

Nelson Pit Walk 2 One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre.

Grade	Moderate
Distance	9.5 km/6 miles
Time	2hrs 30mins
Start	Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Some uphill sections
Barriers	N/A
Toilets	Available 364 days a year between 10.00am and 4.00pm at the Start and End of the route.
Contact	Countryside Rangers Tel: 01625 383700



Route Details

This walk visits the estate of Lyme Park where red deer may be spotted alongside the moorland paths.

At Nelson Pit, where the route begins, the miners worked 400 feet underground, and in 1870 would have earned £1.95 for a five and a half day week. Mount Vernon Wharf was used to load coal onto horse drawn barges. A tubway ran from Anson Pit over the bridge adjacent to the Nelson Pit car park.

The Macclesfield Canal, which you cross, was opened in 1831. In its heyday the barges carried coal, stone, bales of cotton and silk. The collieries used 14 horses to pull coal barges along the canal. Note the old sign, "Great Central Railway" on the right as you cross the bridge.

Lyme was originally a Tudor house. It was transformed by the Venetian architect Leoni into an Italianate palace and is one of the largest houses in Cheshire. Lyme was used in the BBC's "Pride and Prejudice".

Looking down on Lyme Park's house and gardens is The Cage, which was built in the 1520s as a hunting tower to observe the movements of the deer. It was later used to imprison poachers overnight before being taken next day to the forest court at Macclesfield. During the Second World War the Home Guard used the Cage as a lookout point. On a good day it is possible to see the Welsh Coast from the Cage.

On the return to Nelson Pit, walk onto Lyme Road bridge and look over to Higher Poynton Station. In the 1940's up to 28 trains per day called at this station. The Coffee Tavern opened in 1876 as a temperance house for the miners.

[Download leaflet here](#)

Directions

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

1. Cross the bridge over the canal and keep ahead on the rough road past Ivy Cottage.
2. Just beyond a house on the left, cross the cattle grid and walk ahead with the woods on the right. Cross a stream and another cattle grid and climb the hill. Enter Lyme Park and follow the track ahead, with a dry stone wall on the left.
3. The track bends left and another track joins from the right. Reaching a junction turn left downhill, then keep bearing left to the car park.
4. From the Information hut, climb the steps to reach the front of the house. Turn left over the grass (north), taking the rough path uphill between the trees and climb to the Cage.
5. Travelling north, (the side of the Cage without a sundial faces north) walk downhill. At the tarmac road turn right, on reaching the admissions box turn immediately left. Passing in front of a cottage on the right, cross two bridges and walk up the hill. Cross a cattle grid with a high gate, then bear right, following the sign for "Middlecale Wood". Follow the dry-stone wall to the right and cross three stiles to reach Ryles Wood.
6. Walk downhill to the footbridge and rise to cross a stile. Keep ahead through the field to another stile in the left hand corner. Cross the path and into the field with a large tree stump. Keeping to the right, walk ahead to reach a stile with a large stone step.
7. Over the stile and turn left (south), walk 50 yards to a stile, go ahead through the field and then over another stile in the far left corner. Barlow House Farm will be facing you. Turn right and follow the yellow waymarkers as the path bends left. Go over a stile and turn immediately right onto the tarmac road. Walk over the bridge on the Macclesfield Canal.
8. Continue along the road until you reach a stone bridge. Go down the steps to the right of the bridge and turn left under it. You are now on the Middlewood Way.
9. Take the lower path and return to Nelson Pit by way of the ramp up from the platform of the old Higher Poynton Station just after Lyme Road Bridge (Bridge 15).