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7 Leave the park by the main gate and turn right, just up the hill and across the road is the **Steam Tramway Reversing Triangle**.

This was in use from 5th December 1881 until 30th November 1900. It marked the southern end of the first steam-powered tramway authorised to run along a public highway. The line from Darwen Circus to St. Peter Street, Blackburn opened on 14th April 1881, and was later extended to this terminus. It was declared an ancient monument in 1977.

8 Continue down Bolton Road to **Ashton Park**.

This, the newest of Darwen's parks, is located on the site of the Darwen Paper Mill lodges and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2007. The entrance from Bolton Road is dominated by a machine glazing paper-making cylinder made in 1888 by Bentley & Jackson Ltd of Bury, used by New Waterside Paper Mill until 1967, after which it was displayed outside their premises. It was brought to this site in 2004.



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9 Next is **St Joseph's Church**.

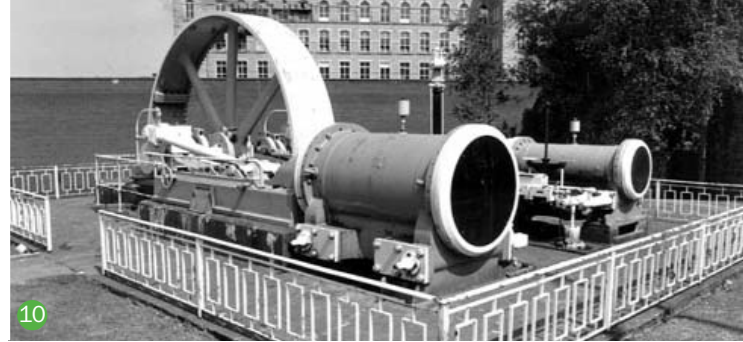
Built 1884/5 to the design of Pugin and Pugin of London by John Knowles of Darwen. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop Vaughan on May 3rd 1884 and it opened on 18th October 1885, at a cost of £6000. The tower was not built, although on the plans, but an extension, by O.C. Hill of Manchester, was added on the site in 1910, hence the random rubble section of the wall. Eventually this was partly covered by later extensions.

10 Next comes **India Mill**.

Built between 1859 and 1867 for Eccles Shorrock, Brothers and Co. The sheds stood empty during the American Civil War and the Marquis of Hartington opened an art exhibition here on 7th May 1868. The machinery was ordered in 1870. The engines, named 'Victoria' and 'Empress of India', were started in 1871 by the mother of William Shorrock Ashton. Extensions were added in the 1950s and Moseley Mill was built in 1968/70, the roof of which is now the car park for offices occupying the upper floors, following extensive refurbishment.



11



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The 300 feet high Grade II\* listed chimney was started in 1863 and completed in October 1867 at a cost of around £13,000. It was designed by E. Bates of Manchester and is a striking example of Italianate architecture, which was popular at the time. It was built by B. Lloyd of Darwen, its foundation being one of the largest pieces of stone ever quarried in Britain. Ironwork on top of the chimney was removed for scrap during World War II.

Outside is a **Cross Compound Steam Engine**. On becoming obsolete, it was brought to the site by India Mill in 1970.

11 Further down Bolton Road is a **Wallpaper Surface printing machine**.

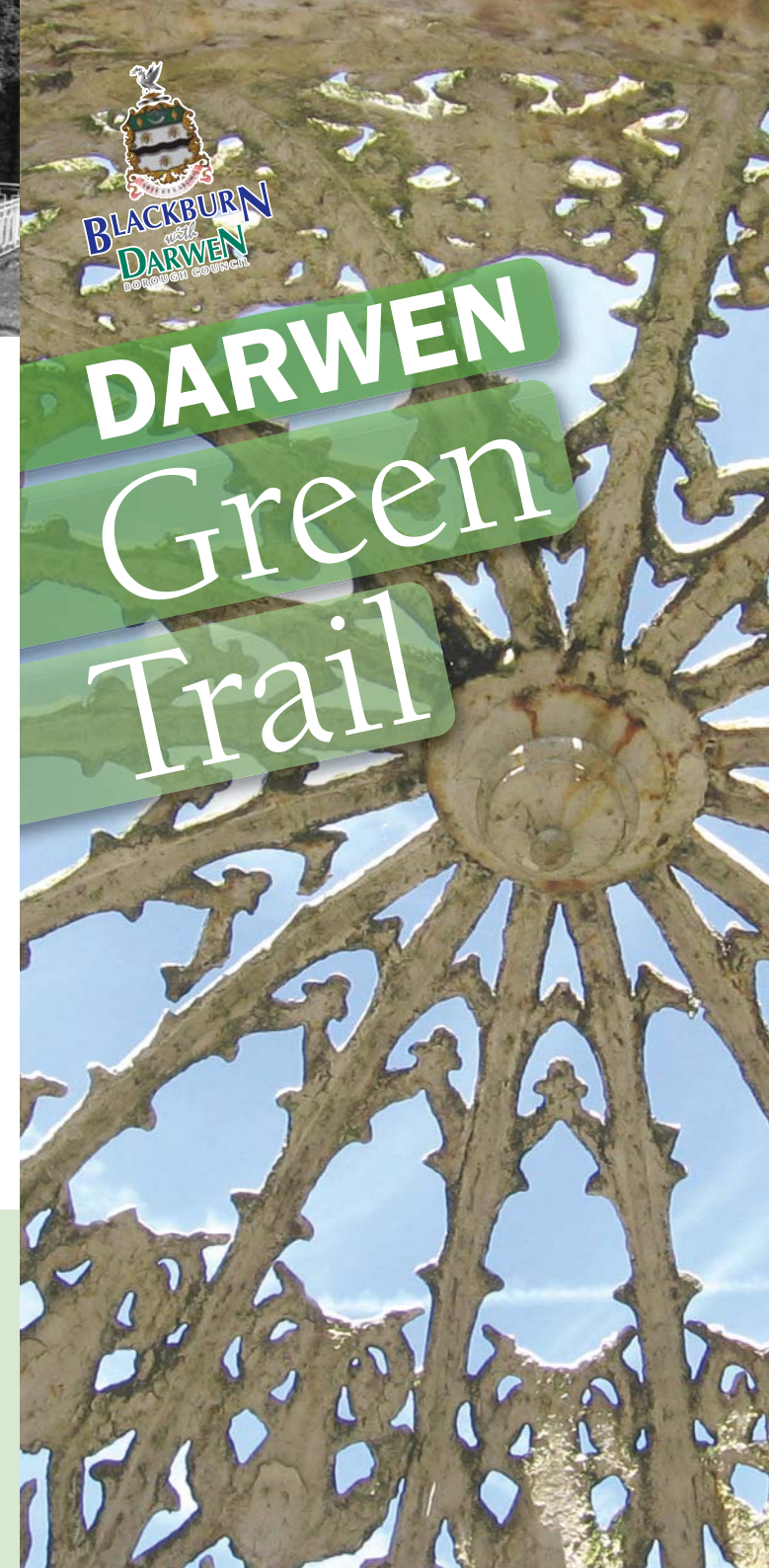
This was donated by Crown Wall Coverings Ltd. and is of a type used in Darwen from the middle of the 19th century. It is fitted with twelve printing stations each capable of printing a different colour.

12 Cross the road at the bottom of Bolton Road to the former **Belgrave Chapel** where the Green Trail ends; you can then pick up the **Town Centre Trail** to continue back to the library.



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 Heritage  
LOTTERY FUNDED



# DARWEN Green Trail





The distance is about three kilometres (2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles); allow a minimum of two hours. It follows paths that can be extremely muddy, so stout shoes are recommended. Some of the houses on this route are people's homes; please respect their privacy.

**1** Start outside the **White Lion pub**, built before 1799, possibly as a loom house and one of Darwen's oldest inns. The building on the left was once the **Provident Co-op**.

Now occupied by a beauty salon, hairdressers' and cafe, this was once home to Gibson's ironmongers and the Darwen Weavers, Winders and Wapers Association. It was designed by the architects Sames and Green of Darwen and built as the 'Tory Co-op,' set up in opposition to the town's more radical co-operative movement. It was opened in 1900 by Conservative MP John Rutherford and closed soon after the First World War.

**2** Turn right and proceed up Borough Road past the former Co-op bakery, which moved here from its Bolton Road premises in 1901. Enter **Bold Venture Park** by the main gate.

This park is Grade II listed in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The first part was formed in Lumb Quarry in 1885. Further land was purchased in 1888 and in 1898 an extension brought the park closer to town. Some of the many gifts to the park included the Hindle Aviary of 1901, replaced by a Pergola in 2005, the Rutherford Bandstand, on what is now the playground and the Gillibrand Observatory, built for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and rebuilt in 1952. In 1902 the Ashton Kiosk was built in the "Top Park" and the Shorrocks Drinking Fountain in the main park. The town's War Memorial was unveiled here on 24th November 1921 by Mrs Chadwick, who lost three sons in the war and had a fourth wounded. New entrance gates were erected in 1956 by Alderman J. Gregory.

**3** Bear left round the lake and exit into Belgrave Road. Continue up the hill and turn left into Radfield Road, bear right and then left up a track behind the houses. This is one of Darwen's secret ways now, but follows the **Limersgate**.

In Anglo-Saxon times this was the main route from Lancashire to Yorkshire and was used by packhorses carrying lime for building and agriculture. There are excellent views of India Mill and St. Peter's Church.

**4** En route, turn left behind Jennet House Farm and pass Kebbs Cottage, mentioned by John Wesley on his visit to Darwen. Exit into Bury Fold and turn left down the hill until you reach **Lowhill House**, built c1812 by Samuel Crompton, inventor of the Spinning Mule. Later it was home to Eccles Shorrocks. A blue plaque marks the spot. Retrace your steps up the hill, turn left onto the bridle path and pass **Bury Fold House** (1675) and then to **Print Shop**.

This was built c1791 by James Livesey as a water-powered carding and spinning mill. Calico printing was begun c1810 by Robert Livesey and ended in 1835, when the premises were bought by Eccles Shorrocks and converted into cottages.

**5** Proceed left up the hill and turn right along Park Road to Queens Road. Turn left down Queens Road and you will pass **Whitehall House**.

This is reputed to be the oldest house in Darwen. It bears a stone inscribed R. H. 1557. It was extended in the 1800s and now houses separate dwellings. It is Grade II listed. Please view this house only from the road.

**6** Retrace your steps and enter **Whitehall Park**. Built in 1886, on land acquired originally in 1876 for extensions to the cemetery, it was opened in 1887 and later extended. A new main entrance was opened on 22nd June 1911 to commemorate the coronation of George V. The bowling green stands where a row of cottages known as Shivery Bottoms once stood. Gifts to the park include an Iron Fountain in 1886 by Mr T. Lightbown, the Catlow Drinking Fountain of 1902 and the Lightbown Lychgate of 1907, restored in 2004. It is a Grade II listed in English Heritage Register of Parks.

