

## Places to visit

### Anson Museum

Tel: 01625 874426

[www.ansonmuseum.org.uk](http://www.ansonmuseum.org.uk)

### Visit

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers)

For the latest news and information about Ranger events and the sites we manage.

*Plus why not sign up to our monthly e-newsletter?*

**The Ranger Service** protects, enhances, encourages and promotes the proper use of the Council's outdoor recreational facilities.

For further information telephone 01625 504528 or go to:  
[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers)

### Follow The Countryside Code

Helping everyone to respect, protect & enjoy our countryside.

- Be safe - plan ahead and follow any signs
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Protect plants and animals and take your litter home
- Keep dogs under close control
- Consider other people



[www.nhs.uk/change4life](http://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

# Walks from Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

3

## Facts

### Distance

6.4 km (4 miles)

### Time

1hr 40mins

### Start

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

### Terrain

Easy, but maybe unsuitable for dogs due to stiles. Muddy in places.

### Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

### Refreshments

The Coffee Tavern and Boars Head Pub situated near to Nelson Pit. On the canal towpath is the Trading Post.

Sep 09/167  
Map reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map with the permission of HMSO.  
© Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to legal or civil proceedings.  
Cheshire East Council, licence no. 100049045 2010.

Cheshire East Council  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers)

**Cheshire East**  
Council

**Nelson Pit ► Macclesfield Canal ► Poynton Coppice  
► Higher Poynton**

## Introduction

One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre. One of the main features of this walk is Poynton Coppice. The majority of The Coppice is owned by Cheshire East Council and is subject to a ten-year management plan. Selective coppicing enhances the wildlife value of woodland by providing a gradually changing mosaic of structurally diverse vegetation. It benefits many wildlife species, allowing light to get to the woodland floor and greatly increasing the diversity of the layer of vegetation beneath the main canopy of trees. Adjacent to the entrance of the Coppice from the Middlewood Way is a signpost, 'Woodland Walk'. This is a delightful walk and well worth a detour or separate visit.

## Route

From Nelson Pit Visitor Centre turn left along the road to join the canal at Mount Vernon Wharf.

**i** In 1870 Nelson Pit employed 34 men and boys. The men worked in pairs: the 'getter' hacking the coal from the seam and the 'drawer' shovelling it into tubs. The 'getter' earned about £1.95 a week and the 'drawer' £1.10.

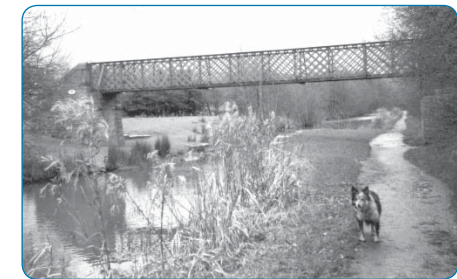
**1** Turn right and go under the bridge number 15.

**i** The Macclesfield Canal was opened in 1831 at a cost of £320,000. A toll was fixed of between one and two old pennies per mile. In its heyday the barges carried coal, stone, bales of cotton and silk. The collieries used fourteen horses to pull coal barges along the canal.

**2** Walk along the towpath heading south passing the large lake on the left.

**i** The area of the lake is called 'Wide Hole', and is the result a large subsidence in 1888, due to the mining activities around Nelson Pit. Along the towpath you will pass a stone toll mile marker. Removing town names from mile markers was common practice during World War 2 to deter German parachutists!

**3** As you reach the metal green bridge number 16 take a sharp right in front of the bridge and another sharp right after 3 or 4 yards. Walk along the path (north) bordered on both sides by trees. As you exit from the trees go through the fence and pass Hagg Farm on your left.



**i** The bridge was originally built for pedestrians with Hagg swing bridge below for cattle and vehicles. The site of the swing bridge is overgrown but clearly visible.

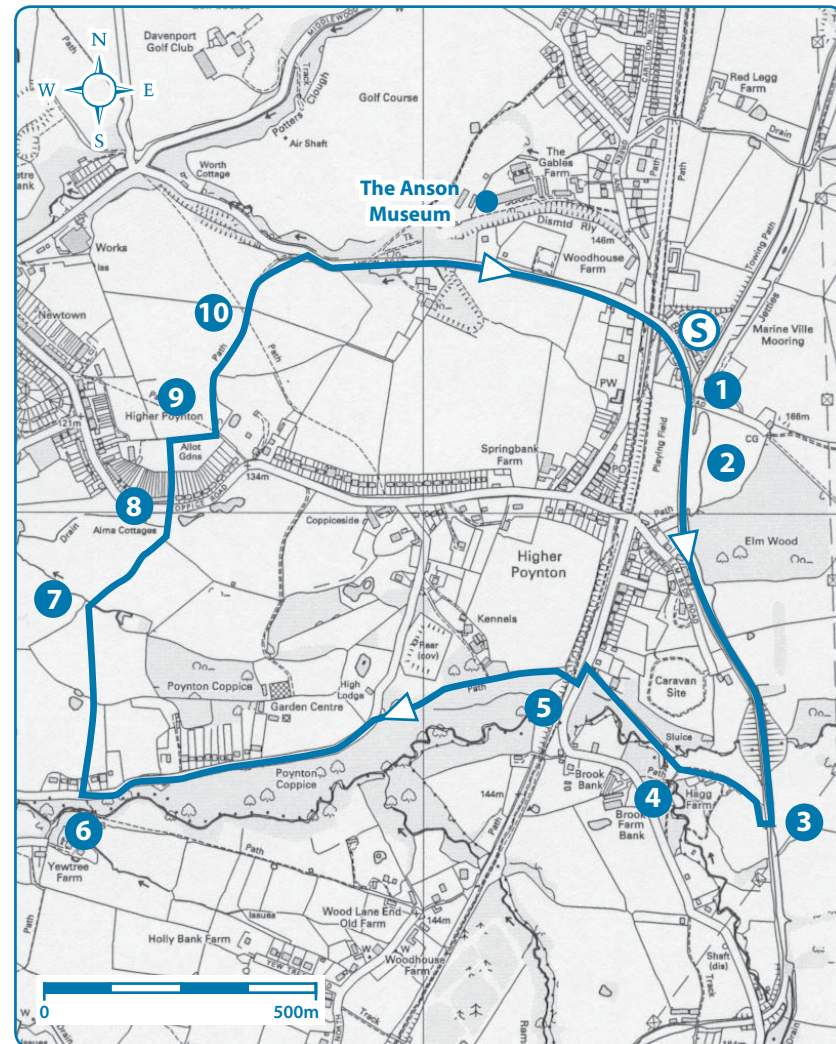
In the 18th century a 'tanner' of leather worked at Hagg Farm. Using oak bark the 'tanner' produced leather for shoemaking and saddlery.

**4** About 50 yards past the farm, turn sharp right by the large fir tree, keeping it to your left. Go down the steps and cross the left-hand bridge over the stream. Poynton Brook will now be on your left. Continue through the woods, crossing two small bridges, and up the steps. Continue uphill until you reach the drive to a house (Number 81).

**5** Turn left, walk a few yards to the main road. Turn left again, pass a telephone box and cross both the road and the Middlewood Way to enter Poynton Coppice. Walk straight ahead into the Coppice (west). Take the top path and pass through a kissing gate. After a few hundred yards you will see a memorial seat on the left. As the path finishes turn left onto a car width track.

**i** Poynton Coppice is classed as an ancient semi-natural wood because although it has a history of felling it has never been ploughed or used other than as woodland. In 1847, 44 acres of the Coppice were planted with trees by Lord Vernon to provide timber for the mines, and some for sale. Plans to bring a canal through the Coppice for carrying coal were proposed in 1795 but abandoned because of the high cost of construction. During the 1925-6 coal strike the Coppice was felled. Subsequently Alder trees were periodically coppiced to provide materials for the local clog making industry.

**6** Continue through a gate. On reaching the second group of houses on the right, turn right onto the public footpath between the houses, next to no.5. Before crossing the stile note the direction of the yellow marker.



Then walking half right, (NNE), cross the field. A copse will be on your left just before you cross another stile.

- 7 Follow the grass track running straight ahead, then walk along the edge of the field for a few yards. Straight ahead over a small wooden bridge and a stile. The path goes slightly up hill with the fence on your right. Over another stile and continue on the narrow path until you reach the main road.
- 8 Cross the road and take the footpath, directly ahead, between house nos. 173 & 175. Walk along the narrow path then ahead through the allotments joining the track. Turn right and go through the gate, walking on until you reach a clump of trees. Turn left through the kissing gate and take the route of the yellow marker straight ahead.
- 9 Cross the field keeping the fence and hedgerow close on your right. At the top of the field cross another footpath and go over a stile and walk ahead.

**i** You are now at the highest point of the walk. Look left and enjoy the wonderful view across the Cheshire Plain. Woodford airfield is straight ahead.

- 10 Over another stile and down the gravel track to the road. Turn right into Anson Road, (take care at this busy junction) walk back to Nelson Pit passing the entrance to Anson Museum on the left.

### The Anson Museum

Located a short distance from the Visitor Centre down Anson Road towards Poynton. The Museum was built on the site of Anson Pit which closed in 1926. The land and many of the exhibits were donated by the late Les Cawley. The Museum houses probably the largest display of Internal Combustion Engines in Europe. It has a predominantly working display of early engines with particular emphasis on oil and gas machines made in Manchester. There is an admission charge.

