

The Portland Path Trail

The Portland Path Trail is designed to take you along the early 19th century Tramway route that connected the Portland collieries, in Kirkby-in-Ashfield, to the Cromford Canal wharf at Jacksdale and the Butterley Ironworks over the river Erewash in Codnor Park.

The first Portland collieries were sunk in the early 1820s to provide much needed coal to both the Iron works and the emerging domestic market. Although these small collieries were sunk next to the 1819 Mansfield to Pinxton Railway, which terminated at the Pinxton Wharf on the Pinxton Arm of the Cromford Canal, it proved more efficient to create a new branch line to take the coals directly to the new canal wharf at Jacksdale and the Codnor Park Iron Works.

The wharf at Jacksdale provided a means to ship coal to the domestic markets in other Counties.

The new branch line railway was constructed of three foot long fish-belly style rails which sat on stone blocks called padstones. The rails were spiked into an oak plug in the middle of the stone.

At two points along the three mile railway across the parish of Selston and into Kirkby, the horses were given a rest from pulling the coal waggons, by the use of static steam engines (called whimsy engines) that were used to pull the waggons up the inclines and gently lower them back down the other side.

As you progress to each point along the trail try to imagine the atmosphere and the ingenuity of the engineers of the early 1800s.

Each point noted on this map has its own plaque. However when you arrive at The Crown Public House, at Dove Green, you will be fascinated by the exciting mosaics produced by the community that tell the story of the tramline.



How to find the trail

Point '1' on the trail is to be found at Jacksdale Wharf Green, Main Road, Jacksdale, Notts, NG16 5JW. At this point you can leave your car in the car park adjacent to the Community Centre.

Point '5' is to be found in the car park of 'The Crown Inn', 48 Mansfield Road, Selston, NG16 6DE. Here you will be enthralled by two magnificent mosaics created especially for the trail.



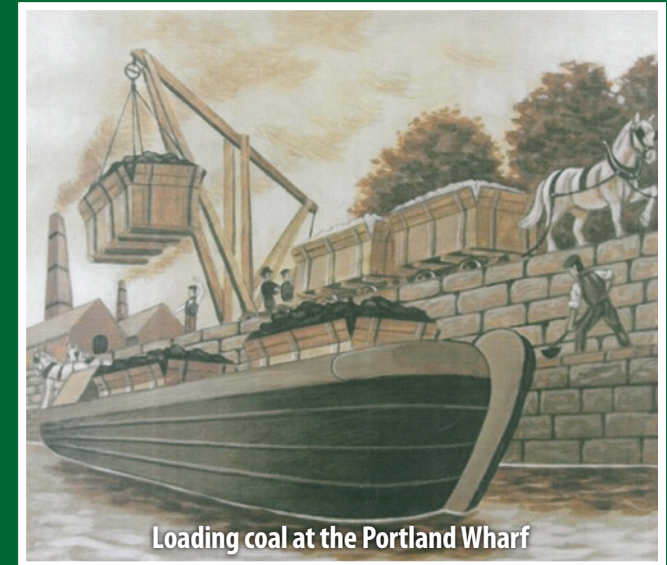
This leaflet and the trail has been researched, created and written by the Portland Path Project and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



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Following the route of a former tramway which transported coal from Kirkby and Selston to Jacksdale and beyond.



Loading coal at the Portland Wharf



Pulling the wagons past The Crown Inn

These two images depict the mosaics to be found in The Crown Inn car park.