

Walk 1

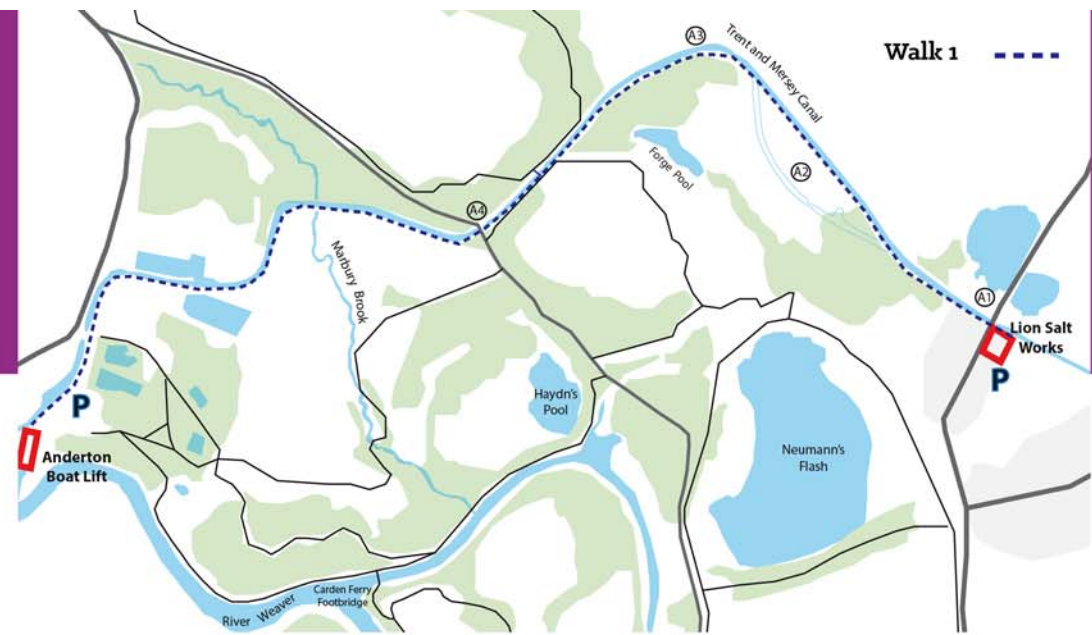
Transport along the Trent and Mersey Canal

Practicalities: The walk follows the towpath of the canal. The towpath can be muddy in winter and areas have subsided into the canal. It is therefore not suitable for children's buggies or wheelchairs. Small children should be accompanied when by the canal.

Distance and Time: The walk is 2 miles in length and should take 50 minutes to 1 hour at a steady pace.

This walk traces the route of salt as it left the Lion Salt Works on its journey to the docks at Weston Point, Liverpool and Birkenhead and from there to Europe, Canada and West Africa. It also reveals a landscape in which the ghosts of salt works shadow the canal. Instead of heading to the main entrance, pass to the canal through the gate in the fence beyond the Children's Play Area. Turn left along the canal.

Few instructions are needed from here as the walk follows the canal towpath for the next 2 miles.



A1. On the opposite bank of the canal are the remains of the Ollershaw Lane and Adelaide Flash. This mine collapsed in 1929 creating the flashes that can be seen today. The lumps and bumps in the fields are the remains of the old salt works. The remains of the Coronation Salt Store are on the left hand side. Salt from the Lion Salt Works was stored here before being transferred to canal boats and transported down the canal to Anderton. Further along on the left was the location of the Crystal Mine. All that remains is the Crystal Cottage now a private residence.

A2. The canal turns to the north-east and becomes very straight. This is where a bypass was built to take the canal around the subsiding remains of the Marston Old Mine, the earliest mine in Northwich. A dip in the towpath denotes where the mine is collapsing and some remains exist in the bushes.



A3. The canal takes a sharp turn after about 1/2 a mile. It is transported on a high embankment. This is where the Marston Hall Mine has been continually subsiding. Almost six metres below the towpath in private woodland are the collapsed remains of the old mine and salt works. The canal collapsed here in 1907.



A4. A footbridge and the Marbury Lane Bridge give access to Marbury Park, the former residence of the Marbury family. Rock salt deposits were first discovered in the 1670s in woodland south of the canal. The Anderton Boat Lift would allow boats to transfer from the canal to the River Weaver below. Boats would pass down the boat lift and tether alongside larger Weaver Flats and transfer their loads of salt. Before this the salt was sent down long chutes that lined the embankment on the right hand side of the boat lift.