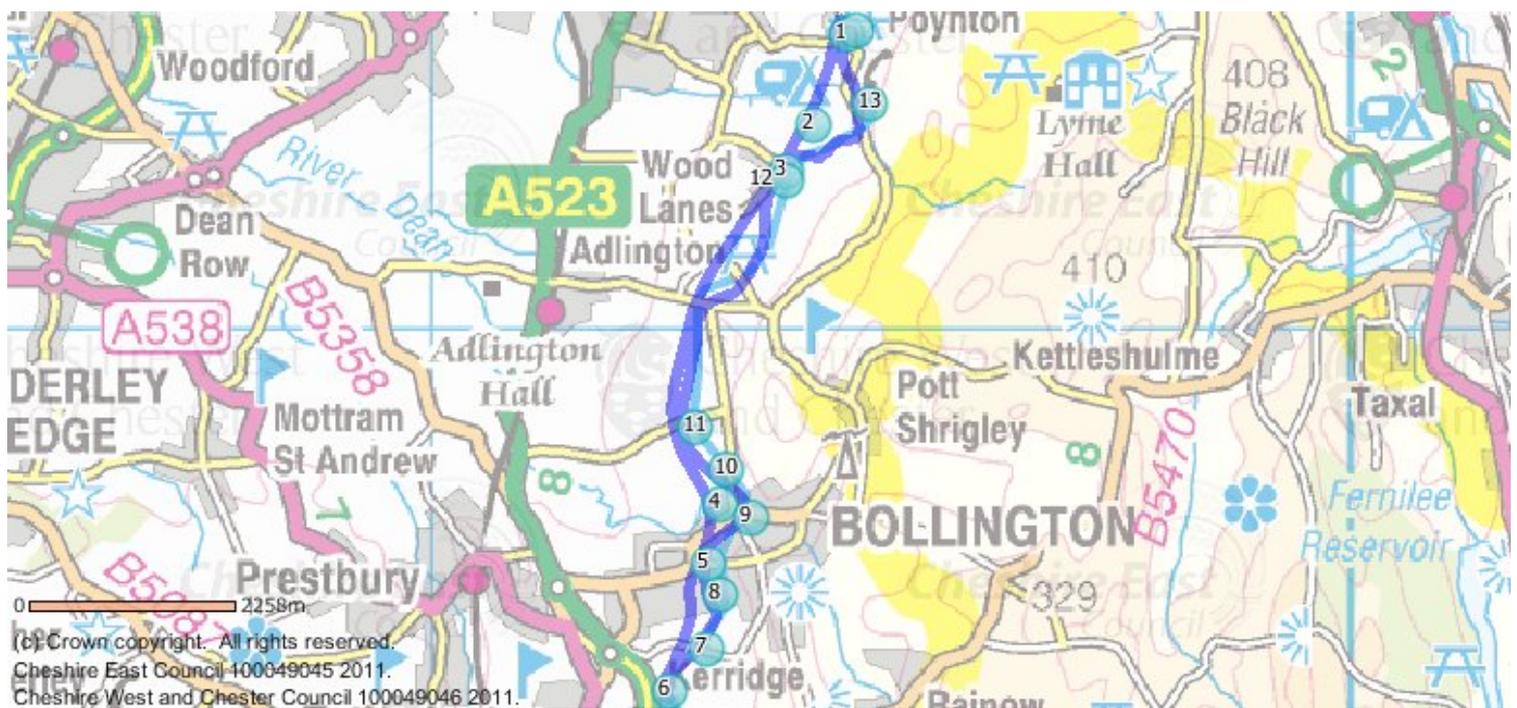


## Nelson Pit Walk 10

Walk from Nelson Pit Visitor Centre 10. Part two of the Middlewood Challenge.

Grade	Moderate
Distance	19.3 km/12 miles
Time	About 5 hours
Start	Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Easy - canal towpath can be muddy
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

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.

At the beginning of the walk, you pass Higher Poynton Station, which 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.

The route also passes Poynton Coppice, which 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.

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

[Download leaflet here](#)

## Directions

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.

1. Continue along the Middlewood Way noting the wood carving of a squirrel on the right. Pass Poynton Coppice.
2. Pass the broken wheel sculpture 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.
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.
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.
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'.
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.