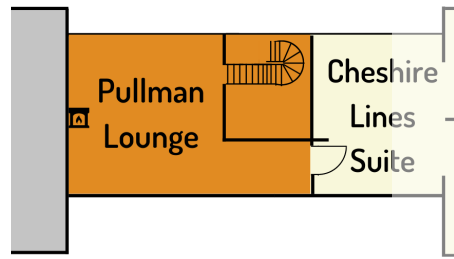


First Floor

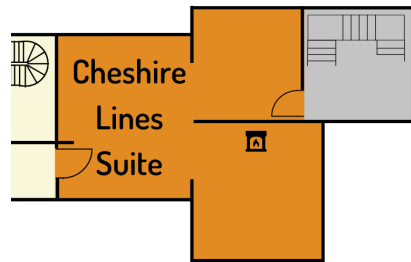


Take a walk down memory lane and look at the selection of photographs of the station, including the original station house and a group of WW1 prisoners-of-war, who worked in some of the local industries.

There are lamps, antique signal box block bells along the shelves, more cast iron plaques and even a signal in the corner!

There is a short 15 minute presentation available to watch on the screen - just ask a member of the team. It is also available to see in The Coal Yard

Learn more about the community and local companies.



Discover the importance of the commercial waterways in the area and how the first commercial passenger railway in the world was built across Chat Moss.

Marvel at the extensive tramway system that criss-crossed the peat bog and carried night soil from Manchester, which helped stabilise the land.

In the area by the fireplace, The King's Highway (Liverpool Road) is celebrated and opposite these photographs are further images of some of the industries highlighted in The Coal Yard.

Outside there is more to see...

Irlam Station Heritage Trail

Why not take a stroll around the Signal Yard and Station Park where you will discover quirky art pieces and exhibits that celebrate the area's rich industrial heritage.

Key

- 1 Signal Box & Yard
- 2 James the Train
- 3 Bridging the Gap mural
- 4 Station House café & Heritage Hub
- 5 Man on the Bench
- 6 Wheels of Local Industry
- 7 Hobbit House
- 8 Cheshire Lines mural
- 9 Station Art Park
- 10 Cycle hub
- 11 Car park
- 12 Toilets

For more information about Irlam Station's Heritage Hub, scan the QR code

Welcome to the Heritage Hub at

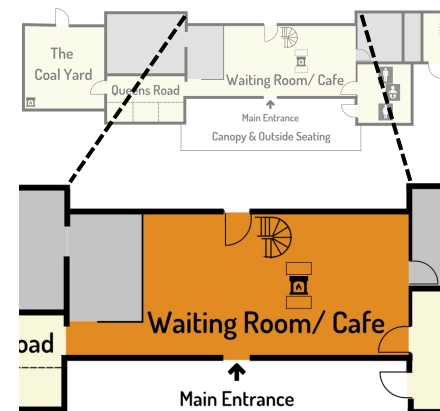
IRLAM STATION

Please use this guide as you wander through Station House and find out more about the industrial past of Irlam and Cadishead and the communities that lived and worked here.

In some rooms there are QR codes available to help you further explore the collections.

Occasionally, parts of Station House may be closed to the public whilst meetings or private events are underway. We are sorry if this happens on the day of your visit.

Ground Floor



Around the café area are various railway artefacts - posters, maps, books, lamps, signalling equipment and cast iron plaques. Have you noticed the loco steps on the wall near the coffee machine?

Old cigarette and sweet vending machines remind us of how life used to be. The clock in the long case once hung in the CWS Margarine Works in Higher Irlam. On the wall opposite are several drawings of the district.

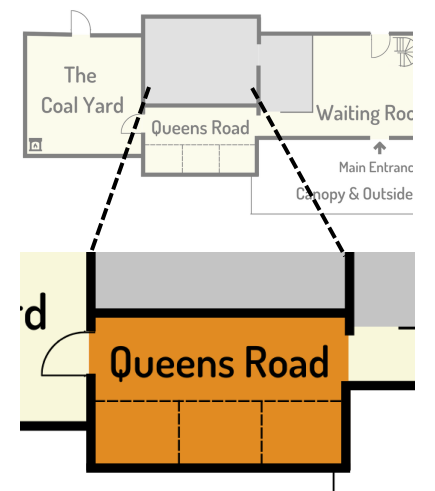
Look up above the fireplace and you will see a replica of the Irlam Council Offices' clock; its original internal workings can be seen up in The Cheshire Lines Suite.

During the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal (MSC), opened in 1894, the original railway lines through Irlam and Cadishead required deviation and elevation to raise them 75 feet above the canal to enable ships to pass underneath.

The original line in Irlam became a branch line from the Canal to Irlam Station, running at a lower level and parallel to the new track. It was used by the CWS Soap Works to transport its workforce and was known as the Queens Road.

The replica carriages are based on the 'Soap Works Special'. The railway companies used some of the finest poster artists of the day to tempt passengers onto their trains. You can see some typical examples above the seats of our 'Soap Works Special'.

Notice the green WWII demobilisation suitcases on the left-luggage shelves. The red Boulton and Paul fire pump was made in Norwich in the early 20th century.



Why not take a selfie with the 'Ticketmaster' and share it to facebook @HamiltonDaviesTrust or Twitter @HamiltonDavies



We hope you have enjoyed exploring Station House. Please leave this guide for others to use.

The Coal Yard

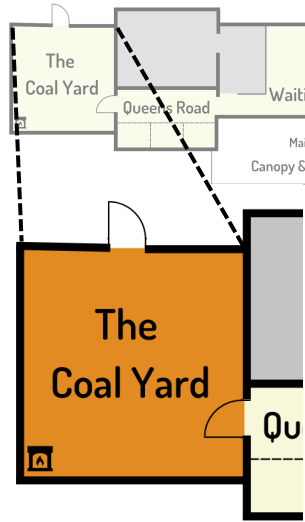
A Journey through the Industries of Irlam and Cadishead

The combination of the openings of the Cheshire Lines Committee Railway (CLC) in Cadishead and Irlam in 1873 and the Manchester Ship Canal (MSC) in 1894 can be said to be the catalyst for the rapid development of local industries. The company names on the wall highlight some of the businesses that once thrived in the district. Photographs and further information on these and more can be found upstairs in the Cheshire Lines Suite, on the Heritage Boards in front of the Station House and in the car park en-route to the Wheels of Local Industry. The display cabinet holds artefacts, donated by local people, that reflect the area's heritage and displays are changed regularly.

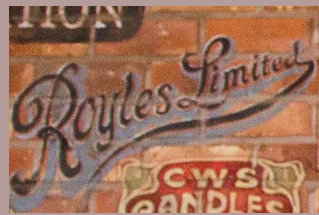
There is a short 15 minute presentation available to watch on the screen but please speak to a member of the team if it is not playing. It is also available to see in The Pullman Lounge.



Photo showing the coal merchant based on the Cadishead approach to Irlam Station



CWS Soap and Candle Works was the first factory in the district to open as a result of the MSC. Its wharf was 300 feet long. The extensive sidings and rolling stock ran on the original CLC line to Irlam Station, known locally as the Queens Road. At one time the works employed over 1,000 people.



Royles was the largest engineering firm in the district. The factory had iron and brass foundries and made steam speciality products. Their perfection, design and good workmanship was highly regarded in the engineering world.



The Partington Steel and Iron Works opened in 1910. It subsequently became part of the Lancashire Steel Corporation and later the British Steel Corporation. As the Steelworks grew, a wharf was built on the MSC which allowed ocean-going ships to off-load iron ore. In 1956, a branch line was built connecting the Steelworks to the main line. This required putting a new bridge across Liverpool Road, alongside the existing rail bridge. Being the main employer in the district at the time, the Steelworks' final closure in 1979 resulted in the loss of almost 5,000 jobs.



Brew Bros Builders was founded by Edwin Brew from Wolverhampton. The building company had its own saw and mortar mills. Working both locally and across the North-West, they built the original Irlam Swimming Pool.



The Partington Coaling Basin is the section of the Manchester Ship Canal in which the majority of ships took in coal. It had a length of nearly three-quarters of a mile and twenty-four miles of railway sidings. Hydraulic machinery operated six coal tips, each with a capacity of 300 tons of coal an hour.



The CWS Margarine Works had its own rolling stock and sidings accessed by the MSC railway. It also had running rights along the MSC and the Queens Road. The factory used the latest production methods, having machines that could wrap 90 half-pound packs of margarine per minute.



Morgan Wallworks Ltd was opened in 1945 and received timber via its own sidings from the MSC railway.

The Hulme Patent Advertising Match Co (The Match Works) went into production in 1904 and was one of the first to adopt a system of match making that was non-poisonous.

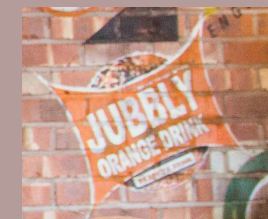


In 1916 The Match Works introduced chip fruit package making, commonly called non-returnables. Known as the Basket and Besto Company Ltd it produced about 80% of the country's non-returnable fruit packages.

Magadi Soda Company once situated near Fairhills Road and the Old River never commenced operation but the old factory was used during WW1 to repair soldiers' boots. It was manned by German POWs, hence it was known as The Jerry Works.



Lancashire Tar Distillers opened in 1928 producing oil, chemicals, tar and pitch.



Jubbly: orange flavoured drinks in a distinctive tetrahedron-shaped packet that was made of waxy covered card. It was very popular in the 1960s to buy a frozen Jubbly. You cut off the top, squeezed up the block of flavoured ice and sucked it until all the orange was extracted.

Thurnall Engineering was formed in 1983 and named after founders Neil McArthur and Graham Chisnall, now Trustees of the Hamilton Davies Trust.

IRLAM STATION

With a nod to modern-day technology businesses now setting up in the area: Opal Telecoms was founded in 1995 by Neil McArthur, later becoming Talk Talk

