



How Well Do You Know Adlington?

20 Questions about Local History, Wildlife, Farming and the Future

1. How long has the landscape around Adlington been shaped by human activity?

- A) Around 500 years
- B) Around 600 years
- C) Over 1000 years

Answer: C) Over 1000 years



Adlington has over a thousand years of recorded farming and settlement history. It appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 under the name “*Eduuintune*”, which later became “*Adelinton*” in the 13th century.

The place-name comes from the Old English meaning “farmstead associated with a man called *Ēadwulf*”.

2. What area does the Adlington New Town cover?

- A) 780 hectares
- B) 1,470 hectares
- C) 2,120 hectares

Answer: B) 1,470 hectares



Belport’s overall “Masterplan” covers an area of **1,470 hectares** which is equivalent to **5.6 square miles** or more than **2,000 football pitches!**



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3. If up to 20,000 homes were built in the proposed new town, approximately how many additional people could be living in the area?

A) 15,000 people

B) 35,000 people

C) 55,000 people

Answer: C) 55,000 people



That's roughly the same population as the whole of Macclesfield!

4. How many additional daily car journeys could potentially be added to local roads if the development went ahead?

A) 20,000

B) 30,000

C) 40,000

Answer: B) 30,000



In the UK, the average household owns around 1.5 cars, meaning a development of 20,000 homes could introduce around 30,000 additional vehicles onto local roads.



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5. Approximately what percentage of the Adlington landscape is woodland?

- A) About 8%
- B) About 11%
- C) About 16%

Answer: B) About 11%



Around **167 hectares** (413 acres) of woodland exists in Adlington — the equivalent of more than **230 football pitches** of trees and wildlife habitat. Around 18 hectares (45 acres) of it being classified as “Ancient woodland” i.e. continuously wooded since at least 1600AD.

6. How many miles of hedgerows are there in Adlington?

- A) 28 miles
- B) 38 miles
- C) 48 miles

Answer: C) 48 miles



Adlington’s countryside contains around **48 miles (78 km)** of hedgerows, forming a huge natural network across the parish. That’s roughly the distance from Adlington to Liverpool. These hedgerows act like wildlife corridors for animals such as bats, birds, and hedgehogs, allowing them to travel safely between woodland areas and surrounding farmland. Many of these hedgerows are centuries old, dating back to the original medieval farms and field systems from the 14th century.



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7. How many Local Wildlife Sites are there within the Adlington estate area?

- A) 5
 - B) 7
 - C) 11
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Answer: B) 7



Local Wildlife Sites are areas recognised for their important habitats and species. Seven of these sites have been identified across the countryside around Adlington, including woodland, grassland, ponds and traditional orchards that provide vital habitat for a wide range of wildlife.

8. How many species of conservation concern have been recorded in the Adlington area?

- A) 30
 - B) 50
 - C) 70
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Answer: C) 70



Wildlife surveys have recorded more than **70 species of conservation concern**, including European otter, great crested newt, brown hare, hedgehog and rare bees, butterflies and orchids. Because of this rich biodiversity, the countryside around Adlington is considered to be a regional hotspot for wildlife.



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9. How many red-listed bird species have been recorded locally in Adlington?

- A) 11
- B) 21
- C) 31

Answer: C) 31



Red-listed bird species of highest conservation concern meaning their populations have declined sharply or they face serious conservation pressures.

The farmland around Adlington still supports **31 red-listed birds** including the Lapwing, Cuckoo, Yellowhammer and Grasshopper Warbler and **40 amber-listed species** that have disappeared from many other parts of the UK.

10. Which rare aquatic mammal has been recorded recently living in the River Bollin?

- A) Mink
- B) Water Vole
- C) Otter

Answer: C) Otter



The European Otter, once nearly extinct in England, has been recorded again along the River Bollin near Adlington, showing improving river health.



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11. Which fish has recently been recorded returning to the River Bollin?

- A) Atlantic Salmon
- B) Sea trout
- C) Brown trout

Answer: A) Atlantic Salmon



After improvements in water quality, Atlantic salmon have once again been recorded swimming upstream to spawn in the River Bollin, something that had not happened for many years.

12. How many species of bats have been recorded locally?

- A) At least 4
- B) At least 6
- C) At least 8

Answer: A) At least 4



There are official recordings of the Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Noctule Bat and the Brown Long-eared Bat, all of which are legally protected in the UK.

Adlington is the perfect habitat for bats as they rely heavily on the hedgerows, woodland edges, ponds and waterways as navigation routes.



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13. How many working farms could be affected by the proposed development?

- A) 5
- B) 10
- C) 15

Answer: C) 15



15 working farms could be affected that support dairy herds, beef cattle, sheep flocks and crop production all of which are an important part of the local food supply chain feeding thousands of people each year.

Many of the farms also share machinery and equipment, working cooperatively to manage the high cost of modern farming.



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14. What grade of agricultural land is most common in Adlington?

- A) Grade 2
- B) Grade 3a
- C) Grade 3b

Answer: B) Grade 3a



Agricultural land is graded on a scale from 1 (excellent) to 5 (very poor).

Across Adlington there is around **2,500 acres of agricultural land** and the majority is classified as Grade 3a - Good quality farmland, with pockets of Grade 2 land - High productivity.

Adlington farmland sits in the upper part of the UK's national scale and a large part of it qualifies as "best and most versatile" farmland.

15. Approximately how much milk is produced annually by local farms?

- A) 2.5 million litres
- B) 3.5 million litres
- C) 4.5 million litres

Answer: C) 4.5 million litres



Dairy farming has long been part of the local economy. The farms around Adlington produce over **4.5 million litres of milk every year** — enough to supply around 22,000 families for an entire year!



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16. The equivalent of how much beef is produced annually by local farms?

- A) 500,000 Big Macs
- B) 1,000,000 Big Macs
- C) 1,250,000 Big Macs

Answer: C) 1,250,000 Big Macs



The farms on Adlington together produce around **115 tonnes of beef each year** — enough meat to make around **1.25 million Big Macs!**

17. How many new schools would be needed in total to support the children in Adlington New Town?

- A) 6
- B) 12
- C) 24

Answer: C) 24



A town with 55,000 residents would require around **20 primary schools** and **4 secondary schools** to support the population.



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18. How many GP appointments would be generated by the new town every year?

- A) 100,000
- B) 250,000
- C) 500,000

Answer: B) 250,000



250,000 GP appointments would mean hundreds of extra appointments every single day and would require dozens of additional doctors as well as a major expansion of local health facilities.

19. How many extra hospital admissions might the new town generate every year?

- A) 5,000
- B) 10,000
- C) 15,000

Answer: B) 10,000



55,000 residents would require around **10,000 extra hospital admissions** each year, placing major pressure on nearby hospitals like Macclesfield and Stepping Hill as Adlington New Town wouldn't have any new hospitals.



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20. If a new town of 55,000 residents were built, roughly how much drinking water would they use every day?

- A) 1 million litres
- B) 3 million litres
- C) 8 million litres

Answer: C) 8 million litres



A town of this size would require around **8 million litres** of drinking water every day — the equivalent of around **300 water tanker lorries** daily, forming a convoy almost 3 miles long and carrying enough water to fill more than three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Almost every litre of water used in our homes becomes wastewater.

That means around **3 billion litres** every year — the equivalent of **1,200 Olympic swimming pools of sewage** — would also need to be treated before being safely discharged.

Much of this treated water would eventually flow into rivers such as the River Bollin, placing additional pressure on local wastewater infrastructure and river systems.

How many did you get right?

- 0 – 5 Explorer
- 6 – 10 Local Learner
- 11 – 15 Adlington Expert
- 16 – 20 Adlington Legend