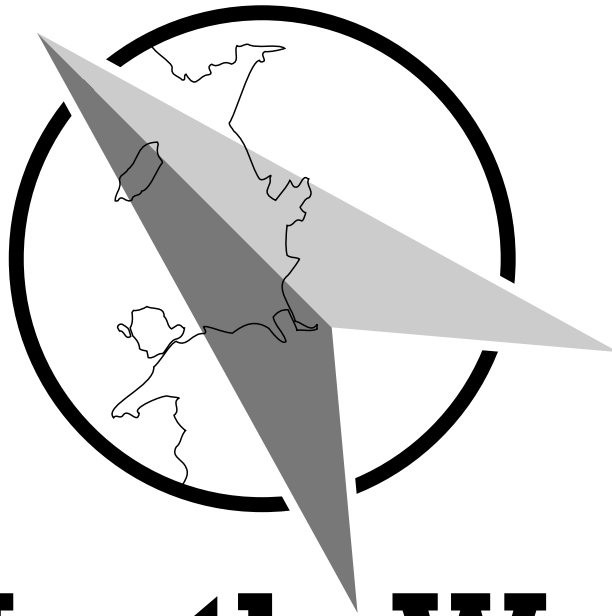


ISSN 1476-1580



North West Geography

Volume 1, Number 2, 2001

North West in Maps

Ordnance Survey 25 inch maps: Rochdale (South), 1908

Paul Hindle

Manchester Geographical Society

The Ordnance Survey's 25 inch maps emerged after the 'Battle of the Scales' during the 1840s and 50s. In fact they were published at the metric scale of 1:2500. The first maps were surveyed in 1854, and smaller scale 6 inch maps were made from them. Lancashire had already been surveyed at 6 inch scale in 1841-54, and thus had to wait until last to be surveyed at 25 inch scale. The maps were revised twice before the Second World War, providing a sequence of maps showing great detail of immense use to local historians and historical geographers:

	<i>1st Edition</i>	<i>2nd Edition</i>	<i>3rd Edition</i>
Westmorland	1856-60	1896-98	1921-24
Cumberland	1859-65	1897-1900	1922-24 (incomplete)
Cheshire	1870-75	1896-98	1904-09
Lancashire	1888-93	1904-12	1924-38 (incomplete)

This extract is taken from the Godfrey Edition reprint (reduced to about 15 inches to the mile), which currently has over 1300 sheets (the full catalogue can be seen at www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk; a site well worth a visit).

Rochdale

This map extract was originally surveyed in 1889-91; it covers the area to the south of Rochdale town centre, around Oldham Road. Until the nineteenth century, Rochdale was a major centre of woollen manufacture, based on domestic production in the surrounding area, with clothiers and dyers in the town. Wool was overtaken by cotton in the early nineteenth century, and Rochdale became one of the ring of cotton manufacturing towns surrounding Manchester. By 1911 it had a total population of 91,000.

Canal

One of the oldest features on the map is the Rochdale Canal. The Act was passed by parliament in 1794, and construction proceeded apace; it was open eastwards across the Pennines to Sowerby Bridge in 1798, and through to Manchester by 1804. It was the last of the three trans-Pennine canals to receive an Act of Parliament, but the first to be completed. In Rochdale there was branch leading north towards the town centre, whilst a shorter arm served mills near Royds Street. There are two locks near these branches (numbers 49 and 50 of the 92 locks on the canal).

Above the higher lock the canal is some 475 ft above sea level; the summit reaches a height of almost 600 ft. The canal was leased to four railway companies in 1855, and despite the railway being close and parallel to the canal, traffic continued to grow, reaching a peak in the 1840s, and not declining until the late 1880s. The decline continued, and the canal was closed in 1952. Both canal arms in Rochdale have been filled in, though both bridges on the town arm still stand. A restoration scheme aims to reopen the canal in 2002.

Mills

The canal had a clear impact on the cotton industry in Rochdale, with many cotton mills adjacent to the canal. Most of the mills were built after the arrival of the railway in 1839, but still preferred a canalside location. Crossfield Mill, for example was built in 1843, Norwich Street Mills in 1867, and Grove Mills in c.1870. This concentration of mills alongside a canal must be one of the heaviest in the country. The cotton industry was booming in the first decade of the nineteenth century, reaching peak production in 1913; then came the steady decline which has seen the almost total demise of cotton production in Lancashire. Only a handful of these mills survives today; their tall chimneys (marked on the map as Chy.) have all gone. The map shows a few woollen mills still surviving. Other mills and industries shown include sawmills, a corn mill, works producing iron, leather, soap, 'Grecian Emery', 'Walrus Fibre Cans', plus a bakery and jam manufactory.

Railway

The Manchester and Leeds Railway was first proposed in 1830 along a line surveyed by George Stephenson and James Walker. The 1831 bill was opposed by the canal company, but an Act was obtained in 1836. The line was opened as far as Littleborough in 1839, and through to Leeds in 1841. The line was noted for its gentle gradients and its long sweeping curves. In 1847 the company became the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. The original Rochdale Station was ¼ mile to the north-east; the present station was built in 1889.

Trams

The line along Oldham Street (to Buersill, Summit, Royton and Oldham) was originally built by the Manchester, Bury, Rochdale and Oldham Steam Tramways Company Ltd in 1883. It was built at 3ft 6inch gauge, but later converted to standard gauge (4ft 8½"). The tramways were taken over by Rochdale Corporation in 1904, and closed in 1931.

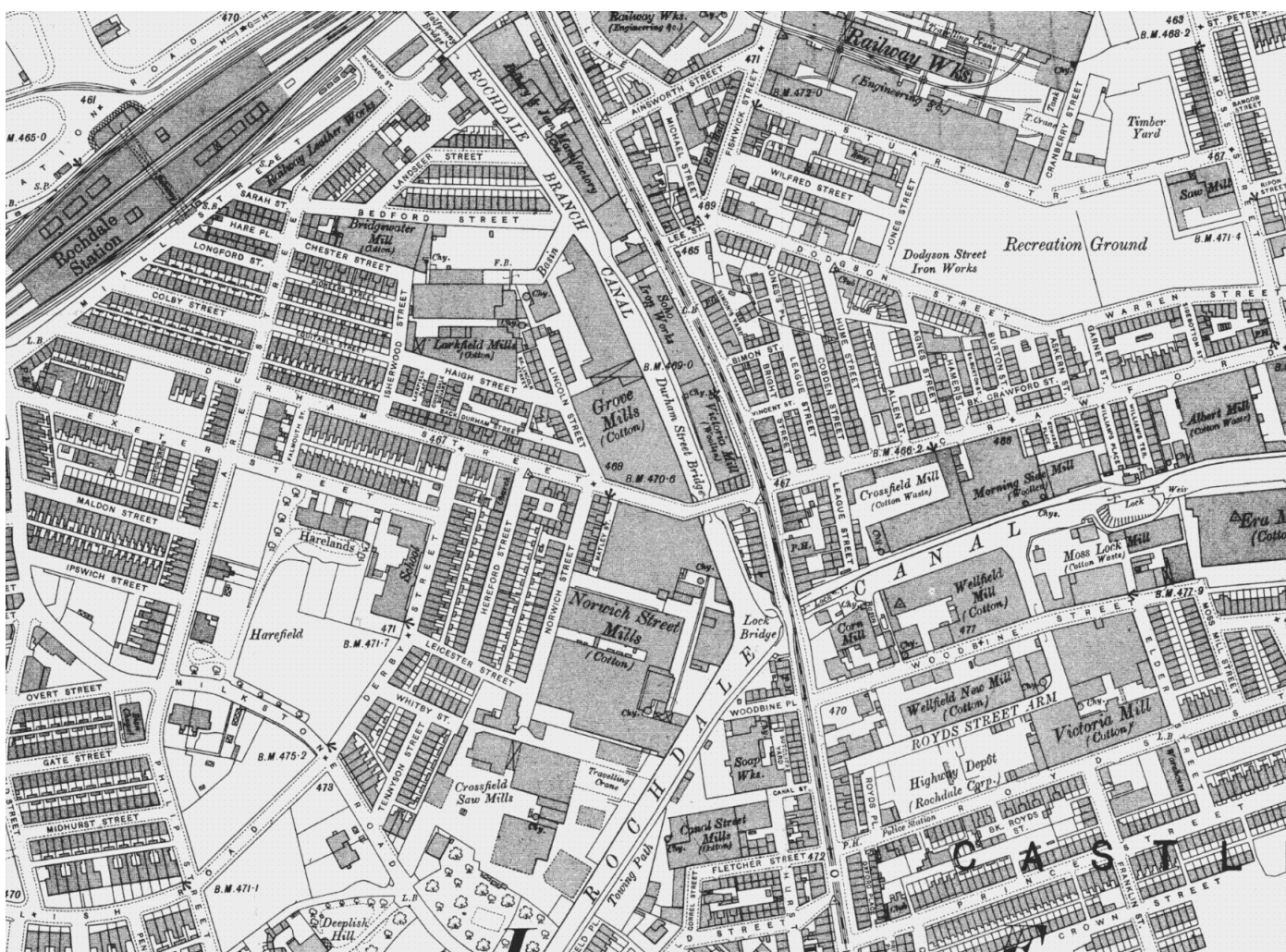
Housing

Most of the housing is terraced, though there are quite a few back-to-back houses notably north of Crawford Street, for example in the rather inappropriately named Cobden and Bright Streets [Cobden and Bright were both reforming politicians of the mid-nineteenth century; Bright was born

in Rochdale, the son of a mill owner]. Much of the terraced housing still stands.

Directory

The map can be complemented by the entries in a local commercial directory, even though they date from eight years after the map revision. Some weekly rents for housing are given; along Oldham Road they are from 3/6 (17p) to 5/6 (27p), rising to 6/6 (32p) near St Mary's Church (quarter of a mile south of this extract). On Royds Street they rise to 7/- (35p), giving an immediate impression of the status and wealth of each part of the town. There is an interesting mixture of food and other retailing outlets amongst the housing.



References

- Ashmore O 1982 *The Industrial Archaeology of North west England*
- Fishwick H 1889 *The History of the Parish of Rochdale*
- Hadfield C and Biddle G 1970 *The Canals of North West England*
- Hindle P 1998 *Maps for Historians*
- Hyde W G S n.d. *The Manchester Bury Rochdale and Oldham Steam Tramway*
- Marshall J D 1969-70 *The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway*

The Directory entries are taken from Clegg's Commercial Directory of Rochdale, 1916

151 Wrigley, Mrs.
 153 Isherwood & Greenwood, plumbers
 159-161 Nurrish, John
 163-173—4/6 to 5/6 per week
 175-177 Horsfall, John E., restaurant
Ainsworth street
 179 Ogden, Sarah, wardrobe dealer
 181 Aspinall, Gibson
 183 Schofield, Mrs. A. E.
 185 Whitehead (S.) & Son, sheet metal workers. Tel. 800
 187 Gregory, John R., fried fish dealer
 189-193 Wild, James A., pawnbroker and jeweller
 195 Middleton, Edgar, grocer and baker
 197 Gibson, Alfred, tobacconist
 199 Standring, Frank, saddler
 201 Turner, Robert, fent warehouse
 203 Matthew, Fred, fruiterer, fishmonger
Lee street
 217 Gardner, O., hairdresser & tobacconist
 219 Shorrock, J., glass and china dealer
 221 Fletcher, W. & R., colonial butchers
 223 Standring, Fred, newsagent, stationer
 225 Heap, John, chip and tripe dealer
 227 Maypole Dairy Co. Ltd., grocers, etc.
 229 Graham, Mrs. Mary, confectioner
 231 Ogden, Fredk. C., wardrobe dealer
 233 Morning Star. W. Nuttall, beerseller
 235-237 Bannister, Mrs. W., drapery and baby-linen
Simon street
 239 Kay, John Henry
 241 Lord, Neville, fruiterer
 243 Howarth, Mrs. Mary
 245 Barker, Miss E.
 247 Kershaw, Henry
 249-251 Ashworth, David, draper
Vincent street
 Bridge Inn Sick and Burial Society.
 Richard Cavanagh, secretary
 253-257 Equitable Pioneers' Society. No. 1
 Grocery, boots and shoes
 259 Leary, Patrick, egg and butter stores
 259a Clowes, R. S., watchmaker & jeweller
 261 Rhodes, Misses, millinery, fancies
 263 Ashworth, John, boot & shoe dealer
 265 Mercers Ltd., chemists, druggists and opticians
Crawford street
 267 Rochdale Coffee House Co., restaurant
 269 Wilkinson, Wm., beef & pork butcher
 271 Cockcroft, H., tobacco and sweets
 273 Wood, Frank, draper and clothier
 275 Duckworth (James) Ltd. No. 4
Bridge Inn yard
 277 Bridge Inn. Hannah Rothwell, licensed victualler
 279 Walton, J., hosiery & stocking knitter
 281 Higginson, Mrs. A., tripe dealer
 283 Butterworth, W. H., tobacconist
 285 White Rose Inn. James Howarth, beerseller
 287 Bateman & Crabtree, tailors. Tel. 383
 289 Fielding, Miss S.
 291 Harris, Herbert, M.D. Tel. 394
Woodbine street
 293 Wilson, S., M.A., M.B. Tel. 644
 293a Thickett, Frank, butcher
 Crabtree, J. & J., Wellfield Old Mill, motor body builders and engineers
 293b Bond, J. E., butcher
 293c Healey, Frank, furniture broker
 295 Fenton, Miss A., fruiterer
 299 Platt, James, draper
 303 Grimshaw, W., painter and decorator
 305 Thompson, Eli, general dealer
 309 Lincoln Inn. James Dean, licensed victualler
Royds street
 311 Duckworth (James) Ltd. No. 5
 313 Fielden, James, chemist
 315 Sutcliffe, Tom, printer and stationer
 317 Ashton, Mrs. Joseph, plumber
 319 Meadowcroft, T. E., fishmonger
 321 Smithson, Mrs. A. C., pawnbroker
 323 Atkinson, Mrs. S. A., fruiterer
 325 Crabtree, Miss S., baker, confectioner
 327 Collinge, J. T., butcher
 329 Lord, Fred, draper

OLDHAM ROAD MILL
 Wareing (Thos.) & Co., Grecian Emery Works. Emery rollers, etc. Tel. 151
 Rochdale Slipper Co. Venetian slippers
 Greenwood & Lister, cop winders
 Preston, A. & W., picture framers
 Tel. 674
Half penny bridge
 Duckworth (James) Ltd., grocers
 Registered office. Tel. 38
 Tomlinsons (Rochdale) Ltd., Soho Iron-works, textile machinists. Tel. 54
 Victoria Mill
 52 Bunting, John, hairdresser
Durham street
 Red Rose Inn. A. Pearson, beerseller
 56 Saunders, Geo., clogger & cycle agent
 58 Kitchin, F. R., saddler
 60 Cooke, J., hairdresser
 62 Wild, Jane, fruiterer
 64 Lee, Frank, watchmaker & jeweller
 66 Law, Mrs. Phoebe, artificial teeth
 68 Sharples, William, herbalist
 70 Marriott, Sarah, dining rooms
 72-74 Green, Robt., baker & confectioner
 82 Dusty Miller Inn. George E. Porter, licensed victualler
Woodbine place
 86-94—3/6 to 4/6 per week
 96 Norbury, Thos., grocer & tobacconist
 100 Kershaw, Thomas, chimney sweeper
Canal street
 Dixon (R.) & Co., soap manufacturers
 Fethney Bros., machinists
 Rochdale Skip Co., skip manufacturers
 104 Prince Albert Inn. John Taylor, beerseller
 106 Smith, J. T. B., clogger, shoemaker
 108 Field, Charles, fried fish and chips
 110-112 Coupe, Mrs. E., milliner
 114 Lord, Frank, confectioner, off-license
Fletcher street
 122 Mahony, M. J., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., branch surgery. Also at 189 Drake street
Wellfield street
 124 Rigg, Mary Ann, operative
 126 Dearden, Edward
 128 Schofield & Ratcliffe, confectioners

Royds Street

1-3 Borough Police Branch Station
 Rochdale Corporation yard for stores
 Victoria Spinning Co. Ltd., cotton spinners. Tel. 256
Elder street
 101-109—6/- to 7/- per week
 111 Hill, M., baker and confectioner
Moss mill street
 Ashworth's dining rooms
Sandfield road
Oxford place
 2-10—5/- to 5/6 per week
 Hamilton, James, sheet metal worker
 Tel. 439
 12-52—5/- to 5/6 per week
Franklin street
 Metcalfe & Co., hame & chain makers
 54 Provident Co-operative Society
Elder street
 76 Meadowcroft, John, grocer
 78-104—6/- to 7/- per week
 106 Heyworth, James, butcher
 108 Catanach, George, fried fish & chips
Sandfield road