

This trail is divided into three sections, with the Milnrow section taking about 45 mins to complete. Then Newhey and Ogden may be reached by car. Each step of the walk is detailed below. This trail starts at Milnrow. Milnrow and Newhey can be reached by bus (Nos. 58, 59, 451, 452, 462) from Rochdale bus station, by Metrolink from Rochdale Railway Station stop or from Rochdale Town Centre stop to Milnrow and Newhey Stations. You can also access Milnrow by car, leaving the M62 at Junction 21 and following the A640 left towards Rochdale, or by using the A640 turn into Bridge Street, then right again into Dale Street. There is a car park off the first right turn in Dale Street, just after the bus stop.

MILNROW

Milnrow has direct and significant links to the beginnings of the Co-operative movement, as one of the original Co-operators in Rochdale, John Collier (seen in the photo of some of the original Pioneers) was a great grandson of Milnrow's "Tim Bobbin", whose real name was also John Collier.

1 The "Red Store", 2 Kiln Lane

At the junction of Kiln Lane with Dale Street is the building which housed the first Co-op in the area: the Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society Ltd which was established in 1850. It was known as the "Red Store". Originally a 3 storey building with a school on the top floor, it is now 2 storey. The formerly round-arched entrance to the ginnel (still to be seen at the rear) between the Store and the adjacent "Bobbin Hotel" has also changed its shape, but has for years been used as a shelter by local children.



Milnrow Co-operative Society, the "Red Store", Kiln Lane

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Well designed window arches can be seen on the first floor, a remnant of the rebuilding of this property at the request of the Co-operative Society, by the reputable firm of Rochdale architects: Butterworth and Duncan.

2 The "Blue Store", 12 Dale Street

Opposite this building is another Co-operative Store, presently occupied by Carpet Creations. This was the impressive home of the Milnrow Conservative Industrial Co-operative Society (known as "The Blue Store") founded in 1874, a short time before the adjoining Milnrow Conservative Club was built in 1880. The architectural style of the Blue Store is similar to that on Shaw Road in Newhey and was enlarged twice, as an inspection of the shop fronts indicates. (It is interesting that the present owners of this business were formerly the managers of Lanebottom Co-op at Ogden).



Milnrow Co-operative Society, The "Blue Store", Dale St

This lower end of Dale Street was a busy Co-operative area, as besides the "Red Store" and the "Blue Store" it also boasted, in the late 19th century, a Co-operative Coffee House, now pulled down. Further up Dale Street, past rows of fine weavers' cottages, is another group of Co-operative buildings.

3 Branch Store, 42 Dale Street

On the corner of Whitworth Street, a typical Branch store in appearance, was the store for the Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society which was established in 1856.

4 Church Street Woollen Mill, 53 Dale Street

On the left, with parts dating from 1846, is a former Co-operative mill, originally known as Church Street Woollen Mill. This became Milnrow Spinning Company

when it was taken over by the Co-operative Society, concentrating on cotton rather than wool. Long before this mill became a Co-operative, the ground floor was reserved for Co-op spinning orders, so great was the importance of this customer. Textile production ceased in 1976 when the building became known as Dale Street Discount Warehouse.



Milnrow Spinning Co. Ltd receipt

5 Co-operative supermarket

The present Co-operative Supermarket is on the right.

6 Co-operative houses, Equitable Street

Turn right into Station Road and walk towards Metrolink. On your right is Equitable Street. The first 15 terraced houses, on the righthand side, form Equitable Buildings and were constructed in 1878. They are additional examples of Co-operative Society confidence, planning and wealth in this area. On the site of the present Holroyds Engineers, was Perseverance Mill. This mill was being managed by Milnrow Manufacturing Society in 1879

EQUITABLE ST.



7 82 Dale Street

Back at Dale Street, walk to No 82, not far from the junction of Station Road and Dale Street. This was the site of the premises of the Milnrow Co-operative Society Ltd. The original store no longer exists but behind its replacement building you can find Pioneer's Yard where the Store's former slaughterhouse was located. The cottages on Dale Street which adjoined the former Store and now overlook Pioneer's Yard at their rear, were also Co-operative owned properties. The Kiln Lane Store (No 1 on the trail) was probably the Branch Store for the 82 Dale Street Co-op.

The Trail

The development of Co-operative societies and enterprises in Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden reflect many aspects of the optimism and commercial skills of early Co-operators. Here we find stores and their branches, mills and industrial development, housing, and the extensive use of the railways as aids to development. At Ogden the Co-op became the central focus of the village (alongside church, pub, waterworks and farms) and its managers adapted their retail techniques to succeed into the early 21st century, becoming world-famous in the process.

Very close links to the local populations are distinctive features of the Co-ops in the Pennines. Milnrow's Co-operative links are long-standing: John Collier one of the original Rochdale Pioneers, was the great grandson of Tim Bobbin, the Milnrow 18th century artist and Lancashire dialect writer. Butterworth, now merged with the district of Milnrow, had a distinct and separate character from its neighbour, its colliers and weavers formed a close-knit population of independent-minded workers. Overall, the importance of the 'divi' in poor working people's lives was huge: clothes, school expenses, even holidays could be paid for through this unique method of saving while you shopped. Politics too, influenced the formation of the Co-ops in this area - older residents still referred a few years ago to the Red Store and the Blue Store - your allegiances influenced where you shopped, who you played with, what dances you went to and to some extent, where you worked.

The fortunes of the Co-operative societies varied over the years, as did those of Co-ops everywhere, changes in industry and society and also national developments had their impact. We hope this trail will highlight the proud and significant part played by the Co-ops in the lives of the people of in this area.



Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden Co-operative Heritage Trail



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Dale Street seen from Station Road

After the junction with New Street, Dale Street now becomes Newhey Road. In this area are some fine early 19th century public buildings - the former Milnrow Urban District Council Offices, the Fire Station, the Bank, the Carnegie Library, and another Co-operative retail base.

8 44-48 Newhey Road

Numbers 44 - 48 Newhey Road, now the Milnrow Village Practice, were the premises of the former Butterworth Hall Industrial Provident Society. It was known as "The Top Shop". This society was formed in 1897 and may have been a Branch of the Conservative Co-operative Society of 12 Dale Street. Butterworth Hall, to the left of Dale Street and Newhey Road, was an early township before Milnrow itself had a distinct identity and was linked to the Byron family. It was a densely populated area of colliers and weavers. Follow Newhey Road for about 1.5 km until you reach the junction with the A640. Continue along this road towards Newhey village, or cross the road to Bentgate Street.

NEWHEY

Newhey Co-operatives were, like those at Firgrove, closely linked to the Milnrow Co-operative Societies. All three areas had large memberships, sent their members to North West Co-operative Convalescent Homes, attended CWS conferences and used the Newhey Coal depot near Newhey Station.



Newhey Industrial Co-operative Society, purchase receipt

9 Co-operative houses, 46-62 Bentgate Street

Bentgate is the area on the right hand side of Newhey Road where it joins the A640. Here on the right of Bentgate Street are fine examples of Co-operative built houses, numbers 46 - 62. They were owned in 1904 by Newhey Co-operative Society whose managers were assiduous in deciding how and when to maintain these

properties, and who should be allowed to rent them. They "beautified" them usually when a new tenant was installed, fitted new back gates and also maintained the water supply and the cellar steps. They also looked after the butcher's shop in Dale Street at that time. On leaving Bentgate Street turn right into Newhey Road and continue for about 750m.



Co-operative Houses, Bentgate Street

10 Co-operative Store, 2-4 Shaw Road

At the junction of this road (now the A663) with Huddersfield Road (A640), can be seen, on your right the 1898 premises of the Newhey Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. This was a large and thriving store, with wood panelling in the upstairs office and in the 1950's, a roll-top desk for the Store Manager with polished stairs to the upper floor. The retail space downstairs was divided into grocery areas either side of the main door, with a butchers and drapery department. Furniture was sold from upstairs. Note the similar architectural style to Milnrow's Blue Store.

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Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden Co-operative Heritage Trail



Newhey Railway Station

OGDEN

12 Lanebottom Co-op Store
Turn right off Ogden Lane in Lanebottom. Here, on your left, was the smallest independent Co-operative society in the country, a former weaver's cottage. Lanebottom Equitable Pioneers' Society Limited traded for 148 years, closing in 2007. Lanebottom's lasting success was a tribute to astute buying and management, excellent advertising and an ability to provide whatever was wanted, including furniture, carpets, electrical goods, groceries, drapery, and diamonds - for buyers in many countries. Its building has now been renovated and can be seen next to the Bull's Head Inn at Lower Ogden.



Lanebottom Co-op Store

Opposite the Store was the Manager's House, with the store's slaughterhouse behind it.

13 Pioneer's Villa
About 200m past the Store and public house, a lane paved with setts takes you to Pioneer's Villa. These 6 Co-operative stone houses were built for members in 1868.



Pioneer's Villa



1. The "Red Store", 2 Kiln Lane
2. The "Blue Store", 12 Dale Street
3. Branch Store, 42 Dale Street
4. Church Street Woollen Mill, 53 Dale Street
5. Co-operative Supermarket
6. Co-operative Houses, Equitable Street
7. 82 Dale Street
8. 44-48 Newhey Road
9. Co-operative Houses, 46-62 Bentgate Street
10. Newhey Co-op Store, 2-4 Shaw Road
11. Newhey Co-op Store, 39a Huddersfield Road
12. Lanebottom Co-op Store
13. Pioneer's Villa

11 Co-operative Store, 39a Huddersfield Road
A short distance along the Huddersfield Road (A640), on your left by the steps to St Thomas' church, is a row of stone cottages. The end property at number 39a was another Newhey Co-operative Store. The Society was formed in 1881, (although some sources state it was a Branch store of the Shaw Road Co-operative), and lasted until 1968 when it merged with Rochdale Pioneers. It appears to have been purpose built with its stone pilasters marking the entrance and windows, and its drawing-in door in the gable end. As the date stone tells us, this was renovated in 1996. It is just visible in the old photo of Newhey station above, looking towards St Thomas' Church.
Ogden, the next site of this trail, is about 2km from the start of Huddersfield Road. Turn left down Ogden Lane just before a sharp bend on the main road, A640.



This document was created by The Co-operatives History Group (Rochdale), in collaboration with Rochdale Council, Link4Life and Rochdale Pioneers Museum.
 ■ Visit the web page and download the leaflets at: www.rochdalepioneersmuseum.coop/cooperheritagetrails.
 ■ For more information, contact the Visitors Information Centre at Touchstones Rochdale 01706 924928 - vic@link4life.org
 ■ Explore the Five Ways to Wellbeing at: <http://fiveways.rochdale.gov.uk>