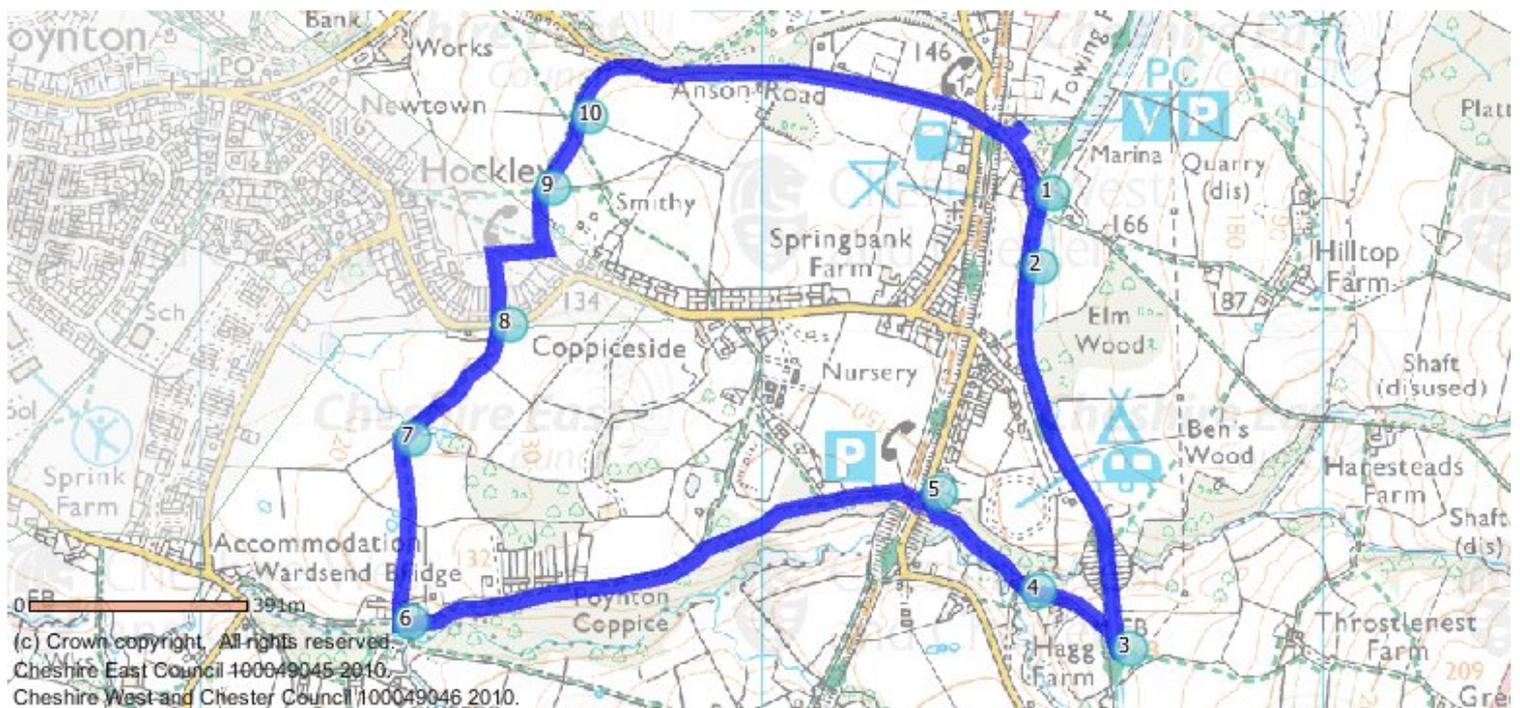


Nelson Pit Walk 3 One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre.

Grade	Easy
Distance	6.4 km/4 miles
Time	1hr 40mins
Start	Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Easy, but maybe unsuitable for dogs due to stiles. Muddy in places.
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

One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre. One of the main features of this walk is Poynton Coppice. This 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, 44 acres of the Coppice were planted with trees by Lord Vernon to provide timber for the mines, and some for sale. Plans to bring a canal through the Coppice for carrying coal were proposed in 1795 but abandoned because of the high cost of construction.

During the 1925-6 coal strike the Coppice was felled. Subsequently Alder trees were periodically coppiced to provide materials for the local clog making industry. The majority of The Coppice is now owned by Cheshire East Council and is subject to a 10 year management plan.

Selective coppicing enhances the wildlife value of woodland by providing a gradually changing mosaic of structurally diverse vegetation. It benefits many wildlife species, allowing light to get to the woodland floor and greatly increasing the diversity of the layer of vegetation beneath the main canopy of trees.

Adjacent to the entrance of the Coppice from the Middlewood Way is a signpost, 'Woodland Walk'. This is a delightful walk and well worth a detour or separate visit.

Directions

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

1. Turn right and go under the bridge number 15.
2. Walk along the towpath heading south passing the large lake on the left.
3. As you reach the metal green bridge number 16 take a sharp right in front of the bridge and another sharp right after three or four yards. Walk along the path (north) bordered on both sides by trees. As you exit from the trees go through the fence and pass Hagg Farm on your left.
4. About 50 yards past the farm, turn sharp right by the large fir tree, keeping it to your left. Go down the steps and cross the left-hand bridge over the stream. Poynton Brook will now be on your left. Continue through the woods, crossing two small bridges, and up the steps. Continue uphill until you reach the drive to a house (Number 81).
5. Turn left, walk a few yards to the main road. Turn left again, pass a telephone box and cross both the road and the Middlewood Way to enter Poynton Coppice. Walk straight ahead into the Coppice (west). Take the top path and pass through a kissing gate. After a few hundred yards you will see a memorial seat on the left. As the path finishes turn left onto a car width track.
6. Continue through a gate. On reaching the second group of houses on the right, turn right onto the public footpath between the houses, next to no5. Before crossing the stile note the direction of the yellow marker. Then walking half right, (NNE), cross the field. A copse will be on your left just before you cross another stile.
7. Follow the grass track running straight ahead, then walk along the edge of the field for a few yards. Straight ahead over a small wooden bridge and a stile. The path goes slightly up hill with the fence on your right. Over another stile and continue on the narrow path until you reach the main road.
8. Cross the road and take the footpath, directly ahead, between house nos. 173 & 175. Walk along the narrow path then ahead through the allotments joining the track. Turn right and go through the gate, walking on until you reach a clump of trees. Turn left through the kissing gate and take the route of the yellow marker straight ahead.
9. Cross the field keeping the fence and hedgerow close on your right. At the top of the field cross another footpath and go over a stile and walk ahead.
10. Over another stile and down the gravel track to the road. Turn right into Anson Road, (take care at this busy junction) walk back to Nelson Pit passing the entrance to Anson Museum on the left.