

Bradford's economy. The dominant feature is the **tithe barn**, built in the early 14th century as part of the medieval farm owned by Shaftesbury Abbey. Its function was to store the produce of the farm, and of the farms of the manor. Tenant farms contributed a tenth, or a tithe, of their produce. *Note: the remarkable timber trusses of the roof, and the original threshing floor.*

Slightly older than the tithe barn is **West Barn** - the restored building at the river end of the tithe barn. This is a recent re-construction on the remains of the 14th century original that was destroyed by fire in 1982.

The **packhorse bridge** was built in the 14th century to link Barton Farm with the lands north of the river. It has been repaired and restored but the structure you see is essentially the original bridge.

10. The large building behind the high wall at the corner of Wine Street and Newtown is the old **Seven Stars brewery**, built in 1841. It is now a mix of flats and office space. Just along the wall from the brewery site entrance is a set of blank arches. Behind these arches is still the large water wheel that once provided power for the brewery.

11. St Mary Tory Chapel has not always been a place of worship. It was a chapel, or hermitage, from at least 1540 until the early 18th century. By the mid-19th century it was a ruin and was restored back to life as a place of worship in 1871. But during the intervening period it was yet another building taken over for use as a cloth factory. The east wall, with the modern stained-glass window, is essentially all that survives from the original chapel.

v2 viewpoint on the paved path that climbs up the hill from the end of Tory. Looking back through the trees can be seen **The Hall** (B), a grand Elizabethan house built by the Halle family around 1590. It has been the home of the Moulton family, pioneers of the rubber industry in Bradford, since

1848. Its grounds now host small industrial units, including the Moulton cycle factory.

12. Dutch Barton played a key role in the success of Bradford's wool industry. In the 1670s it was home to a small number of Dutch weavers who were brought here to teach Bradford weavers the techniques for processing higher quality Spanish wool. In so doing they were instrumental in regenerating the cloth trade in the town.

13. Abbey Mill. This imposing structure was built in 1875 as a cloth mill; a defiant gesture in the face of the industry's steep decline. The mill closed in 1902. It served as a barracks during the First World War, then was later taken on by Avon Rubber who used it as a factory until the early 1990s. It is now retirement apartments.

14. St Margaret's Hall was built in the late 18th century as a dye house for the cloth trade, and continued as such until 1903. It is now the town's main public hall and houses the town council offices.

The **River Avon** itself was an important part of the wool trade. As well as powering mills, its waters were used to rinse cloth. Platforms and small islands just downstream of the Town Bridge were used for this purpose. One of these islands remains and can be seen in the river between the town bridge and Abbey Mill.

For further information: The Information Centre stocks a selection of local interest leaflets and a colour history guide.

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Abbey Mill

BRADFORD ON AVON INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE

From the 16th century to the end of the 20th, Bradford on Avon was a manufacturing town. The wool trade fuelled the early wealth and provided an abundance of stone buildings and narrow lanes. As that trade dwindled in the 19th century it was replaced by rubber manufacture, driven by demand from war, railways and the motor industry.

This leaflet will guide you in an exploration of this industrial past.

Please be aware that some parts of the town are accessed by steep and sometimes uneven paths.



Chapel of St Mary, Tory

Millie, the Millennium statue

Refer to the map for the locations of each numbered entry. The map is intended to allow you to construct your own route around the town.

1. Westbury House is an early 18th century clothier's house that originally had a factory behind it. The name comes from Richard Bethel who owned the house in the 19th century and became Baron Westbury. In 1791 there was a riot by weavers protesting about Joseph Phelps introducing machinery at his factory here. Phelps shot and killed three of the crowd. It was ruled that the deaths were justified, and Phelps was awarded £250 compensation! However, the protestors did manage to destroy a scribbling horse machine (used in combing and separating wool in readiness for spinning).

2. 'Millie', the statue in what were Bradford's Festival Gardens, was erected in 2000 as part of Bradford's millennium celebration. The bronze figure represents a mill girl and acknowledges the importance of the cloth trade to the town. She carries a distaff (cleft stick) and a spindle, tools of the wool trade, and is releasing a dove as a symbol of freedom and hope.

3. Lamb's yard is the courtyard with the large redundant mill building. It takes its name from the Lamb Inn, which stood where the entrance now is. The mill building is at the end of the Kingston Mills industrial complex:

4. Kingston Mills, best viewed from the library car park, or from a later viewpoint (v1), are redundant remains of Bradford's dominant rubber industry. The original Kingston Mill was for the manufacture of woollen cloth but was taken over in 1848 by Stephen Moulton. Moulton was a colleague of Macintosh, who had developed a method to vulcanise rubber. At Kingston Mill Moulton seized this new technology and, boosted by the markets presented by the Crimean War and the development of Britain's railways, began Bradford's successful rubber

industry. Moulton's enterprise became the Spencer Moulton company and was taken over by Avon Rubber in the 1950s. Avon maintained a significant presence in the town until 1994.

5. Bridge Street, although now mainly a residential road, was a centre of Bradford's rubber and other industries.



Greenland Mills, at the end of Bridge Street beyond the railway, were a key part of the rubber industry. But as that declined they were put to other uses. Notable among these were the manufacture of Marcos cars, from 1962 until 1970, and Royal Enfield motorcycles. Royal Enfield's association with Bradford lasted from 1941 until 1969. Long before then, Bridge Street, and another site along Trowbridge Road, had iron foundries. The names Uncles

and Avonside can still be seen on manhole and drain covers in the town. The Greenland Mills site has since been redeveloped for housing.

v1. viewpoint on the path up to the scout hut. Below the spire of Christ Church is the old windmill (A). This interesting building is now a private guesthouse, but was originally built as a genuine working windmill between 1800 and 1810. It was an enterprise by a local baker to mill his own flour. He had little success; the venture failed after only a few years.

6. The railway station was built in 1848 on Brunel's wide-gauge route. But for nine years it was little more than an isolated folly; financial and engineering problems meant that the tracks were not laid until 1857. What is now the station car park was an extensive goods yard and on the other side, south of the station, were sidings and sheds.

7. Bradford's gasworks were on Frome Road, opposite victory field, where a terrace of modern houses now stands. Gas was manufactured from coal, shipped to the nearby wharf from the Somerset coalfields.

8. The wharf on the Kennet and Avon Canal was split over two sites. The lower wharf, where the Lock Inn Cottage café now stands, is where coal was received from the Somerset Coal Canal and the Kennet and Avon Canal. The larger wharf is the upper wharf, beside the lock. Both were busy as commercial wharves from 1810 to the 1930s. The first cuts for the Kennet and Avon Canal itself were made in Bradford in 1794. It opened for commercial business in 1810 and revolutionised the transport of stone from the local quarries.

9. The Barton Grange farm complex and packhorse bridge are testimony to agriculture's early dominance of