

## 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

8

## Facts

### Distance

4 km (2½ miles)

### Time

1 hour 15 minutes

### Start

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

### Terrain

Easy, but sometimes very muddy footpaths

### Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

### Refreshments

The Coffee Tavern and the Boars Head pub situated near Nelson Pit. The Trading Post is on the canal towpath.

Sep 09/167  
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[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers)

**Cheshire East**  
Council

**Nelson Pit ► Middlewood Station ► Macclesfield Canal**

## Introduction

The eighth in a series of walks from Nelson Pit. A pleasant ramble on the Middlewood Way, across fields and along the towpath of the Macclesfield Canal. Part of the walk, crossing from the Middlewood Way to the Canal can be muddy.

## Route

From Nelson Pit exit the car park with the modern sculpture on your right. Turn sharp right and walk down the steps adjacent to the bridge to join the Middlewood Way.

**i** The Middlewood Way was formerly a railway line. Called the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple Railway it opened in 1869 and closed in 1970. The bridges along the line were strengthened using box like frames of old rails. After closure the line was derelict until the early 1980's when the route was landscaped and became the Middlewood Way which is nearly 11 miles long.

- 1 Continue ahead on the upper path. Join the main path and walk under bridge 16, signposted for Marple.



**i** Both the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple railway, and the Macclesfield Canal were built by gangs of navvies. Each navvy had a daily allowance of one gallon of beer and 2lbs of meat. Working on a 'piece rate' system (payment by results), they were each expected to shovel 20 tons per day. That is about 200 barrow loads daily!

- 2 Under bridges 17 and 18.
- 3 Continue ahead crossing bridge 19, Middlewood Upper Station.

**i** Neither Middlewood Upper or Lower Stations had road access. The area was popular in the 1950's with weekend visitors and in the local woods there were teahouses and slot machines.

- 4 A few yards after crossing the railway bridge take a sharp turn to the right and take the footpath with wooden steps.

### Did you know?

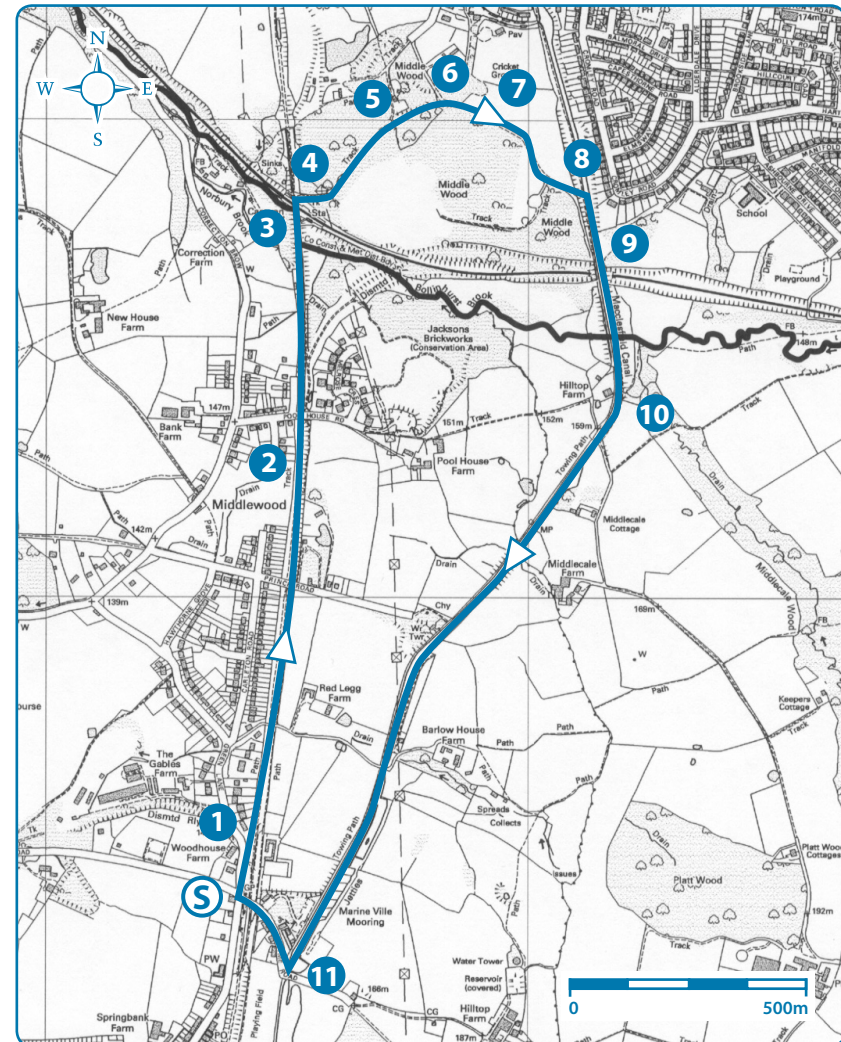
The name 'Cheshire' first appears in written records in year AD 980 as 'Legeceasterscir', 'The Shire of the City of Legions'. It is thought to date back to AD 920, when it is believed that Edward, the Elder of Essex created the county in the months following his seizing of the Mercian throne from his niece Aelfwyn.

- 5 Follow the path as it winds through the wood. As you emerge from the wood and with a wooden fence on your right, take the path on the sharp right.

- 6 Cross the open field, and then turn right, (with the wooden fence on your right) following the path through the woods slightly uphill. Through a gate and alongside a riding ring.
- 7 Continue ahead with fencing on either side of the path.
- 8 On reaching the tarmac road, turn right, signposted 'Macclesfield Canal'.
- 9 After about 100 yards take a sharp turn to the left and down the steps to the towpath of the Macclesfield Canal.
- 10 On reaching the towpath turn right and continue under bridges 13 and 14.

**i** The Canal forms part of the 97 mile Cheshire Ring reaching Kidsgrove in the south, Preston Brook near Warrington in the west and Manchester City Centre in the north. The whole Ring has a towpath and is open to walkers. Bridge number 14 was designed as an 'adjustable bridge', the parapet can be taken off and the stone lifted in the event of subsidence.

- 11 As you reach the Trading Post, cross the bridge, take a sharp turn to the right and exit the towpath. Join the tarmac road, turn right in front of Mount Vernon Cottages and walk about 100 yards back to Nelson Pit.





## 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 1846
- Is **26¼ miles** (42km) long
- **518'** above sea level for 16 miles
- 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

## 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.

