



## **2 Bridgewater Canal**

The Bridgewater Canal has been described as England's first canal. It was named after owner, Francis Egerton, the third Duke of Bridgewater, and was constructed to transport the Duke's coal from his mine at Worsley. Coal was used in large quantities to fuel the Industrial Revolution.

Opened on 17th July 1761, the Bridgewater Canal was the first canal in Britain to be built without following an existing watercourse. Known as the 'Dukes Cut', the Bridgewater Canal revolutionised transport in England.

## **3 Minshull Street, Aytoun Street, Chorlton Street**

Roger Aytoun was a mid-eighteenth century soldier known by the nickname of 'Spanking Roger'. He married the wealthy Barbara Minshull and proceeded to spend and waste her fortune.

During the Twentieth Century, Aytoun Street included some major civic and corporate buildings such as the Crown Court, the Employment Exchange and the Grand Hotel. The Grand Hotel is where, in 1896, Sir Humphrey de Trafford sold his rural estate of Trafford Park by auction to Ernest Tereh Hooley, the world's first industrial estate.

Chorlton Street is where Sir Joseph Whitworth, a philanthropist and engineer, set up his famous workshop in 1833. He made machine tools accurate to one thousandth of an inch. His inventions helped make Manchester one of the world's greatest engineering centres.

## **4a Central Library to Oxford Road Station (4b)**

During the mid-nineteenth century, in the area that stretches from Central Library, with its neo-classical dome and features designed by E. Vincent Harris, down Oxford Road across the Rochdale Canal to Oxford Road Station, there were at least seventy different types of business, from violin makers and tea importers to big locomotive works.

Many of the buildings on the east side of Oxford Street backed on to the wharves of the Rochdale Canal, but they have long since been filled in.

[www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries/central](http://www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries/central)