

WELCOME TO THE SABDEN CALICO AND CLOGS HERITAGE TRAIL

Using a series of information boards along the way, this easy walk (pushchair and wheelchair friendly) meanders through the village and will give you a glimpse into life and work at the height of the local textile industry.

Overleaf is a simple map to guide you with waymarkers at junctions. The route is less than a mile in length, please allow one to two hours and return via the same route.

Scan the QR codes for extra details at each point.



Calico printing was a major part of textile production in the village. The local water was ideal to treat the fabric, with large lodges (including Stubbins Lodge, now excavated to its original size) created east of the village for washing the finished cloth. In the surrounding fields, it was a common sight to find fabric hung out to dry.

Clogs were the preferred footwear for many workers; the thick soles and durable wood provided protection against grease and water in the production areas. Fred Green's shop on Whalley Road was a clog maker serving the local community in this capacity.

WE START AT

Union Mill/information board on mill wall

Built in 1856 as a cotton mill, this is the best-preserved mill in the village. Its original structure is still intact and boasted 208 looms in operation, which was later extended to 350 in 1904. Weaving continued to 1964.

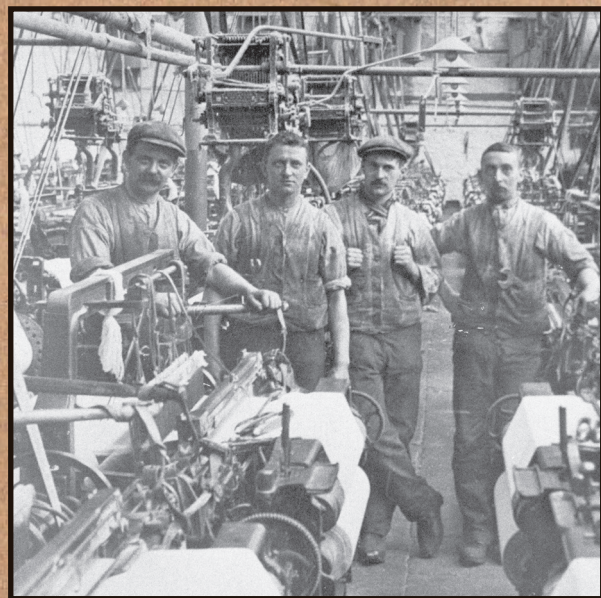
Walk down Watt Street to the bridge over the brook.

Victoria Mill/information board on wall

Looking across Sabden Brook is the site of Victoria Mill, which was completed in 1848 and employed around 250 people spinning cotton. Textile production was a risky business due to the usage of flammable materials; huge fires in 1892 and 1912 destroyed part of the building.

The Victoria Fold housing complex stands on the site of the old mill and uses the original stone from the mill in the construction of the new houses. The curved building on the water's edge recreates the old Maplin building. A reduced-size replica chimney is constructed to encourage nesting birds.

Retrace your steps to Watt Street junction. Cross over to the brook side path/community information board on local houses and village map.



Cobden Mill/information board on riverside walk

This huge mill was named after Richard Cobden, who was a driving force in local and national politics. A prominent member of parliament and a successful businessman, Cobden is commemorated by a bust installed at the water's edge.

Little of the mill remains visible. Modern housing covers the area with just the outer wall preserved at the water's edge, where the water meets grooves set into the walls by the steps that were once used to drop in timbers to raise the water level upstream. This allowed water to facilitate maintenance work downstream or possibly to build up a volume of water for production use.

The importance of Sabden Brook is shown by the steps; not only did the brook power the mill, it also supplied valuable drinking water and access to water use to local households. Other sources of water include Pewter Well (near Heyhouses) and a reservoir created south of the village (near Simonstone Road), which supplied water to the village of Read.

Continue along the brook and cross over Jubilee Bridge.

The Holme/information board at side of path

The area known as Lower Holme was originally allotments where villagers could grow vegetables. Over the years, the village thrived with many local trades such as grocers, butchers, clothing retailers, co-ops, fish and chips shops and a number of pubs. The house just visible to your left from the gym equipment (beyond the children's playground with a balcony) is known as the 'Angles' and at one time was the local slaughterhouse.

Walk past the gym equipment and go to the car park via the steps. For wheeled access, use the level path to the car park.

Cross the car park and go right to Bull Bridge.

NOTE - take care crossing at the White Hart as there is no footpath for a few metres.

Bull bridge/information board on fencing near bench

Originally the old parish boundary, this bridge is the only vehicle crossing of Sabden Brook in the Sabden parish.

Turn up Stubbins Lane as far as the next board on the left.

Stubbins Mill/information board on the left

This mill was built for calico printing and later became a general printing company run by Birtwells, prior to demolition in recent years to make way for new homes. The original retaining wall can be seen at the rear of the new property.

Little but a few cobbles near to the end of the road remain of this once extensive building. A major fire in 1912 led to the mill's closure. Being a workers' cooperative, this was a severe blow to the village economy. The caravan park now covers most of the footprint occupied by the mill.

Stubbins Lane/information board in notice board

At the next junction (where the council notice board is) there is a short (optional) detour along a track leading off the Sabden Brook Lane to the Stubbins Lodge area. This is where the calico fabric would be washed prior to processing. The mild local water gave the fabric a natural cream colour.

NOTE: Allow half an hour for this detour.

Proceed to the entrance to St Nicholas Church.

Built in 1841, this Grade II listed building was originally consecrated to St Simon and St Jude, eventually being consecrated to St Nicholas and Heyhouses Church in 1846. The church houses a rare John Laycock organ (built in 1879) which is considered an "instrument of importance to the national heritage and one deserving careful preservation for the benefit of future generations."

St Nicholas is one of the few Lancashire churches to maintain a Rose Queen tradition, which started in 1949.

Proceed past the church and parish hall entrance to the hamlet of Heyhouses.

Heyhouses/information board near the bench

Heyhouses is the original settlement in this area and boasts a sturdy bridge crossing the brook at this point. It was the major route up and down the valley when the main local activity was farming and old maps show it more prominently than Sabden.

Ending our walk here is a step back to a time when the mills did not exist and the pace of life was determined by farming and the season.

This trail has been coordinated by Sabden Parish Council and is supported by funding from the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership.

Sabden Heritage Trail Calico & Clogs thank the following sources for their contributions

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Inspired by pupils of
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Richard Cobden bust on display courtesy of Susan Wray.

Route by information board order

1. Union Mill starting board - walk down Watt Street to bridge.
2. Victoria Mill board - follow the riverside walk to Cobden Mill.
3. Cobden Mill board - continue on the path to cross the brook at Jubilee Bridge.
4. Jubilee Bridge board - follow the brook to the car park via steps or path across road to White Hart and turn right to Bull Bridge.
5. Bull Bridge board - turn up Stubbins Lane.
6. Stubbins Lane board - continue up the road to the notice board.
7. Drying Fields info plus optional detour - continue up road past church entrance.
8. Heyhouses board on right - return to village.

