

Places to visit

Anson Museum

Tel: 01625 874426

www.ansonmuseum.org.uk

Bollington Discovery Centre

Tel: 01625 572985

www.happy-valley.org.uk

Visit

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

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

10

Part 2 of the Middlewood Challenge

Facts

Distance

19.3 km (12 miles)

Time

About 5 hours

Start

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

Terrain

Easy - canal towpath can be muddy

Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments

Coffee Tavern and Boars Head pub near Nelson Pit.
Miners Arms, Windmill, and Lord Clyde pubs off the Middlewood Way.
Lyme Breeze restaurant off the Macclesfield Canal.

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

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Nelson Pit ► Higher Poynton Station ► Poynton Coppice
► Bollington Viaduct ► Macclesfield Canal
► Adelphi Mill ► Clarence Mill

Introduction

The second part of two walks making the **Middlewood Challenge**, a 20-mile walk in the figure of eight. The first section of the Challenge is Walk 9 which is about 8 miles long and takes around 3½ hours to walk. Total walking time for both parts is around 8½ hours.

Route

From Nelson Pit Visitor Centre cross the road and walk down the path marked Middlewood Way and 'Walk and Trot only'. At the bottom of the steps see Higher Poynton Station on the right.

i Higher Poynton Station opened to passenger traffic on 2nd August 1869 and closed in 1970. It formed part of the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple railway. The station cost £500 to build and was identical in design to stations built by the operating company, the North Staffordshire on its line to Market Drayton. A branch line from Anson Pit called 'Anson's Siding' also opened in 1869 and carried coal until 1935.

1 Continue along the Middlewood Way noting the wood carving of a squirrel on the right. Pass Poynton Coppice.

i Ranger Ed Pilkington has carved seven animals which are placed at intervals along the Middlewood Way. Each carving has an association with a local junior school.

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, the mine's owner, Lord Vernon, planted forty-four acres of the Coppice to provide timber for the pits.

2 Pass the broken wheel marked 'Macclesfield 6 miles and Marple 4 miles'. There are broken wheels every two miles on the Middlewood Way.

3 Continue along the Way. (Just before bridge 12 there is an exit to the Miners Arms pub, which is about a five minute walk off the Middlewood Way). Beyond bridge 10 is the Spring Bank picnic area. Walking forward, pass further wood carvings. (At bridge 8 there is an exit for Holehouse Lane and the Windmill pub.)

4 Cross Bollington viaduct, note the chimney of Clarence Mill on the left.

i Clarence Mill (you will get a full view of the building later in the walk) was built between 1824 and 1845 by local entrepreneurs Joseph Brook and George Swindells as the first canal side cotton mill.

5 Walk down the slight incline, cross the main road and continue on the Middlewood Way through the kissing gate. Follow the path, which continues down a disabled access path. Walk under bridge 3. (There is a disabled access path just before the bridge which leads to the Lord Clyde pub about two hundred yards to the right beyond the bridge).

6 As the path takes a sharp turn to the right (about 100 yards before the wooden bridge), turn LEFT along the route adjacent to the cycling and pedestrian sign. The path continues over the Macclesfield Canal. At the end of the bridge turn left, down the steps to the towpath. Continue with the canal on your left.

i **The Macclesfield Canal was one of the last narrow canals to be built, When the canal opened in 1831 the Macclesfield Courier reported that around 20,000 people attended to watch a procession of boats. Ladies were not permitted on the boats because, the Courier said 'Of a natural anxiety for the preservation of their health, which might have been endangered by exposure to the cold and damp atmosphere'.**

7 Bridge 29 is 'Clarks Turnover bridge' designed to carry the towpath from one side of the canal to the other without the need to unhitch the horse's towline from the barge. Take care when walking down the cobbles they can be slippery when wet.

8 Beyond bridge 28 note Beehive Cottage on the right, and Adelphi Mill on the left.

i **Beehive Cottage is the site of Beehive mill. Built in 1862 it was a workers co-op but does not appear to be a commercial success, closed in 1912 and demolished in 1939.**

Adelphi (Greek word for brothers) Mill was the second to be positioned on the canal. Built in 1856 by George and Martin Swindells it produced cotton and silk. It closed in 1975.

9 As Clarence Mill comes into view look left at Aqueduct Cottage which was a pub used by the mill workers and closed in the early 20th century.

10 Just before bridge 26 notice the wooden 'stopping planks'.

i **Stopping planks are used to dam the canal. There are slots on the slabs by the bridge to insert the planks.**

11 As you reach bridge 25 there is a mile marker. During World War 2 many

11 As you reach bridge 25 there is a mile marker. During World War 2 many of the mile markers were either removed or the mileage obliterated as a precaution against enemy parachutists using them to find their way.

12 At bridge 18 enter the Lyme View Marina. (Lyme Breeze restaurant can be reached by exiting the canal just beyond the bridge.)

13 At bridge 16 (Hagg Farm bridge) notice the remains of a swing bridge on the far side of the canal.

14 Beyond bridge 15 turn LEFT off the towpath, through a gate, just before the steep cobbled bridge. Turn RIGHT, walk down the road to the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre.



Did you know?

In 1806 Joseph Edge (known as the Macclesfield Pedestrian) at the age of 62 walked to London from Macclesfield. He took 49 hours and 20 minutes to get there at an average speed of 3 miles, 1 quarter and 416 yards per hour! He left Macclesfield on 30th July and arrived in London on 2nd August. A Mr. Jones, the Postmaster of Macclesfield (who presumably was on horseback) accompanied him!