

Delving into Nailsea's industrial heritage

Meander down picturesque lanes and past pretty cottages to discover the industrial heritage of Nailsea.

The walk - courtesy of Nailsea and District Local History Society – features former colliery engine houses, pubs and a tannery before a brief jaunt through the fields on the western edge of town.

Walk information

Distance:
about 2.5 miles

Difficulty:
easy - a level, urban walk with a short detour through a couple of fields. Suitable footwear recommended.

Duration:
about 2 hours

Refreshments:
The Coffee Lounge at Holy Trinity Church is open 9am-1pm every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

How to get there

By car: Park considerably on-street along St Mary's Grove or nearby streets

By bus: X7, X8, X9 or 88

By train: Nailsea and Backwell station is about a 25 minute walk from the start of this walk.

For bus timetables visit www.travelinesw.com

Start at the 15th century Holy Trinity Church, in Church Lane. It has a tower typical to the area but the pinnacles weren't added until 1904. There are six bells, one from the former Bristol Gaol.

Opposite is the medieval Tithe Barn, now used as an events space. By 1791 it contained two school rooms, one belonging to local writer and philanthropist Hannah More.

You'll also pass Glebe Cottage, built for the schoolmaster and mistress.

Continue up Church Lane, past the church hall. The lane bears left, past a row of cottages.

In the middle is Nile Cottage, with a plaque showing the year 1798

to commemorate Nelson's victory over Napoleon's fleet at the Battle of the Nile. In 1844 it was a private school.

Follow the lane to the right as it becomes a footpath. Cross Queens Road with care and continue down the lane ahead of you, towards Goss Lane. Turn left at the end and right into Union Street.

Continue along Union Street, named after the Poor's House or 'Union', once part of the present Yew Tree Cottage.

Look out for Tall Cottage on your right, built in 1750 as part of the Shallow Grove Coal Pit. The kitchen wall is incorporated into a deep shaft.



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Further on is Ebenezer Primitive Methodist Chapel (1856-1964), now the Little Theatre.

At the junction is Old Colliery Cottage, once two dwellings including the Colliers Arms beer house.

Opposite, where the (closed) public toilet block now stands, were the lock up, stocks and whipping post on the village green.

Turn left into North Street. On the right is Old Fire Station Court, a small development on the site of the 1934-71 building and tower.

Turn down the next lane on your right. At the bottom, behind a conifer hedge, is a white cottage.

Here lived John and Mary Whiting, very early members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) who were imprisoned for their beliefs several times in 1679.

Continue towards the junction with the Corner Stores opposite. On the left are two modern detached houses.

This site was the tannery, used between 1696 and 1890 to supply leather to a flourishing boot, clog and shoe cottage industry around Kingshill and Silver Street.

Take the track next to the houses, signposted public footpath.

Nailsea House is on your left and further on is Old Kingshill Court. When the farmhouse's thatched roof

was replaced, a receipt was found which possibly indicated some of Cromwell's commonwealth troops lodged here in 1643.

Retrace your steps back to the junction and turn left up Kingshill. Cross the road and go down the footpath alongside number 18.

The path passes the site of Kingshill Pit (1800-1820) and ends at Nailsea Social Club, once the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.

Turn right and head towards the Moorend Spout pub. Head back up North Street, right into Firleaze, then left into North Lane.

You'll see another tall cottage, converted from a colliery engine house.

Follow the public footpath sign, which goes past the garden of number 8. Respecting the owner's privacy, go through the orchard with the hedge on your left, and exit through the gate.

Cross the brook over the stone stile, then follow the brook to the right, emerging onto Causeway.

A long strip of land is on your left, bought for a canal but never built. Continue left up Causeway, passing Causeway House.

At the bend in the road take the public footpath on the right, which skirts the edge of a stable.

Continue through the field, then cross the brook via a stile on your right.

Walk around the left edge of the next field and exit through a gate opposite onto Causeway View.

Follow the footpath and return to Old Kingshill Court and Nailsea House where you were earlier.

From here, retrace your steps back along Union Street to your starting point.



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