

Before 1750 Penwortham was relatively cut off from Preston by the River Ribble.

The only means of crossing this dangerous tidal river was by ferryboat from the Old Ferry House Inn (now demolished) or by one of the fords. In 1750 the river was bridged and,



on payment of a toll, access became easier. The advent of trams and railways and finally another large bridge which opened in 1915 saw Penwortham begin to develop into a suburb of Preston, but with its own character.

Before the Great War Penwortham was a very rural community. Its inhabitants subsisted on farming, fishing the Ribble, and on cottage industries such as linen and cotton weaving, poultry keeping, cheese making and later, market gardening.

Paintings by John Ferguson
Above: The Ferry on the River Ribble c1840
Below: Penwortham Old Bridge in 1840
Harris Museum and Art Gallery



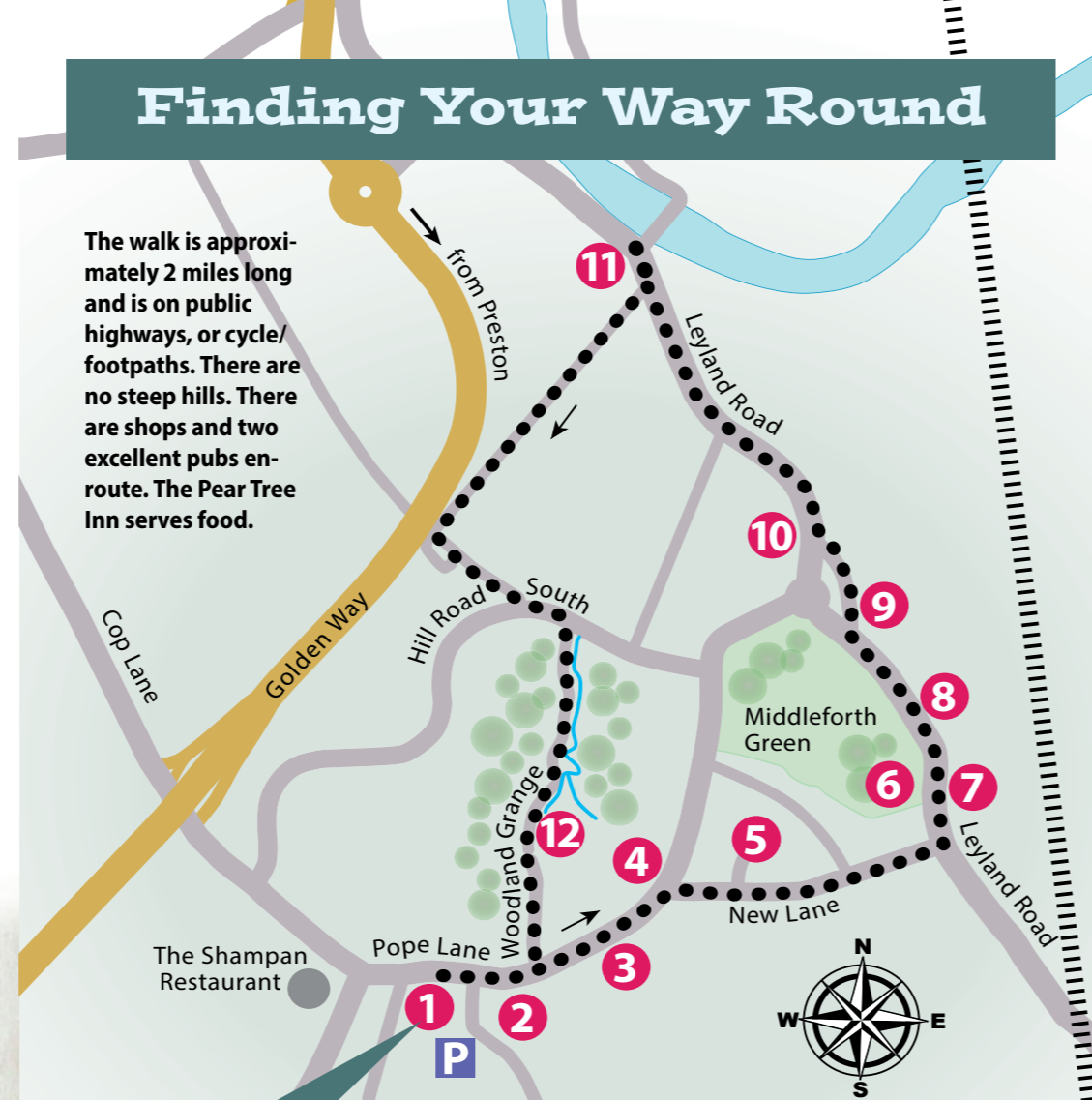
This walk covers what is known locally as 'Lower Penwortham' as it is mainly in the valley created by the Ribble. The ward called Middleforth (where the middle ford was situated) contained a small nuclear village around an area of common land called Middleforth Green: a remnant of the Green still exists and you will pass it on your walk. This part of Penwortham became more populated and built-up from the 1840s, mainly due to the railway and its associated workforce.



On this walk you will see the homes of the wealthiest of Penwortham residents in the past, and those of the poorest. Despite the development of the 20th and 21st centuries there is still a lot of Penwortham's fascinating history in existence, if you know where to look!

Finding Your Way Round

The walk is approximately 2 miles long and is on public highways, or cycle/footpaths. There are no steep hills. There are shops and two excellent pubs en-route. The Pear Tree Inn serves food.



The walk begins and ends at the Black Bull Inn, Pope Lane (PR1 9BA). There is a free car park behind the row of shops next to the inn. The bus route from Preston is Penwortham 3 (every 10 minutes). Alight at 'The Shampun' restaurant, near the Black Bull inn.

* If cycling with children please be aware that traffic on Leyland Road can be busy, but the remainder of the route is on quieter roads or cycle paths.

The walk begins at the Black Bull Inn, 83 Pope Lane, Penwortham PR1 9BA

1 The Black Bull Inn

The Black Bull Inn is clearly marked on the tithe map of Penwortham (1838), alongside a terrace of cottages known as Brown's Row, now replaced by a row of modern shops. The Ordnance Survey map of 1893 has the letters BH next to the Black Bull, showing the inn was a beer house, rather than a public house, licensed to sell only beer but not wine or spirits. Beer was made on the premises, and sold in the pub or out to the houses and farms.



Now set off in an easterly direction past the row of shops until, just past the library you will find the next house.

2 King's Fold Farm

King's Fold Farm is a wonderful example of later 17th century vernacular domestic architecture. Documents show the farm existed as early as 1463, though the house may have been rebuilt several times. The farm had, by 1691, been in the Hollinghurst family for over 200 years, but by the 1930s much of the land around the farm was bought by Preston Rural & District Council for building houses. The war prevented immediate



development, so work began later, in the 1940s and 50s, which resulted in the Kingsfold housing estate. Like many small farms, King's Fold Farm was uneconomic by this time and was bought by the local authority, the house to be sold later to Major J.D. Cameron who renovated what was, by then, a rather dilapidated dwelling. In the early 18th century the house had been a meeting hall for Protestant dissenters.

Keep going east!

3 Daniel's Farm

This pleasant traditional farmhouse was built in 1783 by Daniel Dewhurst, as the stone over the front door states and was known as Daniel's Farm until some point in the 20th century when the



name ceased to be used. It is now named 'Holly Cottage'. The tithe map and schedule of 1838 states the farm was a small holding of just over 4 acres.

Continue to the corner of New Lane. Look to the left to see . . .

4 St. Leonard's Church

The first St Leonard's church was situated at the bottom of Marshall's Brow on the site where Church Brook House now stands. It was iron clad and known locally as 'The Tin Tabernacle'. It was also used as a school. The last service was conducted in 1970. The new church foundation stone was laid in 1969. The metal cross on the exterior came from the old church. The land on which the new church stands was purchased in 1962 from a well-known Penwortham resident, Miss Whittam, who ran a riding school and livery yard off Marshall's Brow.



Turn right into New Lane. A few yards down on the left is . . .

5 Penwortham Hall

(Now known as Penwortham Hall Gardens) but originally named Penwortham Lodge). Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. John Horrocks purchased over 21 acres of farmland in Penwortham in order to build a home and estate away from the grime and smoke of Preston. John died at the tender age of 36. By that time he had built up his cotton empire, been made an alderman and an MP, and virtually ran the Preston Guild of 1802! He left Penwortham Hall & his business to his younger son John. In 1813 John Jr. married a Scottish girl and settled into the Hall, but his wife was homesick and the tragic loss of their first baby at 4 months old took them back to Glasgow in 1815. John Horrocks Sr. is buried close to the south wall of St. Mary's Church, with his estranged wife and his baby grand-daughter. The estate was purchased by William Marshall.

The hall is one of only a handful of listed buildings in Penwortham township; it was listed Grade II in 1966. It is now converted into flats for older residents of Penwortham.



Walk to the end of New Lane where it joins Leyland Road. Turn left and keep going! On the left you will see . . .



Heritage Trail

Lower Penwortham Circular Walk

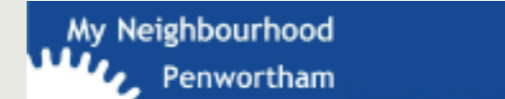
Discover Penwortham's Hidden Histories!



the top stroke of the 'T'. This part was demolished later and only the down stroke of the 'T' remains today. This cottage and a neighbouring farm (still in existence but not visible from our walk) were once part of a complex process of growing barley, malting it, and delivering the malted grains to the Black Bull Inn for the process of brewing beer. The original maltster's stone trough is nearby in a local garden, in use as an ornamental planter.

At some point between 1840 and 1861 the maltster, William Mayor, left the cottage and the new occupant, Robert Mayor, William's son, didn't take up malting, but was employed as a 'railway plate layer'. By this time beer-making was diminishing as a small local affair and was slowly going into the hands of large scale breweries, which used the new railways to distribute their produce all over the country.

From Malt Kiln Cottage continue up the path to the junction with Pope Lane, turn right and follow the road back to the Black Bull Inn.



had given up the farming side of the business and could survive as an inn. The Inn was sold recently and is now a day nursery. The red-brick church adjacent is the new Methodist Church which replaced the old chapel, seen earlier on the walk. Note also the remains of a railway bridge, which held the line from Preston station south towards Southport. Penwortham had its own small station just off Cop Lane. The line was shut down in the Beeching railway cuts of the early 1960s.

From this point take the public footpath/cycleway beside the Methodist Church. Keep straight on to a footbridge spanning the dual carriageway. If on foot take the steps up to the bridge and turn to the left. Where the path forks, bear right and keep walking until you come out onto Hill Road South. (If you are cycling, keep on the path under the bridge until you reach the next path junction where you bear right. You will emerge at the same place on Hill Road South). Turn left into Hill Road South, cross the road and walk to a footpath marked by a black and a red litter bin at its entrance. This is known as Greencroft Valley. Follow this pleasant woodland walk to the first junction in the path where you turn left. At the next junction (marked by a lamp-post) bear right. Keeping the stream on your left side, continue until you reach your final building.

12 Malt Kiln Cottage
Early documentation indicates that Malt Kiln Cottage was originally a water- powered mill, which assisted in the milling of grain for beer making. The cottage was originally built in a 'T' shape, with the malt kiln and storage buildings in

crew were needed in the recent floods around Christmas 2015. Apart from tackling fires the crew have been called out to railway and road traffic accidents, a horse stuck on a fence, a cow in a ditch, a small child trapped inside a tumble dryer, and a fire on an industrial estate which involved exploding beer kegs! They routinely fish bodies out of Preston dock. In 2006 there were plans to close the station and build a new one in Hartington Road, Preston, but these plans were later shelved.

Warning – this road is busy and just a bit boring! But you will soon arrive at . . .

11 Penwortham Old Bridge and the Bridge Inn



Until 1750 the only means of crossing the River Ribble between Preston and Penwortham was by ferry boat or by the ford close to the position of the present bridge. The bridge, now open to pedestrians and cyclists only, dates from 1750, and is a listed building. The Bridge Inn was built in 1826 and replaced the Old Boat House Inn, from which the ferry had run. In common with many other public houses in the area The Bridge Inn was also a farm, holding 21 acres. Inns were not viable as single businesses in the early days but this situation began to change from about 1900 and by the start of the First World War many



divided into cottages and became domestic dwellings owned by the Penwortham Hall estate. To lessen the connection with its past use, porches were added and the houses re-named 'Manor Cottages'.

Walk past the cottages and re-join Leyland Road, bearing right. Look on the left hand side of the road for the next landmark . . .

10 Penwortham Fire Station

Built in 1930, this station serves South Ribble as far as Tarleton, Preston Docklands, Ashton on Ribble, Fishergate Hill, and the area south of Corporation Street. The crew also can be called out to other parts of the country when necessary, and together with their boat, the



8 The Methodist Chapel

The first chapel was built on this site in 1813 and then rebuilt in 1833. It was made redundant in 1910 when a new and larger church was needed for the growing congregation this was erected close to the Bridge Inn. This later church is still in use. The old chapel is now a motor business, and has a blue plaque to commemorate its origin. Methodism was a very strong movement in Preston and the surrounding areas.



Look on the right hand side of the road for the next building, set back behind a terrace of houses, take the slight detour into Greenbank Road for a closer look.

9 Manor Cottages, Greenbank Road

This charming row of cottages was built in 1796 as a single building for use as a workhouse. Any resident of Penwortham without the means to support themselves due to age, infirmity or poverty could apply for a place in the workhouse and be supported by the parish. The land was part of Middleforth Green originally and permission was given by the landowner, William Farington Esq. (of Worden) for it to be built there. In the early 1860s Penwortham's workhouse was

6 Middleforth Green

This green space is just a remnant of the former 'green' or common. It was enclosed gradually from the medieval period until its eventual complete enclosure in 1838, but was originally an expanse of common land which could be used by the inhabitants to graze their sheep, pigs, cows and poultry. The area was very rough scrubby grass, rushes and bogs with several streams and ditches.



7 The Pear Tree Inn

This building was once part of the Penwortham Hall estate and at the time of the tithe map it was used as a small factory for cotton weavers. By 1861 Preston's large scale factories had taken over hand loom cotton production and the census of that year shows that the weaving shop had become an inn, known as the Pear Tree Inn, which is still in business today.

