

Walk 3

Northwich a town on the edge

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 are a number of road crossings and children should be accompanied at all times.

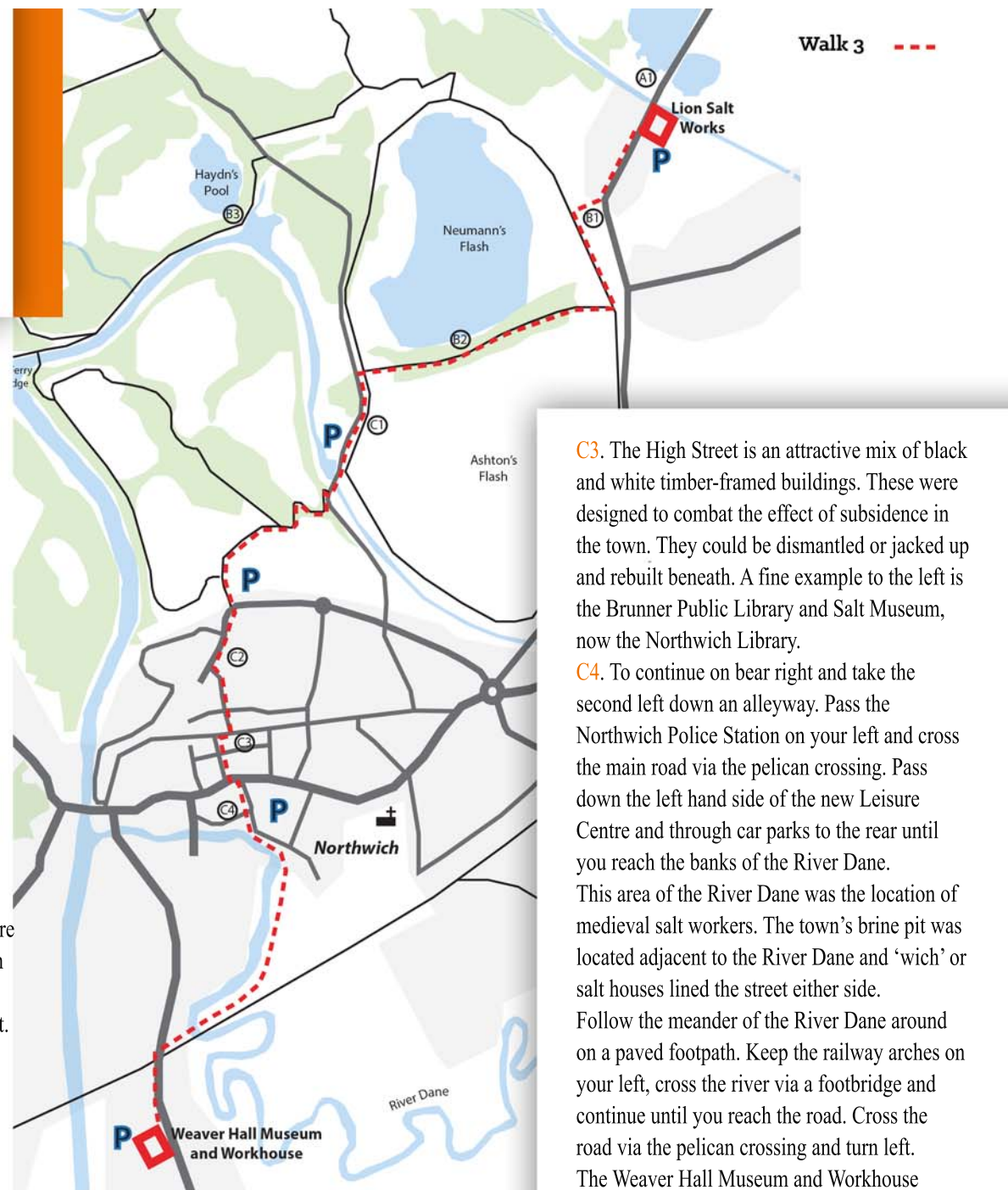
Distance and Time: The walk is 2.2 miles long and should take 55 minutes to 1 hour 5 mins.

This walk takes you through the southern part of the Northwich Woodlands, taking in a landscape altered by subsiding mines. It then changes to take in the Northwich Town with its distinctive black and white houses, built to combat subsidence. The final part follows the line of the River Dane, where medieval salt workers once thrived.



C1. Follow instructions B1 and B2 for Walk 2. Follow the line of the Old Warrington Road between the flashes of Ashton (to the left) and Neumann (to the right). At the end of the path continue straight through the gate and turn left down the paved Marbury Lane. Alternatively turn left before the gate on the path for views of Ashton Flash. A board explains how the flashes were formed. Cross the Witton Brook on the black and white bridge and take the path marked Carey Park on the right hand side. Follow the signs through Carey Park to the entrance north of the town centre.

C2. Cross over the road and follow it right, before taking an immediate left through car parks down the road beside the Salvation Army. Crossing a small lane follow the ginnel onto the High Street. Webb and Sons Butchers are straight ahead. The area is being redeveloped as the Baron's Quay Shopping Centre. Beneath the car parks were the remains of the Baron's Quay and Witton mines. They were filled in at a cost of £32 million pounds stabilising the northern part of the town centre.



C3. The High Street is an attractive mix of black and white timber-framed buildings. These were designed to combat the effect of subsidence in the town. They could be dismantled or jacked up and rebuilt beneath. A fine example to the left is the Brunner Public Library and Salt Museum, now the Northwich Library.

C4. To continue on bear right and take the second left down an alleyway. Pass the Northwich Police Station on your left and cross the main road via the pelican crossing. Pass down the left hand side of the new Leisure Centre and through car parks to the rear until you reach the banks of the River Dane. This area of the River Dane was the location of medieval salt workers. The town's brine pit was located adjacent to the River Dane and 'wich' or salt houses lined the street either side. Follow the meander of the River Dane around on a paved footpath. Keep the railway arches on your left, cross the river via a footbridge and continue until you reach the road. Cross the road via the pelican crossing and turn left. The Weaver Hall Museum and Workhouse is 150 yards on the right.