

Borders Between: Park Bridge

A Source Guide to Archives



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Park Bridge Ironworks, forge workers

From Tameside photographic collection Ref: t07401

Created: April 2010

A brief history of Park Bridge's boundaries

Park Bridge has historically always been a part of the county of Lancashire. It was originally within the Knott Lanes division of the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne and was part of the township or civil parish of Alt.

James Butterworth's *History and Description of the Town and Parish of Ashton-under-Lyne* describes Park Bridge as follows:

A foot-path by the side of an inclosure, leads us down to the elegant house of the late Mr. Samuel Lees, of *Park Bridge*, the name that this modern mansion bears; there being an old bridge here over the river Medlock, constructed so as to admit of a horse of burden passing over; (carriage when it was erected being chiefly on Pack Horses,) above which, standing on the rising ground within *Alt-hill*, we have a view of this house, which lies at the extreme point of the hamlet of Alt.

For the purposes of this source guide, Park Bridge includes Park Bridge, Alt Hill, Lower Alt Hill and Fairbottom.

Ecclesiastical Boundaries:

Park Bridge was originally part of Ashton-under-Lyne ancient parish. Prior to 1866 residents may have used St John at Hey, built 1742, which was only four miles from Park Bridge. Although used as a chapel of ease for Ashton St Michael and All Angels, from June 1869 this church no longer had ties to the parish.

In 1866, St James Church and School was opened as a branch or Chapel of ease of St Thomas', Leesfield. It closed in 1964. It appears that many Park Bridge residents used St. Thomas', Leesfield for baptisms, marriages and burials.

Local Government Boundaries:

Park Bridge was included in the civil parish of Alt when it was created in 1894 as a result of the 1894 Local Government Act. Alt civil parish contributed to the Ashton-under-Lyne Poor Law Union. In 1933 and 1935, parts of Alt were added to Ashton-under-Lyne Borough, including Park Bridge. Further change came in 1951 and 1954 when parts of Alt were added to Oldham Borough, Mossley and Ashton-under Lyne, although Park Bridge remained in Ashton.

In 1974 when the County Boroughs were abolished, the area of Alt previously in the County Borough of Oldham became part of the new Oldham Metropolitan Borough, whilst that which had previously been in the County Borough of Ashton-under-Lyne became part of Tameside Metropolitan Borough.

Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries:

Park Bridge was in the Lancashire Southern Parliamentary Division Constituency between 1832 and 1867. In 1868, it became part of the South East Lancashire Parliamentary Division Constituency until 1885 when it

became part of the South East Lancashire Prestwich Parliamentary Constituency. This remained the case until 1918, when the Lancashire Mossley Parliamentary Division Constituency was formed. In 1950, the Mossley Division was added to the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency, where it remains.

Note on using this Source Guide:

MF indicates that items will be available on microfilm.

The location of each item has been indicated by the institution name in square brackets at the end of its description. e.g. [Oldham] or [Tameside]

Items indicated as held at Oldham can be found at:

Oldham Local Studies and Archives

84 Union Street

Oldham

OL1 1DN

Tel: 0161 770 4654

Email: archives@oldham.gov.uk

Website: [\[Link Removed\]](#)

Items indicated as held at Tameside can be found at:

Tameside Local Studies and Archives

Tameside Central Library

Old Street

Ashton-under Lyne

OL6 7SG

Tel: 0161 342 4242

Fax: 0161 342 4245

Email: localstudies.library@tameside.gov.uk

Website: [\[Link Removed\]](#)

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that this guide is accurate and up to date. However if you find any items within the collections at either Tameside Local Studies and Archives or Oldham Local Studies and Archives that are not included please inform the Archivist at the relevant institution.

Church Records:

Prior to 1743, events may be registered at St Michaels, Ashton-under-Lyne. These records are held on microfilm at Tameside Local Studies and Archives.

St. John, Hey

Baptisms	1743-1896 MF [Oldham]
Baptisms	(Printed) [Oldham]
Marriages	1860-1916 MF [Oldham]
Burials	1744-1887 MF [Oldham]
Burials	1744-1887 Microfiche with Index [Oldham]
Burials	1744-1887 CD Rom with Index [Oldham]

St Thomas', Leesfield

Baptisms	1846-1941 MF [Oldham]
Marriages	1848-1950 MF [Oldham]
Burials	1848-1996 MF [Oldham]
Burials	1848-1905 CD Rom with Index [Oldham]

Census:

1841-1901 Census (see below) **MF** [Oldham & Tameside]

In addition there is access to the census for England and Wales 1841 to 1901 via Ancestry.com [Oldham & Tameside]

1841

Knott Lanes District 7

HO 107/533 Book 13 folio 15-16

1851

Sections of the 1851 census for parts of Greater Manchester (including Park Bridge) were damaged by water during storage and it has therefore not been possible to microfilm these sections. The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society have transcribed the legible parts of the returns and produced CD Roms of the results which include both a surname/forename and street index. 95% of the Ashton-under-Lyne census has been successfully transcribed. HO107/2233 Transcription numbers: A168-178. The CD Rom is available at both Oldham and Tameside

1861

Knott Lanes District 3

RG9/2977 folio 69-71 page 1-6

1871

Knott Lanes District 3

RG 10/4068 folio 68-72 page 1-9

1881

Knott Lanes District 3

RG 11/4034 folio 97-98 page 43-45

1891
Knott Lanes District 3
RG 12/3273 folio 73-76, p2-10

1901
Alt District 7
RG 13/3780 folio 82-86- page 1-10

Registers of Electors:

For registers of electors pre 1961 enquire at the British Library.

CA/126 Registers of electors for Ashton-under-Lyne from 1961
[Tameside]

Trade Directories:

1832 – Pigot's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1834 – Pigot's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1838 – Pigot's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1841 – Pigot's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1848 – Slater's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1851 – Slater's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1855 – Slater's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1871 – Worrall's - Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Oldham]
1874 – Morris's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1878 – Morris's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1884 – Worrall's - Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Oldham]
1888-1889 – Worrall's - Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Oldham]
1888 – Slater's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1901 – Kelly's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1905 – Kelly's – Included in Ashton-under-Lyne section [Tameside]
1957 – Barrett's [Oldham]
1960s – Ashton-under-Lyne Directories [Tameside]
1965 – Barrett's [Oldham]
1970s – Ashton-under-Lyne [Tameside]

Rate Books:

PUA/4 Ashton-under-Lyne Poor Law Union Rate Books. 1836-1890. The area around Park Bridge appears in these volumes as part of the Knott Lanes Division. Some volumes have been microfilmed [Tameside]

CA/ASH/515 Ashton-under-Lyne Poor Law Rate Books, 1861-1894. The area around Park Bridge appears in these volumes as part of the Knott Lanes Division. Some volumes have been microfilmed [Tameside]

CA/LIM/515 Poor Rate Books including Alt, 1913-1927. Available for consultation on microfilm [Tameside]

CA/LIM/516 General Rate Books including Alt, 1927-1954 [Tameside]

CA/LIM/543/1 Rate Demand Notes for Alt, 1953 [Tameside]

CA/LIM/543/7 Bundle of blank rate demand notes for Alt and
Woodhouses, 1953-1954 [Tameside]

Park Bridge Ordnance Survey Maps:

Date	Ref:	Scale	Notes
1844-48	97	1:10,560 6"	Sheet 97 [Oldham]
1861	97/15	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.15 [Oldham]
1879	97/14	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.14 [Oldham]
1891	97/14	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.14 [Oldham]
1891	LXCVII-14	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.14 [Tameside]
1909	LXCVII-14	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.14 [Tameside]
1922	LXCVII-14	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.14 [Tameside]
1933	LXCVII-14	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.14 [Tameside]
1891	LXCVII-15	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.15 [Tameside]
1909	LXCVII-15	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.15 [Tameside]
1909	97/14	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.14 [Oldham]
1922	LXCVII-15	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.15 [Tameside]
1922	97/14	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.14 [Oldham]
1922	97/15	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.15 [Oldham]
1930	97/14	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.14 [Oldham]
1930	97/15	1:2500 25"	Lancashire Sheet XCVII.15 [Oldham]
1933	LXCVII-15	1:2500 25"	Lancs Sheet 97.15 [Tameside]
1950s	SD9302	1:1250 50"	SE, NE [Oldham, Tameside]
1960s	SD9302	1:2500 25"	[Oldham]
	SD9302	1:1250 50"	NE [Oldham, Tameside]
1970s	SD9402	1:2500 25"	[Oldham]
	SD9402	1:2500 50"	NW [Tameside]
1980s	SD9302	1:1250 50"	NE, SE [Oldham, Tameside]
	SD9302	1:2500 25"	[Oldham]
	SD9402	1:2500 25"	[Oldham]
1990s	SD9302	1:1250 50"	NE, SE [Oldham, Tameside]
	SD9402	1:1250 50"	NW [Oldham, Tameside]
	SD9402	1:1250 50"	SW [Tameside]
2000s	SD9302	1:2500 25"	[Oldham]
	SD9402	1:2500 25"	[Oldham]
	SD9302	1:1250 50"	SE, NE [Oldham, Tameside]

Other Maps:

PR/ASH/3 Book of plans and description of the boundary between
the parish of Ashton-under-Lyne and the surrounding
townships, Apr 1857 (on loan from Ashton Parish Church)
[Tameside]

Newspapers:

These papers will include news stories from the local area, the wider Greater Manchester area and nationally. Therefore within the newspapers held there is likely to be news from Park Bridge reported, as a rule of thumb the earlier the date the more significant the event will need to have been to be included.

Ashton Times and Oldham Visitor, Mar 1851-Jan 1853, **MF** [Tameside]

Ashton Reporter, 1855-1978, **MF** [Tameside]

Ashton Standard, 1858-1885, **MF** [Tameside]

Ashton News, 1868-1874, **MF** [Tameside]

Ashton Guardian, 27 Jan 1877-12 Oct 1878, **MF** [Tameside]

Ashton Herald, 1887-1936, **MF** [Tameside]

Ashton Sentinel, Oct 1911-Aug 1912, **MF** [Tameside]

Oldham Chronicle, 1854-present, **MF** [Oldham]

Illustrated Oldham Journal, 21 Oct 1854-24 Feb 1855, **MF** [Oldham]

Illustrated Oldham Herald, Jun-Aug 1855, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Advertiser, 13 Dec 1856-7 May 1859, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Standard, 1859-1946, **MF** [Oldham]

Illustrated Oldham Telegraph, 5 Mar-5 Nov 1859, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Evening Express, 1868-1890, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Ensign and Standard, 24 Jul 1868, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Liberal Elector, 26 Sep-14 Nov 1868, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Daily Advertiser, 18 Oct 1889-Dec 1890, **MF** [Oldham]

Oldham Mirror, Sep 1954-Jan 1955, **MF** [Oldham]

Newspaper cuttings collection taken from the local newspapers, cuttings relating to Park Bridge from c.1920 onwards, index available. [Oldham]

Photographs:

Photographs relating to Park Bridge are held as part of Oldham Local Studies and Archives photographic collection. Please enquire at Oldham Local Studies and Archives for details.

Photographs of Park Bridge are held as part of the Tameside On-line Image Archive. See <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/history> for the image archive.

School Archives:

ESR3 Park Bridge Works CE School 1866-1955 [Tameside]

Local Authority Archives:

CA/LIM/100/1-3 Alt Parish Council Minute Books, 1894-1954 [Tameside]

CA/LIM/121/1 Declarations on the acceptance of office, Alt, 1894-1953 [Tameside]

CA/LIM/134/1 Clerks General Correspondence, Alt, 1914-1936 [Tameside]

CA/LIM/302/1	Financial Statements, Alt, 1942-1945 [Tameside]
CA/LIM/311/1	Receipt and payment book, Alt, 1895-1939 [Tameside]
CA/LIM/326/2	Alt Parish Council loose receipts, 1950-1954 [Tameside]
CA/LIM/494/1	Papers regarding the final peace celebrations expense account, Alt, 1945 [Tameside]
CA/LIM/500/1-2	Alt Valuation list, 1914-1929 [Tameside]

Business Archives:

DDL	Hannah Lees and Sons, records [Tameside]
DD8	Records of the Heggibottom family, including records of the family flax business at Alt Hill, 1768-1925
DD339	Lees family business records, stock books and accounts, 1871-1933 [Tameside]

Other Archives:

DD13/11/4	Newspaper cutting, Park Bridge [Tameside]
DD13/1a/8/1	Newspaper cutting, "Alt Estate" by Harry Harvey, n.d.
DD13/17/22	Photograph, demolition of Park Bridge Viaduct 1971 [Tameside]
DD121	Papers relating to John Warren Naylor of Park Bridge, Ashton under Lyne, 1899-1960 [Tameside]
DD214	Programmes and notebooks of poetry associated with Park Bridge, 1851-1950 [Tameside]
DD273/15	Newscutting from the "Ashton Herald", with photograph relating to Fairbottom Bobs, 1901 [Tameside]
DD358	Title deeds for Hillcrest House, Park Bridge, 1906-1930 [Tameside]

Oral History:

TOH 10	Len Broadhurst and Harold Hurst concerning Park Bridge Ironworks (partly transcribed) [Tameside]
TOH 14	William Clegg concerning Park Bridge Ironworks and area (transcribed) [Tameside]
TOH 16	Thomas Cooper concerning Park Bridge (transcribed) [Tameside]

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| TOH 181 | Jack J Marland concerning Park Bridge, including school (transcribed, no tape) [Tameside] |
| TOH 219 | Mavis M Defley concerning Park Bridge (transcribed, no tape) [Tameside] |
| LS83 | Fairbottom Bobs [Oldham] |
| LS84 | Fairbottom Bobs [Oldham] |

Printed material:

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| FL | Medlock Valley – Park Bridge Trail [Oldham] |
| FL | Medlock Meanders – Hike to the Pike a circular route around the Park Bridge and Hartshead Pike area [Oldham] |
| FL | The Oldham Way Stage 7 – Park Bridge to Dove Stone, 1992 [Oldham] |
| FL | Park Bridge Foundation – Action plan for Park Bridge including brief history, Medlock and Tame Valley Conservation Committee c. 1970-1980 [Oldham] |
| FL | Information Sheet: Official Opening of the Park Bridge Museum and Victorian Lancashire Night, 1975 [Oldham] |
| UF:TH53 | The old atmospheric engine at Fairbottom, cutting from the Manchester Evening News 25 May 1901 [Oldham] |

Bibliography:

Due to the duplication of holdings of printed and published works, in this section, [O] after the class mark or reference number indicates that it is the relevant reference to use if enquiring at Oldham whilst [T] denotes the mark to use if enquiring at Tameside.

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|------------------------|---|
| EF 53 | Bygone Ashton-under-Lyne [Oldham] |
| QL906 | The People Who Made Tameside, pp39-42, Hannah Lees of Park Bridge. [Tameside] |
| L669 [T]
FL:CAA [O] | <i>The Park Bridge Ironworks and the Archaeology of the Wrought Iron Industry in the North West, 1600-1900</i> by Michael Nevell and John Roberts (Volume 3 in the Archaeology of Tameside Series). [Tameside & Oldham] |

- L669 *A photographic record of the excavations at Fairbottom bobs, Park Bridge: an archaeological excavation on the site of a Newcomen Type atmospheric engine*, University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, 2001 [Tameside]
- L669 *Park Bridge, the coke ovens: an archaeological excavation of a bank of coke ovens at the Park Bridge Ironworks, Tameside*, by John Marsland and Michael Nevell, University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, 2001 [Tameside]
- GK(Mar):FL Memories of Park Bridge by Jack Marland [Oldham]