



Follow in the footsteps of the legendary wizard, taking in a view over to Manchester and beyond before turning back through the woods past old mining works.

**Approx. distance:** 1.25k/  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile

**Approx. time:** 30 minutes

**Difficulty:** Easy. Surfaced paths, generally flat with gentle to moderate slopes. Suitable for pushchairs.

**Trail Leaflet:** A self guided trail leaflet is available at Alderley Edge.

### Points of interest:

#### **Thieves Hollow**

*Legend has it that a farmer, on his way to sell a white mare at market, bumps into a wizard here who offers to buy the horse. The farmer refuses and continues on his way, believing he can fetch a better price elsewhere...*

#### **Seven Firs**

*Nobody buys the white mare at the market and so the farmer heads home. On his way back he meets the wizard again and agrees to sell him the horse. The wizard asks the farmer to follow him for payment and they set off this way, past Seven Firs...*

On the mound to the left of the fenced area are seven hillocks, which could be the remains of the Seven Firs from which the place gets its name.

#### **Golden Stone**

*The wizard and farmer pass the Golden Stone next...*

The name 'golden' comes from the Old English word Gylden, meaning a tribute or treasure, something of wealth or even a sacrifice.

#### **View from carriage Drive**

Drop down from the old carriage drive path to enjoy the view. On a clear day you can see Manchester and the Peak District.

#### **Stormy Point**

*The wizard and the farmer continue along the carriage drive path to Stormy Point and then down to Saddle Bole. The wizard leads them into a magical cave, in which the terrified farmer finds an army of sleeping knights and white horses. The wizard pays the farmer generously, explaining that the army will one day awaken from its enchanted slumber to fight a great battle and save their country.*

#### **Beacon**

In Tudor Times, if invading ships were spotted off shore, watchmen lit fires on high points like this one. If someone lit the neighbouring beacon, you passed on the news by lighting yours. This way, the nation quickly learnt they needed to prepare for attack.

#### **Engine Vein**

In 1995 a pot of Roman coins was found at Engine Vein. It is believed that someone from the Cornovii tribe hid it here to keep it safe from the dominant Brigantes tribe at a time of unrest, when Emperor Constantine withdrew troops from the UK to protect Rome.