

Bolton Industrial Heritage Trail

Visit...
Enjoy...
Learn...

Bolton's wonderful industrial heritage lives on through its canals, coal, cotton, railways and of course its people. Famous Bolton names include Samuel Crompton, Fred Dibnah and others whose character, work and inventions have left an imprint on Bolton.

The Bolton Industrial Heritage Trail has 9 main sites of interest including historic buildings, museums and attractions where our history has been preserved for future generations to enjoy.

How you follow the trail is up to you, either visiting a few in a day or taking the trail at your own pace. We've ordered the sites alphabetically and listed the postcodes for each attraction to help you plan your route, but please check the websites for opening hours prior to visiting. We hope you enjoy the trail and discovering something new about Bolton's fantastic industrial heritage.

Bolton industrial heritage trail



1

Barrow Bridge Village

Barrow Bridge Road, Bolton, BL1 7ND

Barrow Bridge was built between 1835 and 1837 by Robert Gardner and Thomas Bazley, proprietors of Dean Mill, to house their workforce. The mill buildings are no longer but the cottages and Institute (which housed a school, library and newsroom) remain. Now a conservation area, Barrow Bridge is also home to the famous 63 steps which Mill workers would have used every day to get to work. Today, they lead visitors up onto the beautiful West Pennine Moors.

www.visitbolton.com/thingstodo



2

Bolton Steam Museum

Mornington Road, Bolton, BL1 4EU

The museum is operated by volunteers from the Northern Mill Engine Society who have rescued 25 a significant collection of the old stationary steam engines which once powered the cotton mills of Lancashire and Yorkshire. It has the largest collection of working steam mill engines in the UK and is located in one of the original engine-houses of Atlas No 3 Mill.

www.nmes.org/



3

Firwood Fold

Bolton, BL2 3AG

Samuel Crompton inventor of the Spinning Mule was born at No. 10 Firwood Fold in 1753. He lived here until 1758, when the family, moved to nearby Hall i' th' Wood. The cottages date from the 17th century and No. 10 had been owned by the Cromptons for generations before Samuel was born. A plaque on the cottage (now a private residence) commemorates his birth and there is also a colourful information panel on the green, interpreting his life, works and the historical significance of Firwood Fold.

www.visitbolton.com/thingstodo



4

Hall i' th' Wood

Green Way, Off Crompton Way, Bolton, BL1 8UA

This Grade 1, 16th century half-timbered hall is one of the north-west's most important buildings. The house started life as a rich merchant's home during the mid-17th century. It was later split into several rented dwellings and, it was here, living with his family that Samuel Crompton famously invented the Spinning Mule in 1779. The house and grounds were presented to the people of Bolton in memory of Samuel Crompton and opened to the public as a museum in 1902. Visitors can enjoy displays of 17th and early 18th century furniture, objects and artefacts, learn more about the life and work of Samuel Crompton and discover all about life in Stuart and Tudor times.

www.boltonlams.co.uk/historic-halls



5

Horwich Heritage Centre

Beaumont Road, Horwich, BL6 7BG

Come and discover Horwich through the ages, including the town's important place in locomotive history. The Heritage Centre houses exhibitions relating to the history of Horwich with displays for Horwich Loco Works, including a three-quarter scale model of a locomotive footplate, a Victorian kitchen, World War 2 and local industry and transport. There is also a reconstruction of the entrance to Wilderswood Mine and the actual Fall Birch Tollgate post, along with a shop, archive facilities and AV displays.

www.horwichheritage.co.uk



6

Nasmyth and Wilson Steam Hammer

University of Bolton, University Way, Bolton
BL3 5AB

You can view the steam hammer in the University grounds which was in use at Thomas Walmsley and Sons' Atlas Forge from 1917 to 1975 to producing wrought iron. Atlas Forge was the last forge in Britain to use the traditional indirect or puddling process for its production. It was placed in the grounds of Bolton Institute of Technology (now the University of Bolton) in 1981 to commemorate Bolton's industrial heritage and illustrate the Institute's connection to industrial design and innovation.



7

Pretoria Pit Disaster Memorial

Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton,
BL5 2BG

Although not the first mine working in Bolton, the Pretoria Pit is the most well-known. The disaster which befell the mine was one of the worst in British mining history and is commemorated at various locations in Westhoughton. There is a memorial monument in Westhoughton Cemetery, the miners' memorial in Ditchfield Gardens and the commemorative centenary mural in Westhoughton Library.

www.bolton.org.uk/pretoriapit.html



8

Smithills Hall

Smithills Dean Road, Bolton, BL1 7NP

Smithills is one of Bolton's original family homes dating back to medieval times set in over 2,000 acres of grounds and gardens. Records relating to Smithills Hall date from 1335 when William Radcliffe obtained the manor from the Hulton family. It passed through various families until 1801 when it was bought by the Ainsworth family, who were successful Bolton bleachers. It opened as a museum in 1963 and today Smithills Hall is open to the public as one of the best preserved manor houses in the North West.

www.boltonlams.co.uk/historic-halls



9

The Fred Dibnah Heritage Centre

121 Radcliffe Rd, Bolton, BL2 1NU

When you step into the former home of local steeplejack, television presenter and industrial history enthusiast Fred Dibnah, you get to experience a flavour of how he lived and worked. His house originally built in 1854 as the park keeper's lodge for the Earl of Bradford's estate is full of machinery, artefacts and relics of Britain's industrial past, all collected, restored and repaired by Fred. The grounds are home to Fred's workshops and sheds where he fettled away the hours. Prior booking is essential.

www.freddibnahheritagecentre.com



Additional points of interest around Bolton

For those keen to discover more on Bolton's industrial heritage we've added some points of interest below that can be viewed externally but aren't open to the public and visitors. Many of these are now redeveloped commercial and residential properties.

- William Edge and Son, Ltd (Former Bleachworks). Wordsworth Industrial Estate, Wordsworth Street, Bolton, BL1 3ND
- John Holden's Mill, Blackburn Road, Bolton, BL1 7QP
- Eagley Mills and Eagley Model Village, Hough Lane and Park Row, Bolton, BL7 9DY and BL1 7JY
- Swan Lane Mills, Swan Lane, Bolton, BL3 3BJ
Helena Mill, St Helena Road, Bolton, BL1 2JS
- Chimney, Richard Threlfall and Co. Salop Street, Bolton, BL2 1DZ

Further information on Bolton's Mills can be found here www.gracesguide.co.uk/1891_Cotton_Mills_in_Bolton

Hot on the trail...

If you enjoyed this trail, why not find out more about Bolton's history by trying the following:

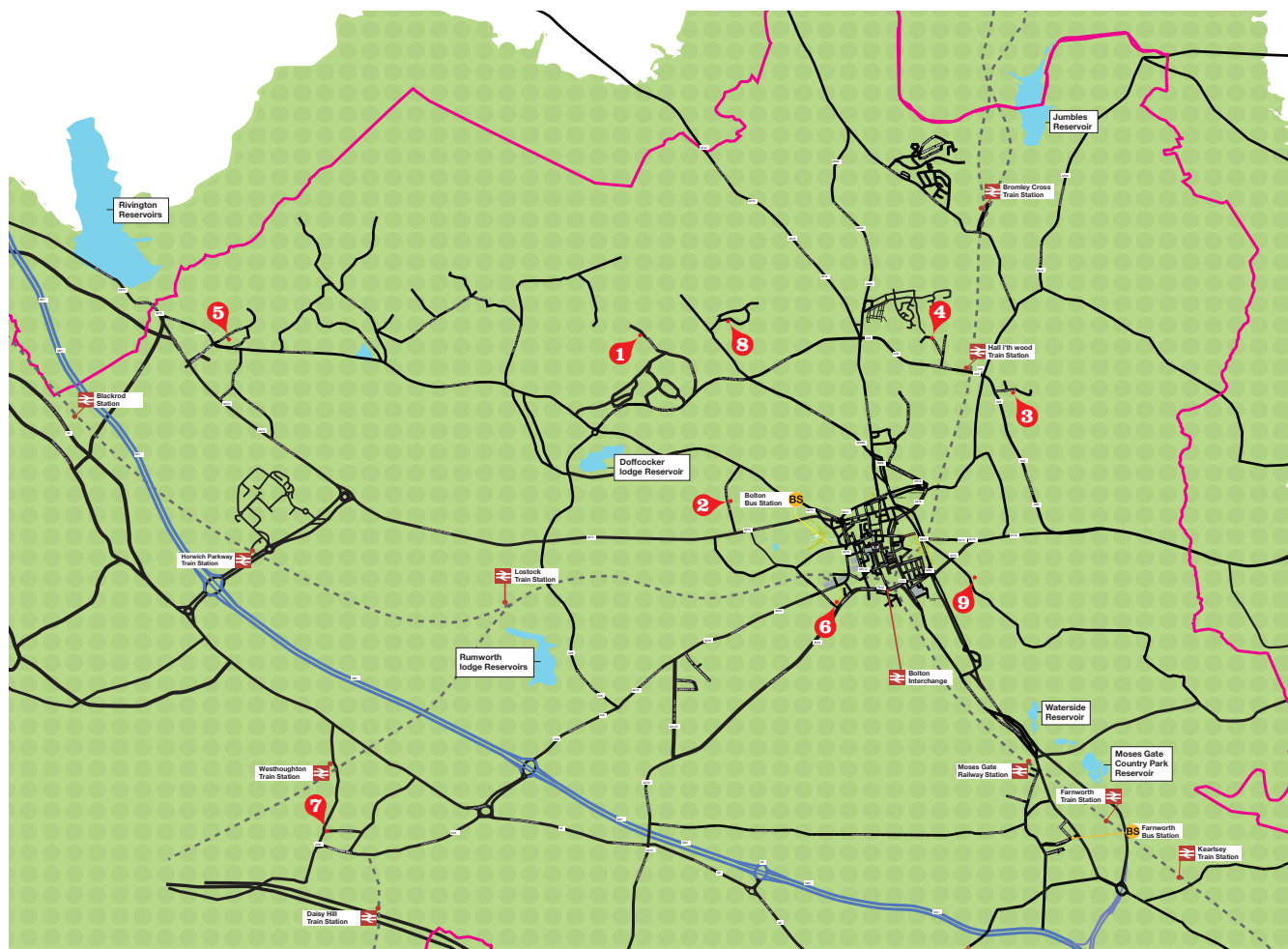
- Our **Industrial Heritage Town Centre Walking Trail** features 12 sites of interest all within close walking distance of each other in Bolton town centre. www.visitbolton.com/industrialheritage
- On the **Horwich Heritage Trail** you can take a self-guided walk around the historic town of Horwich www.visitbolton.com/boltonsheritage
- You can find out more and follow the life and times of Bolton's beloved son, **Samuel Crompton** at www.visitbolton.com/pdf/Crompton_Trail.pdf

To find out more about visiting Bolton check out www.visitbolton.com or call Bolton Tourist Information on **01204 334321**.

 **visitbolton**

 **@visitbolton**

Bolton industrial heritage trail map



- 1** Barrow Bridge Village, on Barrow Bridge Road, BL1 7ND
- 2** Bolton Steam Museum, Mornington Road, BL1 4EU
- 3** Firwood Fold, Firwood Fold, off Crompton Way, BL2 3AG
- 4** Hall I' th' Wood Museum, Green Way, off Crompton Way, BL1 8UA
- 5** Horwich Heritage Centre, Beaumont Rd, off Longworth Road, Horwich, BL6 7BG
- 6** Nasmyth and Wilson Steam Hammer, University Way, Bolton BL3 5AB
- 7** Pretoria Pit Disaster Memorial, Church St, Westhoughton BL5 2BG
- 8** Smithills Hall and Country Park, Smithills Deane Road, BL1 7NP
- 9** The Fred Dibnah Heritage Centre, Radcliffe Road, BL2 1NU

Key

Bus Station
Railway Station
Railway
Border

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For information on travelling around Bolton by public transport call **0161 244 1000**
or visit **www.tfgm.com**