

Places to visit

Anson Museum

Tel: 01625 874426

www.ansonmuseum.org.uk

Visit

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers

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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

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

Walks from Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

4

Facts

Distance

3.2 km (2 miles)

Time

1hr 10mins

Start

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

Terrain

Easy

Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments

The Coffee Tavern and Boars Head Pub situated near to Nelson Pit, the Trading Post on the towpath, the Miners Arms and Lyme Breeze Cafe close to Lyme View Marina.

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Nelson Pit ► Macclesfield Canal ► Middlewood Way

Introduction

One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre. This is a flat walk along the Macclesfield Canal towpath and Middlewood Way. Ideal for a lunchtime or evening stroll, with refreshment facilities half way. Perfect for parents with children.

Route

From Nelson Pit Visitor Centre, exit the car park, turn left along the road to join the canal at Mount Vernon Wharf, just before the bridge.

i Nelson Pit's shaft was located at the top of the mound facing the Visitor Centre. Adjacent to the shaft was an engine house and chimney. The pit engine lifted a metal cage filled with tubs of coal. At the top it was sorted into coal and 'slack', then tipped into horse drawn barges at Mount Vernon Wharf.

1 Turn right and go under bridge number 15, (Brownhills Bridge).

i The Poynton collieries had fourteen horses to pull the barges. Coal from Nelson Pit was distributed locally to Bollington and Marple cotton mills; quarries at Kerridge; and silk mills at Macclesfield.



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.

3 Pass a milestone.

i Some of milestones had their mileage obliterated or were removed and buried during World War 2 as a precaution against enemy soldiers using them to find their way. During the 1980's, the Macclesfield Canal Society restored the milestones along the whole course of the canal. Three were replaced with stone from Kerridge Hill.

4 Proceed under bridge 16 (Hagg Farm Footbridge) and 17 (Mitchells).

i Just beyond Bridge 16, notice the memorial rest area, provided by the Hagg Farm Estate, with picnic table, benches and chairs. Bridge 17, (Mitchells) was designed as an 'adjustable bridge', the parapet can be taken off and the stone raised in the event of subsidence.

5 As you reach Lyme View Marina, turn right about 9 metres (10 yards) before Bridge 18 by the sign for Lyme Breeze Café. Walk down the road. Just beyond the entrance to the café, turn right following the sign onto the Middlewood Way.

i The Middlewood Way is nearly 11 miles long and was originally a railway, the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple line that opened in 1869 and closed in 1970. It was built as a result of pressure from mill owners in Bollington, and pit owners in Poynton.

6 The top path slopes down to join the main track just before a bridge. Continue along, under the bridge and past the car park at Poynton Coppice.

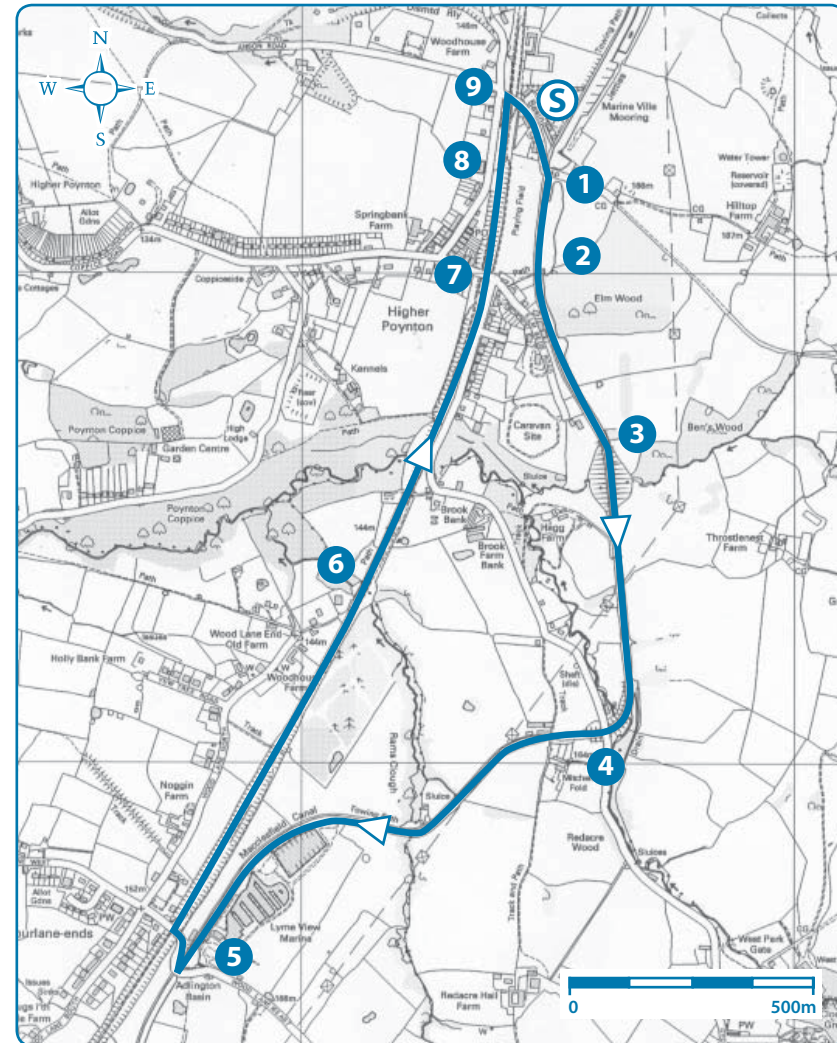
i Poynton Coppice is classed as an ancient semi-natural wood because although it has a history of felling it has never been ploughed or used other than as woodland. Nelson Pit Walks 3 and 5 include routes through the Coppice. It is a delightful wood and worth visiting at any time of the year.

7 Continue along the Way and under Shrigley Road bridge.

i Shrigley Road bridge is a home for Pipistrelle bats. They are about 1½-4 inches (3.5-10cm) long. Erratic flyers, they appear in the early evening and sometimes fly about during the day.

8 Reaching the area where the footpath and bridleway meet, go slightly left and walk up on the old station platform. This was Higher Poynton Station.

i Higher Poynton Station cost £500 to build in 1869. The journey from this station to Bollington took ten minutes. In the 1940's up to 28 trains per day called at this station. It closed in 1970.



- 9 Along the platform, past the picnic tables, and a few yards before the bridge turn slightly left and walk up the cobbled path. Through the kissing gate, turn right and over the bridge back to Nelson Pit.

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.



Twenty Macclesfield Canal Facts

- Its **nickname** is the 'Macc'
- **Surveyed** by **Thomas Telford**
- **Cost** **£320,000** to build
- **Opened** on **19th November 1831**
- **20,000 men** attended the opening
- **Ladies not permitted** to attend
- **Sold** to the railways in 1862
- Is **26¼ miles** (42km) long
- **518'** above sea level at the top
- **All twelve locks** in one flight
- **Fishermen** catch bream and roach
- **23 miles** of **lock free** cruising
- Part of the 97 mile **Cheshire Ring**
- **Second highest** canal in the UK
- **Highest density** of boats in the UK
- **Speed limit** is **4 m.p.h.**
- **Milestones** used for toll collection
- **Toll** was 1 & 2 old pence per mile
- Each milestone weighs **half a ton**
- Each **bridge** has a name and number

