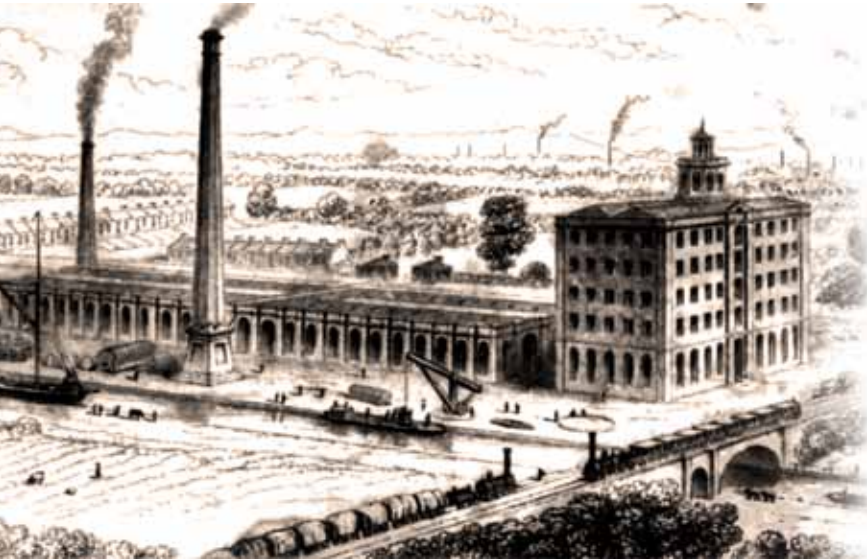


250 years
BRIDGEWATER CANAL
1761-2011



Caked in History

A circular walk from Eccles to Monton, Worsley and Patricroft linking the heritage of the Bridgewater Canal and the railway.





Introduction

To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the opening of the Bridgewater Canal in Salford, this new heritage trail will take you on a tour of the sights of this historic area and teach you interesting facts about the links between the canal and the railways.

On your walk you'll see many points of interest from the place where Queen Victoria 'used the facilities' to the site of industrial heritage masterpieces such as Nasmyth's steam hammer.

We hope you enjoy this walk through Salford's history.

Written and produced by FRECCLES – Friends of Eccles Station and FrOPS – Friends of Patricroft Station, with support from Salford City Council.

Front cover: Bridgewater Foundry, c.1839 (also shows railway crossing the Bridgewater Canal at Patricroft).

Starting point

Eccles Railway Station (M30 ODN) is on the Liverpool to Manchester (Chat Moss) line. The station has car parking and is close to the tram and bus stations. Go to www.tfgm.com for public transport information.

Allow 4 hours for this walk. Overall, this walk is not suitable for those with substantial walking difficulties or using prams, wheelchairs or mobility scooters due to rough terrain and/or steps. However, some points are accessible by road and on well-made paths.

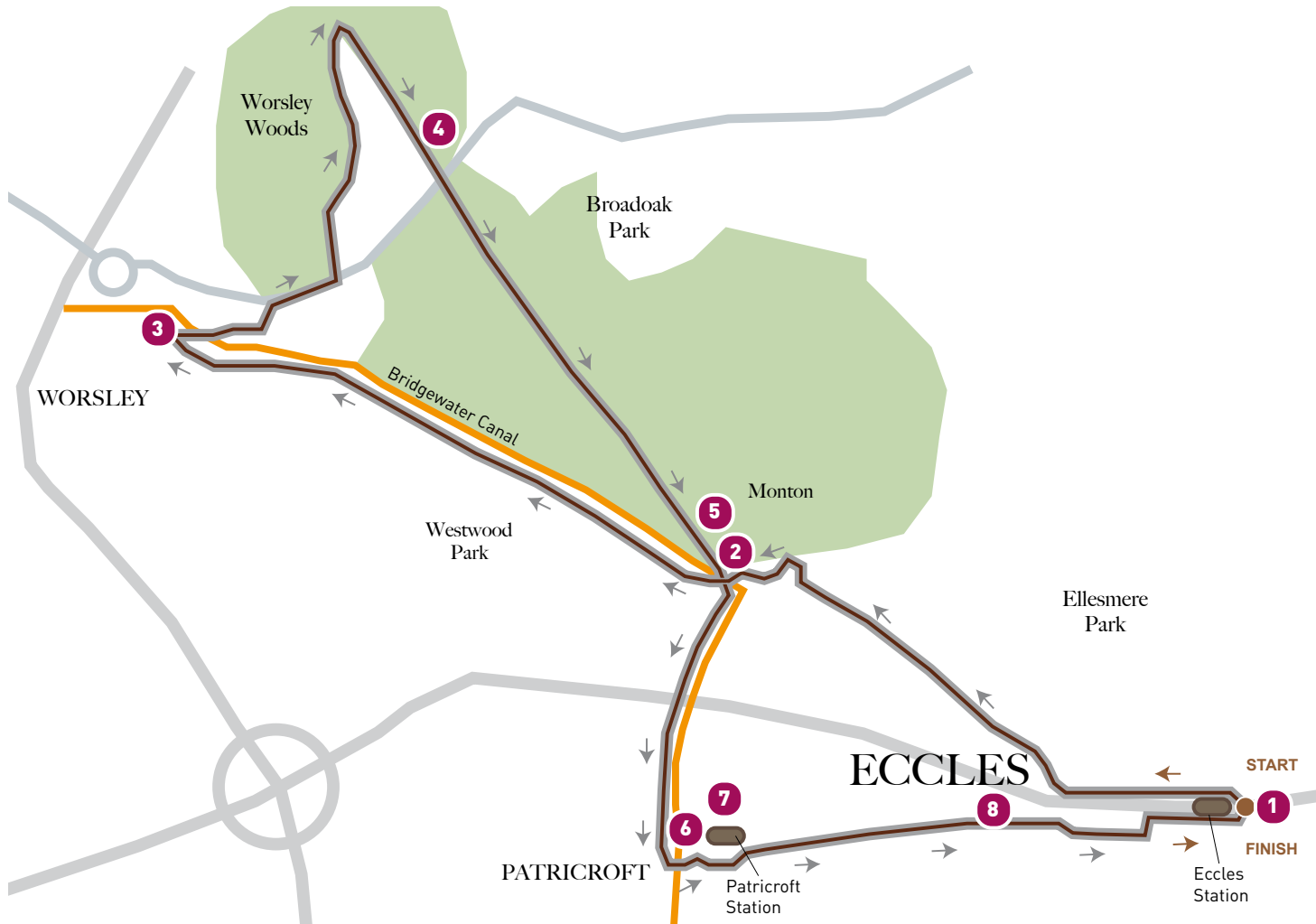
Images at 1,2,5,6 (viewed from Canal Bank on opposite bank to the pub and not towpath) and 7 are generally accessible.



Main points of interest on the route:

- Begin at Eccles Station (1) - page 6.
 - Continue along the front of Monton Green to the bus stop for a view of the former Monton Green Station (2) - page 7.
 - In Worsley Village, follow the path round to the left and then cross the canal at the iron bridge (3) - page 8.
 - Turn right along the loopline and continue through the short tunnel to the former Worsley station. From the bridge (4) look back to see the view - page 9.
 - Continue to Monton Green and turn right, crossing Monton Bridge (5) - page 9.
 - The Queen's Arms claims to be the world's first railway public house. The pub was originally called the Patricroft Tavern, (6) but changed its name after the Queen's visit - page 11.
 - Cross Green Lane to view (7) Nasmyth's steam hammer (Nasmyth Business Park) - page 12.
 - Turn off the footpath when reaching the footbridge (8); cross the railway and continue along Old Wellington Road - page 14.
- Finish at the starting point of this walk - Eccles railway station.





Walk route:

- Begin at Eccles Station (1). The decision to build a railway from Liverpool to Manchester was made for commercial reasons. Passengers were originally a very secondary consideration but the cutting down of the journey times compared to road and canal made the prospect of rail travel very attractive. The railway opened on 15 September 1830. Initially there was no station, passengers hailing the train from along the line by waving a handkerchief or umbrella. The station that you see on the image opened in 1881. There were originally four platforms and they were connected by a covered 'way' with a glass roof.
- From Eccles Station cross the 'glass bridge' over the M602 and turn left on to Wellington Road.

- Follow the road to the end and turn left, on to Monton Road (junction with Half Edge Lane).
- Continue along Monton Road towards Monton Green, crossing the main road where convenient. If you look just past the Monton House Hotel, you will see a path which marks the line of the former Clifton branch of the Liverpool/Manchester line.
- Pass through Monton village to the roundabout. Turn left and cross the main road to the green where convenient.



- Continue along the front of Monton Green to the bus stop for a view of the former Monton Green Station (2).
- Cross Monton Bridge and turn right onto the Bridgewater Canal towpath towards Worsley. The Bridgewater Canal was built by the Duke of Bridgewater and opened in 1761 to carry coal from the Duke's mines in Worsley to the industries of Manchester via Barton Aqueduct which crosses the Manchester Ship Canal.

Queen Victoria travelled by barge on the Bridgewater Canal between Patricroft and Worsley in 1851 on her visit to the Earl of Ellesmere.

Just before Worsley Village where the canal bends to the left look across to the new houses on the opposite side. These are built on the site of the coal staithe (tip) that transferred coal originally from tramway trucks and later, railway trucks, into barges on the canal for onward transport. This was also the site of some of the Worsley coke ovens. Extra ovens were built in 1839, with anticipation of supplying coke to power steam locos for the new railways.



2. Monton Green Station © Salford Local History Library.

- Worsley Village is full of interesting sights and features, including the Packet House, Alphabet Bridge and The Green.

In Worsley Village, follow the path round to the left and then cross the canal at the iron bridge (3). Turn right onto Worsley Green and follow the road round, to meet with Worsley Road.

Worsley Green was known as Worsley Yard until 1903, when it contained many industrial sites and a railway siding. There is now a memorial to the Duke of Bridgewater; it is part of the works chimney which was converted to an ornamental fountain with a tall spire. The fountain no longer works and the spire was removed in the 1930's, leaving the present structure which carries a Latin inscription praising the achievements of the 'Canal Duke'. After this look carefully to your left as you near Worsley Road: there are the impressions of the old railway sleepers from the Worsley Yard railway sidings.

- Cross Worsley Road after Drywood Avenue and turn left onto the footpath at the metal railings (signposted Worsley Woods and Loopline). Notice the Duke of Bridgewater's Egerton family crest carved on the stone on the left as you enter the path.
- This path is the route of the former Bridgewater Collieries railway from the canal. The collieries railway followed two routes from this junction, one to the collieries (right) and one to the former London and North Western (LNW) railway at Sanderson's Siding (left).





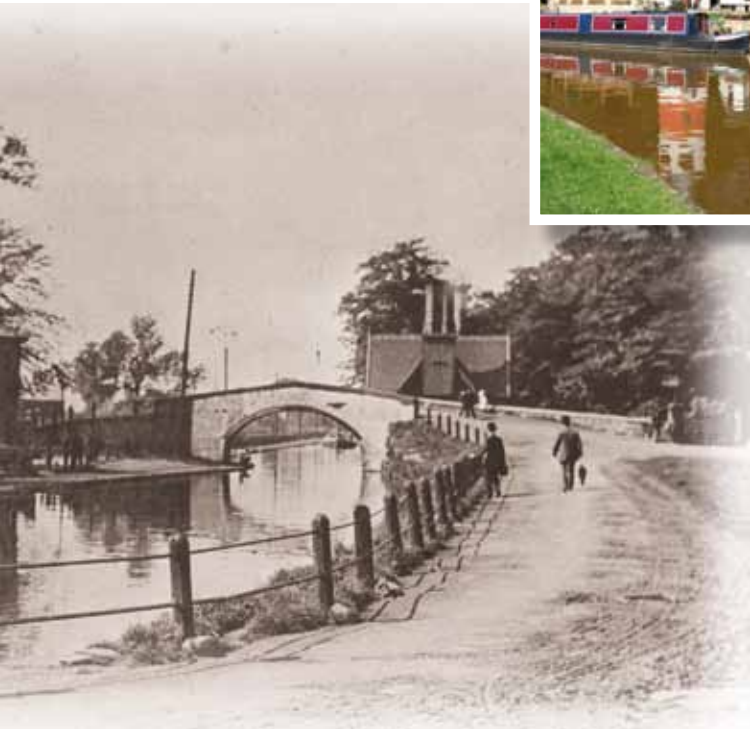
4. Worsley Station © Salford Local History Library.

- Continue on the footpath, passing a school on the right and a playground on left to the path junction.
- Turn right at the junction and turn left up the short flight of steps just before the gate (do not go through the gate).

- Continue walking along the narrow path until you meet the loopline path at the blue cycle route '55' sign. This is near to the point where the Colliery Railway crossed the loopline.
- Turn right along the loopline and continue through the short tunnel to the former Worsley station. From the bridge (4) look back to see the view.
- Continue to Monton Green and turn right, crossing Monton Bridge (5). Turn right onto the towpath, but this time turn right again and double back underneath the bridge.



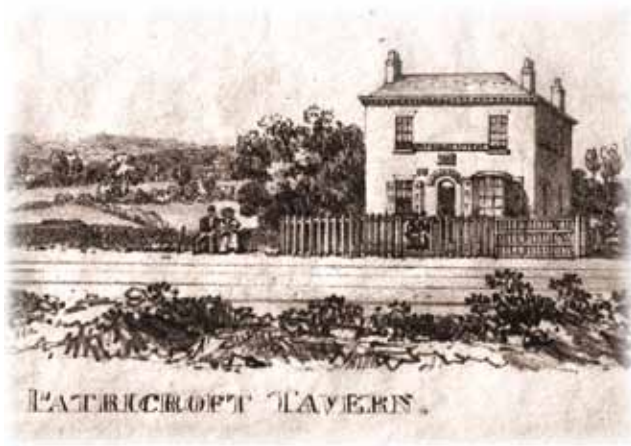
Monton Lighthouse



Notice the Monton Lighthouse on the left after the bridge.

- Follow the canal towpath under the motorway. The opposite side of the canal was the site of Nasmyth Wilson & Co's 'Bridgewater Foundry,' where the world famous 'Nasmyth Steam Hammer' was invented and manufactured, along with various machine tools. The site also made railway locomotives, mostly for export. The works became a Royal Ordnance Factory in 1940, finally closing in 1989. The site is now home to the Nasmyth Business Park
- Immediately after going under the railway bridge, turn right up the steps, and turn back on yourself to cross the canal by the footbridge.

5. Monton Bridge © Salford Local History Library.



6. Patricroft Tavern © Mark Charnley.



The Queen's Arms.

- When you reach Green Lane, turn left and left again opposite the steam hammer, then up the slope to the Queens Arms.

The Queen's Arms claims to be the world's first railway public house. It was opened in 1828 anticipating trade from the railway. At one time it had direct access to the station, but is now fenced off from it. It is said that Queen Victoria used the facilities here before she boarded the royal barge to Worsley when she visited in 1851. The pub was originally called the Patricroft Tavern, (6) but changed its name after the Queen's visit. In 2010 the Queen's Arms won the local Campaign for Real Ale's Traditional Pub of the Year award.

7. Nasmyth's
steam hammer
© Mark Charnley.

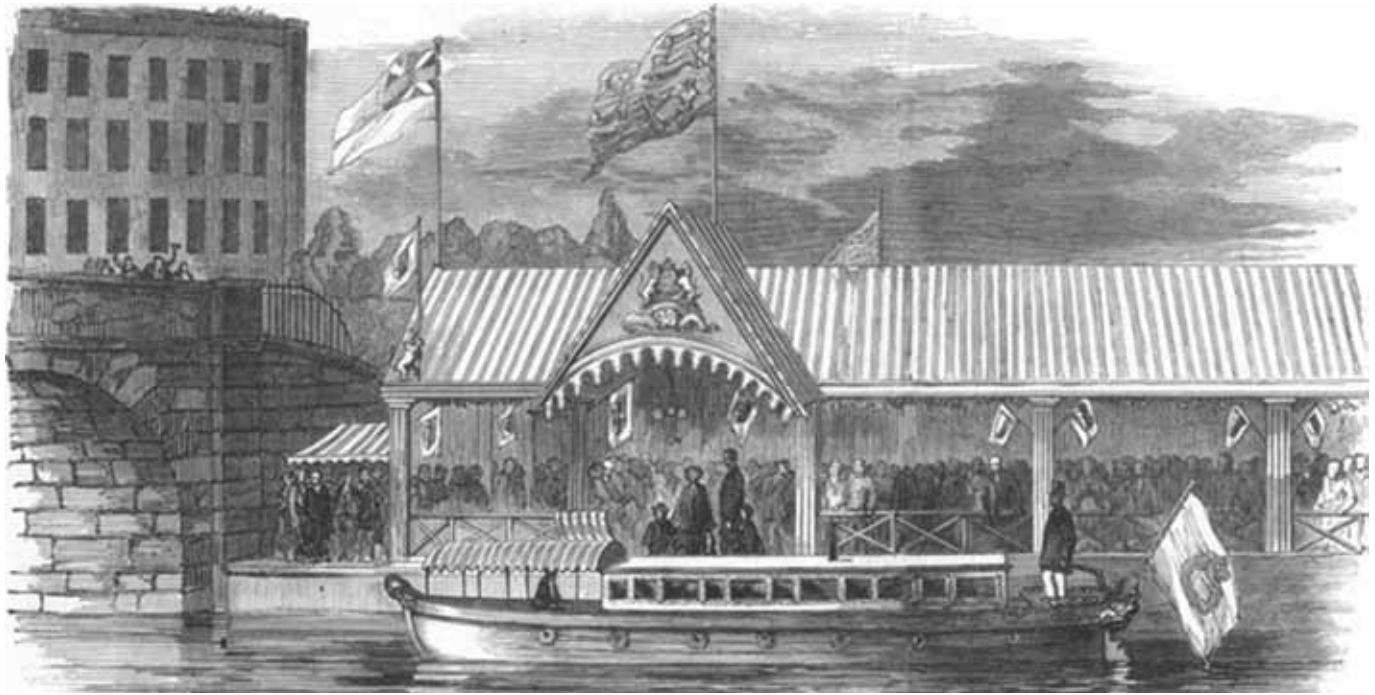


Patricroft Station, 1962 © Salford Local History Library.



- Return down the slope and cross Green Lane to view (7) Nasmyth's steam hammer (Nasmyth Business Park).
- Return under the railway bridge, passing Patricroft Station entrance and turn left up the footpath that leads behind the houses. You can also take a short diversion to visit the station before retacing your steps and joining the footpath.

Patricroft Station is located at the point where the world's first inter-city passenger railway crosses the world's first commercial canal. Like Eccles Station, a mile up the line from here, it is one of the stations on the Liverpool to Manchester railway, a major engineering feat, built across Chat Moss by George Stephenson. There was a large locomotive depot with steam sheds on the land to the rear of the present Manchester platform, but activity there ceased in 1968.



All of the station buildings at Patricroft Station were demolished in the late 1970s and all that remains now are two brick shelters, one on each platform. In 1851 Queen Victoria travelled by train from Liverpool to Patricroft to board a barge to Worsley, where she was to be a guest of the Earl of Ellesmere during her visit to Manchester.

8. Steam sheds © Peter Lord.



- Continue along this footpath and join Hampden Grove; rejoin the footpath at the side of the railway.
- Turn off the footpath when reaching the footbridge (8). The footbridge is the nearest vantage point to view the area that was once the site of the former Patricroft Steam Sheds and the junction where Tyldesley and Clifton branch lines of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway headed off. Cross the railway and turn right along Old Wellington Road.
- Follow Old Wellington Road, bearing left onto Russell Street.
- Cross Albert Road and rejoin the footpath at the side of the office block. Continue along Vicarage Grove and bear left, to finish at the starting point of this walk - Eccles railway station.

➤ **Optional diversion:**

Turn right at the top of Vicarage Grove and walk down Church Street to the entrance of the shopping precinct. On your right is the site of the first commercial production of Eccles cakes at what was the junction of the former Vicarage Road (now the shopping precinct) and Church Street. (compare the view on the photograph below to the present site, there is nothing actually left to see).

This walk is called 'Caked in History' because of the connection with Eccles cakes and the amount of history that abounds and surrounds this once tiny village.

Retrace steps to Eccles railway station (the walk starting point).



Bradburns - the original Eccles Cake shop.



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