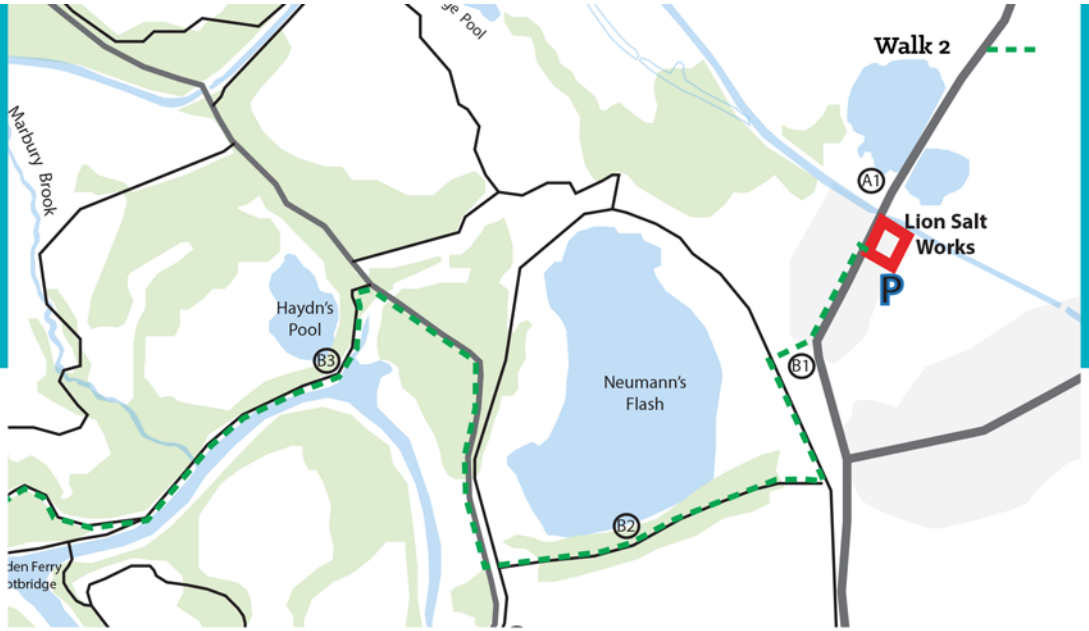
Walk 2

The Northwich Woodlands

Practicalities: The walk follows pavements on the side of the road and good paved or gravel footpaths. The walk is suitable for bicycles or children's buggies. There is one difficult road crossing at the bottom of Wincham and children should be accompanied at all times. This walk can be combined with Walk 1 in reverse to make a round walk returning to the Lion Salt Works.

Distance and Time: The walk is about 2.2 miles in length and should take about 55 minutes to 1 hour 5 mins.



This walk passes through the landscape of the Northwich Woodlands. The area bears little resemblance to that which existed only sixty or seventy years ago. The land was riddled with subsidence and large flashes, lakes caused by collapsing mines. It is now pleasant woodlands and reed lined streams, the product of over 40 years of land reclamation.

B1. Out of the main entrance turn right onto Ollershaw Lane and follow the road crossing at the turn to Wincham Lane. The entrance to the Northwich Woodlands is straight ahead. Take great care crossing the road.

B2. Through the gate, the path forks into three, continue straight ahead. This is the line of the Old Warrington Road and forms a causeway between the flashes of Ashton (to the left) and Neumann (to the right; see c1). Paths allow you to walk all the way around Neumann's and Ashton's Flashes, taking in the views and visiting the bird hides. At Marbury Lane turn right and walk up the lane. After ½ mile turn left onto a gravel path.

B3. Follow the path along the level adjacent to the Witton Brook. The Witton Brook was formally a large flash but much of the land you see has been reclaimed. At the junction bear left. Right takes you to Haydn's Pool and more bird hides. After ¼ mile the path forks, bear right up the slope up the hill and then left at the junction after 100 yards. The path brings you out into silver birch woodland. Cross over the brine pipelines on a wooden bridge.

B4. The path eventually brings you out in a clearing. The area is now known as Anderton Park. Turning left are views of the Winnington Works, a modern chemical works that sits on the location of Brunner Mond's original salt and chemical works founded in the 19th century. The path splits into cross-roads. If you continue straight ahead you will find two pools which were brine cisterns and are the last remains of the British Salt Works.
For the boat lift follow the path left. Bear left across the large clearing and the path leads to a car park and the Anderton Boat Lift is on the far side.