

Places to visit

Lyme Park House, Garden
and the Cage

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Follow The Countryside Code

Helping everyone to
respect, protect & enjoy
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- 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

2

Facts

Distance
9.5 km (6 miles)

Time
About 2hrs 30mins

Start
Nelson Pit Visitor Centre

Terrain
Some uphill sections

Map
Ordnance Survey Explorer 268

Refreshments
The Coffee Tavern and Boars Head
Pub situated near to Nelson Pit.
The Trading Post on the towpath,
and tearoom at Lyme Park.

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**Nelson Pit ▶ Lyme Park ▶ The Cage ▶ Parkgate ▶
Ryles Wood ▶ Barlow House Farm ▶ Middlewood Way**

Introduction

One of a series of walks from the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre. This walk visits the estate of Lyme Park where red deer may be spotted alongside the moorland paths. A pair of binoculars would be useful.

Route

From Nelson Pit Visitor Centre turn left along 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 Cross the bridge over the canal and keep ahead on the rough road past Ivy Cottage.

i The Macclesfield Canal was opened in 1831. In its heyday the barges carried coal, stone, bales of cotton and silk. The collieries used fourteen horses to pull coal barges along the canal. Note the old sign, "Great Central Railway" on the right as you cross the bridge.



2 Just beyond a house on the left, cross the cattle grid and walk ahead with the woods on the right. Cross a stream and another cattle grid and climb the hill. Enter Lyme Park and follow the track ahead, with a dry stone wall on the left.

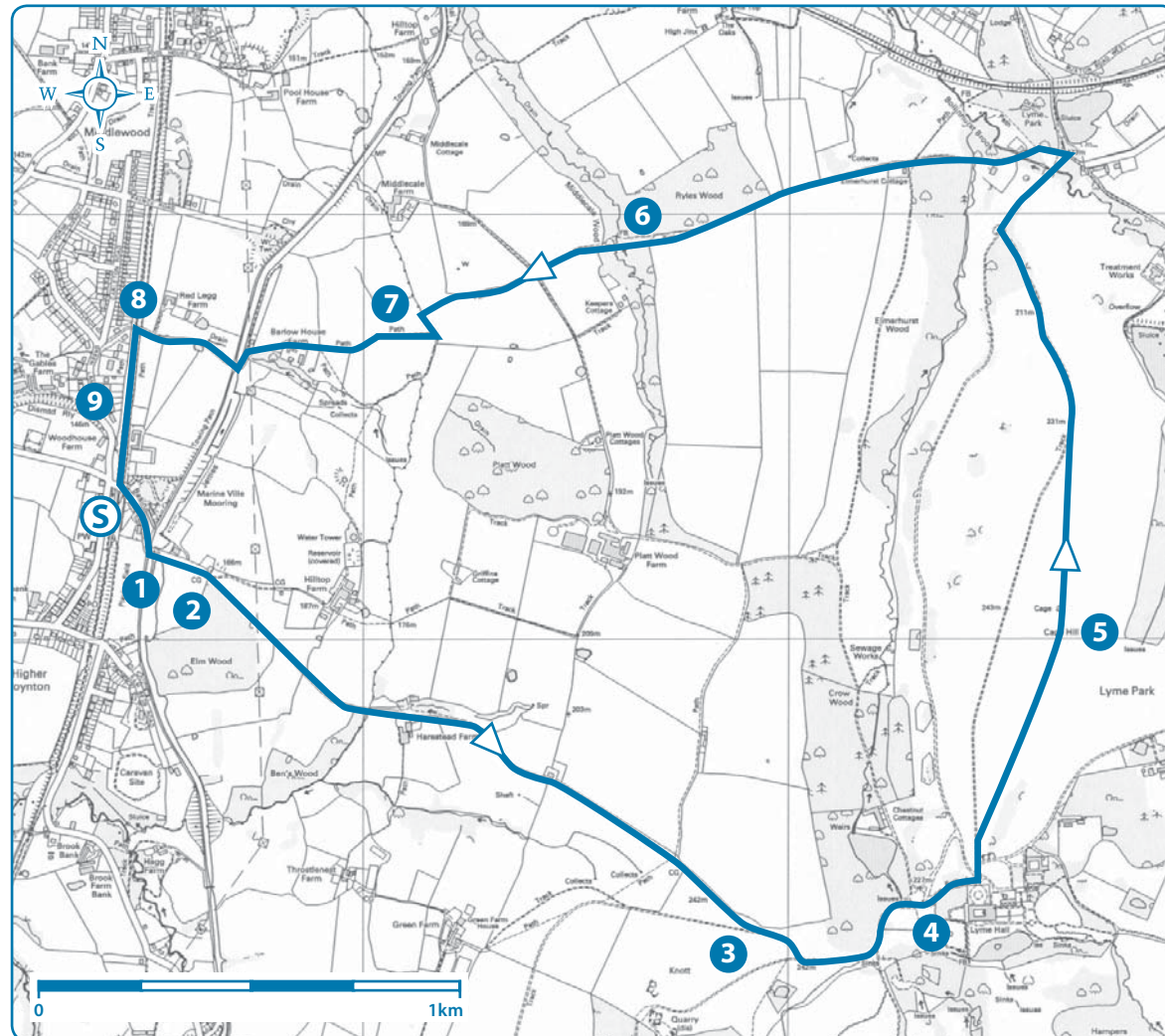
i The brick and white cottage in the near distance as you cross the first cattle grid was used as a winding engine house for Venture Pit in 1820. As you climb up the hill, look back and enjoy the wonderful westward view. Woodford airfield can be seen directly ahead.

3 The track bends left and another track joins from the right. Reaching a junction turn left downhill, then keep bearing left to the car park.

i Lyme was originally a Tudor house. It was transformed by the Venetian architect Leoni into an Italianate palace and is one of the largest houses in Cheshire. Lyme was used in the BBC's "Pride and Prejudice".

4 From the Information hut, climb the steps to reach the front of the house. Turn left over the grass (north), taking the rough path uphill between the trees and climb to the Cage.

i The Cage was built in the 1520s as a hunting tower to observe the movements of the deer. It was later used to imprison poachers overnight before being taken next day to the forest court at Macclesfield. During the Second World War the Home Guard used the Cage as a lookout point. On a good day it is possible to see the Welsh Coast from the Cage.



5 Travelling north, (the side of the Cage without a sundial faces north) walk downhill. At the tarmac road turn right, on reaching the admissions box turn immediately left. Passing in front of a cottage on the right, cross two bridges and walk up the hill. Cross a cattle grid with a high gate, then bear right, following the sign for "Middlecale Wood". Follow the dry-stone wall to the right and cross three stiles to reach Ryles Wood.

6 Walk downhill to the footbridge and rise to cross a stile. Keep ahead through the field to another stile in the left hand corner. Cross the path and into the field with a large tree stump. Keeping to the right, walk ahead to reach a stile with a large stone step.

7 Over the stile and turn left (south), walk 50 yards to a stile, go ahead through the field and then over another stile in the far left corner. Barlow House Farm will be facing you. Turn right and follow the yellow waymarkers as the path bends left. Go over a stile and turn immediately right onto the tarmac road. Walk over the bridge on the Macclesfield Canal.

i This is bridge no.14, and was designed as an "adjustable bridge", the parapet can be taken off and the stones raised in the event of subsidence.

8 Continue along the road until you reach a stone bridge. Go down the steps to the right of the bridge and turn left under it. You are now on the Middlewood Way.

i The Middlewood Way was originally the Macclesfield-Bollington-Marple railway which opened in 1869 and closed in 1970. After closure the area became derelict until 1985 when it was landscaped and softened. The Middlewood Way is nearly 11 miles long.

9 Immediately take the left path and return to Nelson Pit using the steps on the left before Lyme Road Bridge.

i On the 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.

