

THE TRAIL ROUTE

From the car park at Trencherfield Mill, the Wigan Pier Complex, there are two alternative routes. You could walk towards the canal. You are opposite Wigan Investment Centre and the Boat Yard. There is a narrow boat weather vane on the roof of the boat yard. The tow path is cobbled but you could follow it along the side of Trencherfield Mill towards the bridge. Go under the bridge and up the steep cobbled incline. Keep on the path and cross the footbridge over the canal towards the Orwell Pub. Between the pub and The Way We Were you will find:

1

Tactile Map

Tactile Map of the Wigan Pier Complex, 1998.

Tony Staunton-Unsworth

The Way We Were, Wigan Pier.



Tony Staunton-Unsworth is a Wigan-based sculptor who produced this sculpture with students from a local school. It is designed to be an aid to visually impaired visitors to the Wigan Pier heritage site. It deals with issues of scale and orientation.

Close your eyes and feel around the sculpture.

What do you notice?

How does it feel?

warm cold hard soft smooth scratchy
rough rigid flexible furry lumpy icy
angular rounded bumpy blobby sharp shiny

What material do you think it is made from?

wood metal plastic plaster ceramic glass

How do you think it was made?

The canal feels sharp- how do you think the marks were made, what sort of tool could you use to make those kind of marks?

The sculpture is cold and solid, like an iceberg. It has braille information. It is bronze and was cast. Look for signs of how the original could have been made. Look for surface textures, fingerprints etc. See if you can find Trencherfield Tower on the map and then compare it to the real tower built in 1907. Notice that some parts of the sculpture are smooth, others more textured.

Possible Activity.

What would your home / school look like from the air? You could create a model using cardboard. This would link in with Unit 2C (art) Can buildings speak? (Look at the shapes that buildings create.), Unit 1 (Geography) Around your school-the local area.

Return towards No. 16 Wigan Pier and go back across the little wooden bridge heading towards Trencherfield Tower. Cross the road at the marked crossing and proceed left towards the mill. Turn in through the gates and this will lead you past the loading entrance of the mill and round to: