

## Nelson Pit Walk 8 The eighth in a series of walks from Nelson Pit.

Grade	Easy
Distance	4 km/2.5 miles
Time	1 hour 15 minutes
Start	Nelson Pit Visitor Centre
Map	OS Explorer 268
Terrain	Easy, but sometimes very muddy footpaths
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

A pleasant ramble on the Middlewood Way, across fields and along the towpath of the Macclesfield Canal. Part of the walk, crossing from the Middlewood Way to the Canal can be muddy.

The route soon joins the Middlewood Way, which was formerly a railway line. Called the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple Railway it opened in 1869 and closed in 1970. The bridges along the line were strengthened using box like frames of old rails. After closure the line was derelict until the early 1980's when the route was landscaped and became the Middlewood Way which is nearly 11 miles long.

Both the former railway, and the Macclesfield Canal were built by gangs of navvies. Each navvy had a daily allowance of one gallon of beer and 2lbs of meat. Working on a 'piece rate' system (payment by results), they were each expected to shovel 20 tons per day. That is about 200 barrow loads daily!

The Canal forms part of the 97 mile Cheshire Ring reaching Kidsgrove in the south, Preston Brook near Warrington in the west and Manchester City Centre in the north. The whole Ring has a towpath and is open to walkers. Bridge number 14 was designed as an 'adjustable bridge', the parapet can be taken off and the stone lifted in the event of subsidence.

## Directions

From Nelson Pit exit the car park with the modern sculpture on your right. Cross the road bridge and then cross over the road to the kissing gate. Walk down the cobbled ramp and then turn left at the bottom and go under the bridge.

1. Join the main path and walk under bridge 16, signposted for Marple.
2. Under bridges 17 and 18.
3. Continue ahead crossing bridge 19, Middlewood Upper Station.
4. A few yards after crossing the railway bridge take a sharp turn to the right and take the footpath with wooden steps.
5. Follow the path as it winds through the wood. As you emerge from the wood and with a wooden fence on your right, take the path on the sharp right.
6. Cross the open field, and then turn right, (with the wooden fence on your right) following the path through the woods slightly uphill. Through a gate and alongside a riding ring.
7. Continue ahead with fencing on either side of the path.
8. On reaching the tarmac road, turn right, signposted 'Macclesfield Canal'.
9. After about 100 yards take a sharp turn to the left and down the steps to the towpath of the Macclesfield Canal.
10. On reaching the towpath turn right and continue under bridges 13 and 14.
11. As you reach the Trading Post, cross the bridge, take a sharp turn to the right and exit the towpath. Join the tarmac road, turn right in front of Mount Vernon Cottages and walk about 100 yards back to Nelson Pit.