

Nelson Pit Walk 4

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

Grade	Easy
Distance	3.2 km/2 miles
Time	1hr 10mins
Start	Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Easy
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 504528



Route Details

This is 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.

Located at the beginning of the walk, 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.

The Poynton collieries had 14 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.

On the walk you will pass a large lake, called 'Wide Hole'. This is the result a large subsidence in 1888, due to the mining activities around Nelson Pit. Some of milestones along the way 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. Towards the end of the route is Poynton Coppice which is classed as an ancient semi-natural wood. This is 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. 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.

Directions

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.

1. Turn right and go under bridge number 15, (Brownhills Bridge).
2. Walk along the towpath heading south passing the large lake on the left.
3. Pass a milestone.
4. Proceed under bridge 16 (Hagg Farm Footbridge) and 17 (Mitchells).
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.
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.
7. Continue along the Way and under Shrigley Road bridge (Bridge 14).
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.
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.