

Places to visit

Anson Museum

Tel: 01625 874426

www.ansonmuseum.org.uk

Visit

www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/rangers

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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

1

Facts

Distance

4.8 km (3 miles)

Time

1½ hours

Start

Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

Terrain

Canal towpath, easy tracks and footpaths

Map

Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments

The Coffee Tavern and the Boars Head Pub situated near to Nelson Pit. The Trading Post is on the canal towpath

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**Nelson Pit ► Middlewood Station ► Jacksons Brickworks
Local Nature Reserve ► Middlewood Way**

Introduction

One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre, this short walk follows the canal towpath and The Middlewood Way, giving an insight into the industrial history of the area.

Route

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

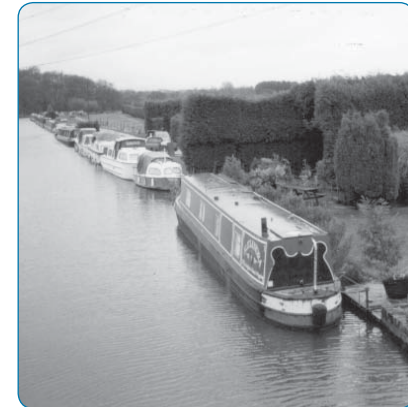
i At Nelson Pit the miners worked 400 feet underground, and in 1870 would have earned £1.95 for a five and a half day week. Mount Vernon Wharf was used to load coal onto horse drawn barges. A tubway ran from Anson Pit over the bridge adjacent to the Nelson Pit car park.

1 Turn left onto the canal towpath (heading north) following the canal, under bridges numbered 14 and 13, continue along the towpath, ignoring the first Public Footpath sign to the left.

i The Macclesfield Canal was opened in 1831. In its heyday the barges carried coal, stone, bales of cotton and silk. Bridge no.14 was designed as an 'adjustable bridge', the parapet can be taken off and the stone raised in the event of subsidence. About 400 yards after bridge 14 look left and see the remains of Canal Pit. Here a steam engine, nicknamed 'Redlegs', pumped water out of the pit as well as winding men up and down.

2 Just after the canal crosses the railway, the path divides. Turn sharp left and follow the Ladybrook Valley sign, onto the Public Footpath (west), keeping left as you pass along the edge of a field.

i The footpath runs adjacent to the Stockport-Buxton railway. Opened in 1857 the incline is one of the steepest gradients on the UK railway system.



3 Reaching the Middlewood Way turn left in a southerly direction past Middlewood Station.

i Middlewood Upper Station was part of the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple line opened in 1869 and closed in 1970. Neither the upper or lower station has road access. The area was popular in the 1950's with weekend visitors and in the local woods there were teahouses and slot machines.

4 Keeping to the left track, walk for about 5 minutes and then turn sharp left for Jacksons Brickworks Conservation Area (signpost). Continue along the path through the brickworks site, heading for the car park (via the steps sign). Walk through the car park and onto the road, past the new houses and left down the steps to the Middlewood Way.

i Jacksons Brickworks was opened in 1924. By 1974 it was producing 180,000 bricks a week. After closure in 1979 the site remained derelict until 1996 when Macclesfield Borough Council developed the brickworks into a conservation area, in particular for the great crested newt and water vole for which it is a special habitat.

5 Turning left continue along the Middlewood Way, under Prince Road and Barlow House Bridge, return to Nelson Pit by way of the footpath turning to the left before Lyme Road Bridge.

i Railway bridges along the line were strengthened using box like frames of old rails. As you 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. Adjacent to the Nelson Pit car park you will see the coal spoils covered with trees.

