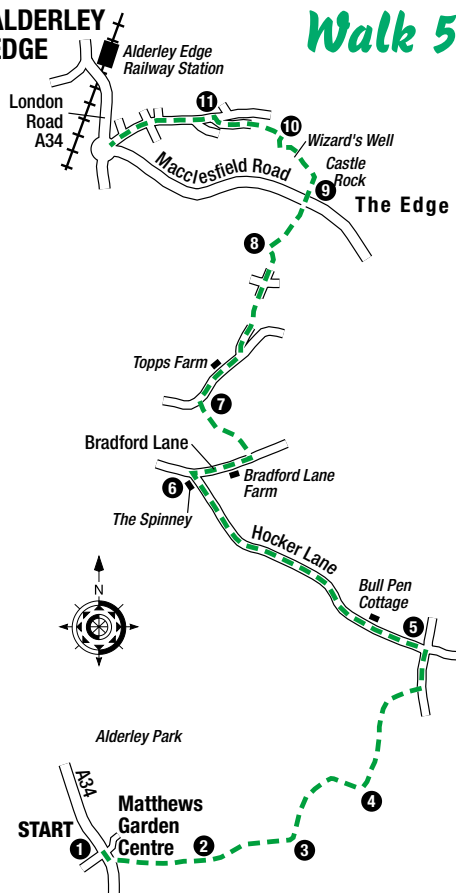
6. At a triangular junction with a cobbled road, opposite the entrance to The Spinney, turn right up Bradford Lane. Pass Bradford Lane Farm and after 150 yards (150 metres) turn left by a footpath sign immediately before Bradford Cottage. Go through the field alongside the cottage, keeping to the right, along the hedge. At the far end, pass under a power cable and cross a stile below a beech tree. Follow a path below the trees and cross a small plank bridge to reach a stile leading onto a road.
7. Turn right uphill, past Topps Farm. Just before the road bends to the right, fork left at a signpost and follow a wide track through a gate below the trees. This narrows, with fields on the right. Cross over another track and pass through an area of gorse bushes. Reaching a clearing, veer left on the track, along the edge of a wood and pass to the right of a pond.
8. Just before a gate and a National Trust sign turn right on a track just inside the wood. Go through a fence and continue ahead, following a line of oak trees. Cross a stile below a large holly bush into a field. Keep ahead to a gate and stile, and reach a road.



View from Castle Rock

ALDERLEY EDGE

Walk 5



9. Cross here and go through the stile opposite, signposted 'To the Edge' to reach some steps. (For a short detour to the viewpoint of Castle Rock, turn right above the steps and climb up to the flat rock outcrop, returning to the steps.) Go down the steps and turn left on the path at the bottom. Continue below rock outcrops and reach the Wizard's Well, with its inscription cut into the rock. Avoiding a faint path on the left, follow more steps down a steep slope to reach a fence corner by some holly bushes.
10. Fork left, away from the fence and slightly uphill at first, on a path which contours along the slopes through the beechwood. Reaching a stile by a National Trust sign, join a rough road and descend past houses to the road at the bottom.
11. Turn left past the sports ground and continue over a cross roads to reach Alderley Edge village centre.

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This booklet was researched and prepared by Transport 2000 Cheshire, in conjunction with Macclesfield Borough Council. Financial support from Royal London and the other sponsors is gratefully acknowledged.



As Britain's leading transport campaigning body, Transport 2000 promotes sustainable transport policies which meet people's travel needs and cause least damage to the environment. For further details contact the national headquarters, telephone 0207 613 0743. Within Cheshire, Transport 2000 Cheshire seeks to influence transport policies locally by monitoring transport developments and campaigning for improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users. For further details of Transport 2000 Cheshire's activities, telephone 01625 585878.



**Borough of
Macclesfield**

YOUR COUNCIL-YOUR SERVICES



Macclesfield Borough Council is pleased to support the publication of this booklet and particularly welcomes the main sponsor, Royal London, and our other co-sponsors who have generously contributed towards the cost of production. The problems of excessive car use can only be tackled if people walk and cycle more and make better use of public transport. These aims are at the heart of Local Agenda 21, a movement supported by the Borough Council which seeks to balance the protection of the environment with the desire for a high standard of living. For further information about Local Agenda 21 in Macclesfield Borough, telephone Paul Ancell on 01625 504672.



Royal London has been serving the financial planning needs of the public since 1861. With around £20 billion of funds under management, Royal London now has a network of offices serving more than two million customers nation-wide. Because we're one of the UK's leading home service companies, you can choose to have financial advice from one of our financial consultants in the comfort of your own home. If you would like more information, telephone 0800 195 1000 or visit our website (www.royal-london.co.uk).



TRAVELWISE

Cheshire County Council's TravelWise campaign seeks to raise awareness about the growing problems associated with car use. It seeks to encourage people to use their cars less and, whenever appropriate, to use more sustainable means of travel such as walking, cycling and public transport. For public transport information call the Cheshire Traveline on 01625 534850 (minicom facilities available). Cheshire Traveline numbers are open 8 am to 8 pm seven days a week, excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



First North Western is the train operating company which serves Wilmslow, Handforth, Alderley Edge and Chelford stations, featured in Walks 2 and 4 in this booklet.

Whilst care has been taken to ensure the details given in this booklet were accurate at the time of printing, neither Transport 2000 Cheshire, Macclesfield Borough Council nor any of the other bodies mentioned above can be held responsible for any inconvenience arising from errors or omissions. In particular bus routes and times can change at short notice, so prior checking of times from Cheshire Traveline is advisable (see Cheshire County Council entry above).