

Shardlow Guided Walk

The original village of Shardlow (which is further up the main road than the canal port) is mentioned in Domesday as Serdelau. The name is thought to derive from Anglo Saxon *scear* or *scearn* meaning a share or division and *hloew*, *hlaw* or *low* meaning rising ground. Before the coming of the canal, Shardlow had been a river port but it really started to develop as a canal port from 1760 with the opening of the eastern section of the Trent and Mersey Canal. Being near the junction between the canal and the River Trent, Shardlow became an important transshipment point between the canal boats and the larger river craft and before very long there were various wharfs, basins and warehouses for coal, timber, lime, cheese, salt, iron and other general merchandise.

Our walk – I have listed the sites in the order we will see them (I hope!). The numbers used refer to the numbers on the copy of the 1852 map

3 Clock Warehouse

Built in 1780 as a warehouse; a channel of the canal and archway allowed boats to go under the building for loading and unloading.

4 The Salt warehouse

Built 1778-9, this was the first of the canal warehouses to be built. It stands between the canal and the road so that goods could be loaded or unloaded from the canal and onto carts on the road.

5 The Limes once the offices of the Trent & Mersey Canal Co, now demolished.

6 Fish ponds belonging to Shardlow Hall. The Hall is in the original village and was built in the 1680s on the proceeds of river trade. The Sutton family (see below) bought it in the 1820s. It is now a nursing home. In this area and on the other side of the main road were once extensive glass houses (22 acres) producing fruit which was exported to as far away as New York!

7 Salt warehouse and cottages built by Thomas Sutton and his son James in the 1790s. Suttons became an important canal carrier in the late 18th early 19th century with various river and canal boats carrying goods all over the country – Liverpool, Manchester, Bristol, Gainsborough, Leicester and other destinations. They later took on The Shardlow Boat Co and became boat builders. By 1850 the business was in decline and was no longer listed in local directories after 1860.

1 The Canal Tavern Now a private house, this building stands on the site of the only river warehouse known to have existed before the coming of the canal. As a canal tavern it brewed its own ale, baked bread and supplied boatmen with fresh meat and other victuals.

2 Lock House

8 Idle Bridge The original bridge got its name from the fact that canal workers would loiter here whilst waiting for work.

34 Broughton House built by Thomas Sutton in the 1790s for his son James. There is a story that it was built to deliberately block the view from the house of a rival family, the Soresbys (now The Lady in Grey). Some sources say it was occupied by James Sutton the elder until his death in 1830, others that he never lived there. It was later occupied by James Clifford, his friend and agent - and later partner of James Sutton junior.

33 The Navigation Inn built by Thomas Sutton 1778/1779. James Sutton was shown as occupying it in 1795/6. There was once a butchers shop attached to the far side. In the field opposite, regular Sunday afternoon prize fights used to take place, often between the wide boatmen of the river and the narrow boatmen of the canal.

30 Home of the Soresbys built some time in the 1770s and known as **The Lodge**. The front was rebuilt at a later date; it is now The Lady in Grey restaurant. In the grounds are the stables for the boat horses which could house up to 80 horses. The Soresbys had originally been river carriers at Cavendish Bridge before the canal was built. They moved to the village just before the canal was built and owned property on both sides of the waterway. Part of the family lived in The Firs on the opposite bank and some in **The Lawns** which is further along Wilne Lane. Trading as Soresby and Flack until 1831 when they became J.W. Soresby, they became big carriers on the canal and river. As trade declined after 1850 they became involved in a cotton mill at Great Wilne and built a steam corn mill at Millfield, further along the canal.

31 32 Rope works built to serve the canal carrying trade. At one time it was owned by James Sutton and later by the Henshall family.

26 Soresby & Flack's wharf and Millfield

A branch of the canal once served this area (the branch has now been restored) where there was a steam corn mill and grain warehouse. The remaining dwelling with the corbelled end is all that remains of the latter and was once five storeys high. If you look closely at the windows you may be able to make out the bricked up loading bays.

25 Cowlshaw Row now called Long Row. These cottages were built in the 1830s by the Cowlshaw family, another long-established family in the village. They became canal and river carriers and coal merchants. William Cowlshaw later described himself as a proprietor of land and houses and tax collector and lived in a house called Holly Villa on the corner of Cowlshaw Row and Wilne Lane.

At this point we will continue up the lane to Great Wilne. If you wish to have a shorter walk you can wait in the area of the New Inn and watch the canal until we get back.

The Methodist Chapel (now a dwelling) marks the start of Great Wilne, the oldest part of the parish, where Roman remains have been found. Here are a fine buttressed barn, Tudor cottage and interesting farmhouses and buildings. There were Iron Age and Bronze Age settlements on this route near to the River Trent, which have been investigated

by the Trent Peak Archaeological Trust, and ancient bridge remains have been found in the gravel quarries on the other side of the Trent. The 18th century turnpike road crossing at Wilden Ferry, now Cavendish Bridge, is the crossing in use today.

24 The New Inn built as a beer house at the time of the opening of the canal and once owned by Mary Cope. It is said to have offered accommodation to boatmen at one time.

23 Coal wharf once owned by Charles Cope

27 Site of Trent Brewery This was built around 1870 on the site of a grain warehouse. By 1874 it was owned by Zachery Smith (born in Ashby de la Zouch) who lived in Broughton House on the main road (34) and by 1881 was employing 20 men. The brewery became a limited company in 1898 and a registered company in 1923. By that time it owned a whole string of properties including several pubs in the village and many elsewhere including The Bull and Lion at Packington and The White Hart in Ashby. When the Company moved to Burton on Trent, the building was used as a malt extraction works but was demolished in 1975. No 2 Mill (35) at one stage became a bottle store for the brewery and the crane outside was used to lift bottles to and from the boats on the canal.

22 Malt warehouse This corbelled building was built by Humphrey Moor in 1799, as a small brewery. An early map shows it as a brewery and when auctioned off by his nephews after his death in 1816, the building contained brewing vessels. It continued as a malthouse and was said to have been haunted by Humphrey Moor. The building which is now The Malt Shovel was once a house and is thought to have been the home of the manager of the malthouse. Although named as The Malt Shovel in the 1891 Census, it was not listed as a public house in the late 19th or early 20th century directories. In a Trust Deed of 1923, the malthouse is mentioned as being unoccupied and the Malt Shovel Inn, a beerhouse, was then owned by Zachary Smith who also owned the brewery on the opposite side of the canal. Beyond the malthouse are two elegant houses, one of which was the home of Humphrey Moore. A little further on is the chapel built by Baptists in 1830. Before this services and Sunday School classes were held in the building which is now The Malt Shovel. The chapel was later taken over by Wesleyan Methodists.

21 Soresby's warehouse and dock once had a boatbuilding yard alongside. Note the semicircular windows seen in several Shardlow warehouses.

20 The Firs The white house is The Firs, once another home of the Soresby family.

19 Soresby's wharf This is the part of the Soresby's property on the opposite side of the canal from their home The Lodge. The path passes Ivy House which was once The Ship Inn.

18 Two cottages belonging to Daniels & Payne. One was once the home of the Gilbert family. George Gilbert wrote memoirs in 1882 in which he talked of his father who had worked for Daniels & Payne for over fifty years. He

described them as wonderful, kind employers who never stopped his father's wages during periods of illness etc. His father was eventually pensioned off at the age of 80 with a weekly pension of 15/- for life and allowed to stay on rent free in his house. For some years prior to retirement he had only been doing a little light work. He died at the age of 85 and the Company continued to pay his widow 10/- per week. She was allowed to stay in the house until her death the following year at the age of 81. The Company paid for both their funerals.

17 The old iron warehouse In the 19th century occupied by Daniels & Payne, iron, steel and tinplate merchants – headquarters in London. The Company changed names several times as the names of partners changed. It is last listed in local directories in 1870. The old iron warehouse was later used as a grain store by F E Stevens & Co and is now the home of Don Fab, sheet metal workers.

16 Number 3 Mill Thought to date from 1792. Some of the warehouses became known as mills when they were used for corn milling.

13 Derwent House once the offices of the Trent Navigation Company.

14 Late 18th century canal workers' cottages

15 Number 1 Mill Warehouse, thought to date from 1816. This was later a steam corn mill and the base of the chimney can still be seen.

10, 11 12 Once a group of warehouses and workshops which included a nailshop and a paint and tar shop. A dock, now filled in, would have allowed boats to moor alongside these buildings, some of which have been demolished. You may get a better view of this area from the other side of the canal at the end of the walk.

9 Cottages and shop demolished when London Road was widened.

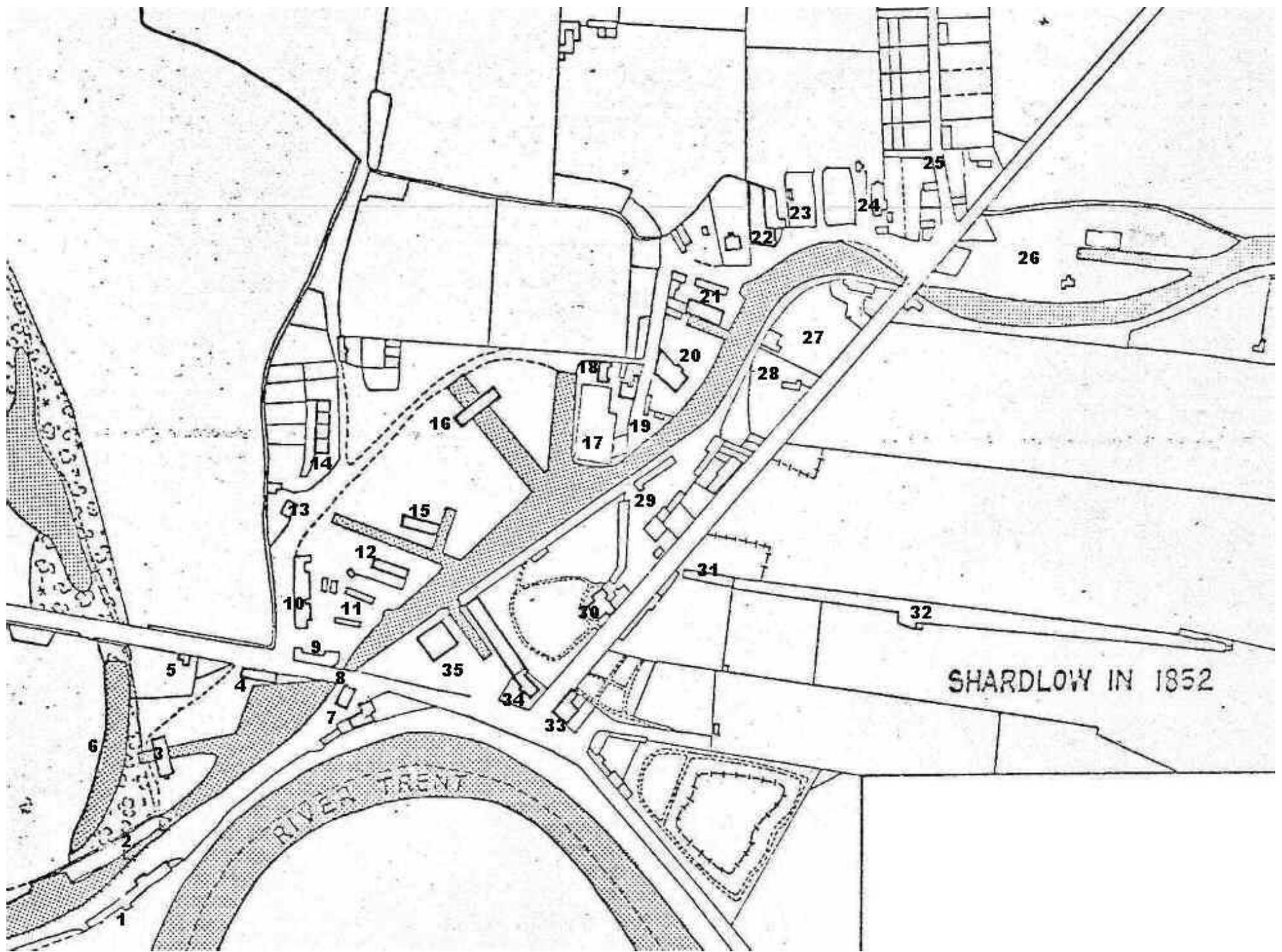
35 Warehouses including No 2 Mill. The long warehouse dates from the 1780s and the square warehouse from the 1820s. The complex was at various times used by the Soresbys and the Suttons and has been a salt warehouse and a general warehouse.

29 Soresby's wharf. including warehouses, stabling and offices.

We will probably walk along the towpath as far as the flood lock before returning back down Wilne Lane to The Navigation Inn.

Lunch has been booked at the Navigation Inn in the name of FREER for 12.30.

If we get back early, have a stroll round by yourselves and don't forget to visit The Shardlow Heritage Centre in the old salt warehouse (4) open 12 - 5pm, entry 75p. They will be able to answer any questions which I couldn't!



SHARDLOW IN 1852

1.	The Canal Tavern	20.	The Firs (built in the 1790's) - owned by the Soresby family
2.	Shardlow Lock and Lockhouse	21.	Soresby's warehouse and dockyard
3.	'B' warehouse	22.	The Maltings - built 1799 as a brewery
4.	'A' Warehouse	23.	Coal Wharf - owned by Charles Cope
5.	The Limes - offices of the T & M Canal Co (demolished)	24.	New Inn - owned by Mary Cope - provided accommodation for boatmen
6.	The fishponds of Shardlow Hall	25.	Cowlshaw's Row, since renamed Long Row
7.	Salt warehouse, Cottages & houses built by Thomas Sutton	26.	Soresby and Flack's wharf, showing the grain warehouse next to which a steam corn mill was later sited
8.	Idle Bridge - named after boatmen 'waiting for work'	27.	Corn warehouse on the site occupied by the Trent Brewery from 1860 to 1970's
9.	Cottages and shop (demolished when London Road was widened)	28.	Coal wharf and the Lawn(s)
10.	Iron Warehouse, blacksmith's shop etc. belonging to Thomas Soar and James Sutton (demolished in 1890's)	29.	Soresby's wharf including warehouses, stabling and offices
11.	Two docks, nailshop, paint and tar shed etc. belonging to James Sutton (all gone)	30.	the Soresby family home (built 1770's), now the Lady in Grey restaurant
12.	'C' warehouse - c. 1820	31.	the Ropery, owned by James Sutton, later run by the Henshall family
13.	Derwent House - one time offices of the Trent Navigation Company - 1794	32.	the Ropewalk
14.	Row of canal workers cottages	33.	the Navigation Inn built by Thomas Sutton 1778/1779
15.	'D' warehouse - 1816	34.	Broughton House built by Thomas Sutton in the 1790's and occupied by James Sutton the elder until his death in 1830 and then by James Clifford, his friend and agent - and later partner of James Sutton junior
16.	'E' warehouse - 1792	35.	Wharf occupied in the early years of the port by the Soresby's and later (by the 1850's) by the Sutton's consisting of a 1780's long warehouse and an 1820's rectangular warehouse with sunburst windows
17.	The Iron Warehouse	21.	Soresby's warehouse and dockyard
18.	2 cottages; one the home of the Gilbert family, whose son George wrote memoirs in 1882	22.	The Maltings - built 1799 as a brewery
19.	Soresby's Wharf		