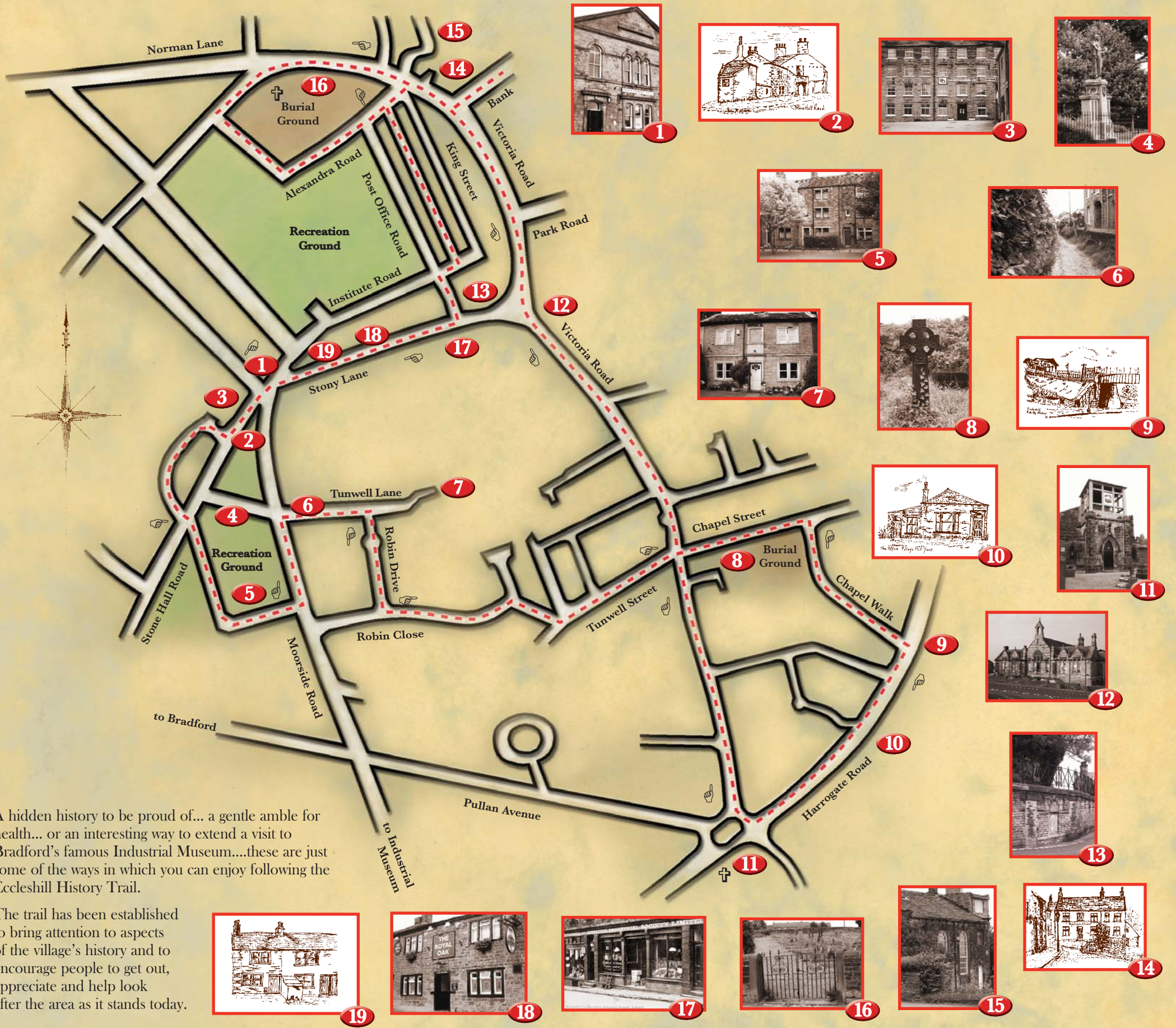


# Eccleshill History Trail



A hidden history to be proud of... a gentle amble for health... or an interesting way to extend a visit to Bradford's famous Industrial Museum...these are just some of the ways in which you can enjoy following the Eccleshill History Trail.

The trail has been established to bring attention to aspects of the village's history and to encourage people to get out, appreciate and help look after the area as it stands today.

Eccleshill is a very diverse area with modern developments blending with many historical buildings and roads dating back to pre-Roman times. It survived the Black Death, which halved the population by 1349, and was shunned by religious authorities after the supposed stoning to death of a preacher in the village centre.

There are three possible explanations of its name - either Church (as in

ecclesiastical) Hill, the Domesday Book title of Egleshill which could mean Eagle Hill, or the name of a Saxon landlord, Aikel or Eckil.

Anyone interested in following a more detailed history should go to the Local Studies section of Central Library in Bradford to see a copy of A History Trail of Eccleshill in 1899 by Ken Kenzie, on which this walk is based.

## Walk information

**Start point:**  
Eccleshill Mechanics' Institute,  
Stony Lane.

**Buses:** 640\1 from Bradford  
to Eccleshill Mechanics' Institute

**Parking:**  
no designated public car parks;  
parking on street in and around  
village centre.

**Time:**  
Allow about two hours.

**Suitability:**  
The walk is suitable for  
pushchairs and people with  
restricted mobility.

**Comfortable walking shoes\boots**  
are recommended with outdoor  
clothes to suit the season.

- |                                   |                                     |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Eccleshill Mechanics' Institute | 7 The Quaker House                  | 14 Victoria Hotel                |
| 2 Stone Hall Road                 | 8 Former Salem Chapel burial ground | 15 Prospect Chapel               |
| 3 Whiteley's Mill                 | 9 Eccleshill Station                | 16 Prospect Chapel burial ground |
| 4 War memorial                    | 10 Union Mill Yard                  | 17 The Co-op                     |
| 5 Weavers' cottages               | 11 St Luke's Church                 | 18 The Royal Oak                 |
| 6 Tunwell Lane                    | 12 Central Board School             | 19 Cottages in Stony Lane        |
|                                   | 13 The Monkey Bridge                |                                  |





**1** Start at the Mechanics' Institute. The meeting place of Eccleshill History Group, the Institute (1) was built and opened in 1869.

It grew out of a Mutual Improvement Society formed in 1850. Science subjects were taught and some members became successful teachers. It now has a variety of community uses including coffee shop on Monday mornings.

**2** Head down Stone Hall Road (2) for about 100 metres. Pass Ladbroskes, formerly the Prospect Hotel, with Whiteley's (3) behind. The mill was used in the 1880s for weaving by Sutcliffe and Whiteley - Richard Whiteley of Countdown fame was a descendant of these owners. Its mill chimney was then the highest building in Eccleshill.

Turn right into Whitebeam Walk, making for the far left corner and turn left between numbers 14 and 19.

**3** Walk down to an unmade road known as Back Stone Hall. Back Stone Hall area was the site of Victoria Mill. Some of the newer properties are built over the site of the former millpond.

Continue down Back Stone Hall and cross Stone Hall Road to Eccleshill Recreation Ground.

On the right, looking towards Pullan Avenue, was the site of the Manor Pottery. From the early 1800s, it produced brown glazed stone ware.

**13** Eccleshill Stocks were close by. Later moved to near Hodgson's Fold until recently to become part of motorway foundations.

**14** Walk to the right, past Park Road towards the Victoria Hotel. Eccleshill Bank is a road dating back to Roman times.

**15** Behind the Victoria Hotel is the former Prospect Chapel, one of Eccleshill's oldest buildings. Built in 1775, it was only the third Wesleyan chapel in the Bradford area and John Wesley preached there. It has also been home to an organ builder, joiners and undertakers.

**16** Walk a little way along Norman Lane and cross opposite the gates to a burial ground. The burial ground was opened in 1823 for Prospect Chapel members and later made available to all.

At Mount Terrace (part of what was known locally as Klondyke, a former quarrying area) turn left and skirt around the cemetery, to Alexandra Road. Take the back road between King Street and Post Office Road. *Wheelchairs or pushchairs use King Street.*

The back street does not have a hard surface and was levelled by house holders throwing out ash and cinders from their coal fires. Horse drawn carts used the back street to deliver coal and milk, and collect rubbish from dustbins. At the top, turn right into Post Office Road, then left down to Stony Lane.

Across Stony Lane are the gates of the Ukrainian Church which was built as a Wesleyan church in 1854.

A court case in 1864 established that the three-acre recreation ground must remain intact forever.

**4** War memorial, Eccleshill Recreation Ground.

**5** Walk downhill to Moorwell Place. Pass the row of weavers' houses, built 1851 - 1854. Some top floor rooms still show signs of where hand looms stood.

**6** Turn left up Moorside Road, then right into Tunwell Lane. This lane, dates back to 1618 and was so named because it was close to one of the "town wells". No. 10 Tunwell Lane was the home of the Congregational Church minister. Follow the unsurfaced path to the last house on the right. Turn right in front of it to view the Quaker House.

**7** The Quaker House was built in 1747 by James and Rachel Kitson.

Panels of lengthy inscriptions adorn its front wall, and it was once occupied by a local character, sizing maker Judy White, who is said to have gone to Bradford Market with a hat over her nightcap, wearing her husband's coat over her gown, a basket on her arm and clay pipe in her mouth.

At the end of the lane, a new housing development stands on the site of a former woollen mill which produced cloth for the Boer War uniforms and was commissioned to fit out the Royal Navy during World War One.

It was intended to extend the rough road behind the church to Tunwell Street, which explains the position of the main entrance of the Sunday School behind the church.

**17** The third Co-operative store in Eccleshill opened on Stony Lane in 1870, in the building currently occupied by Spar next to the church. It had a large meeting room above reached by the wooden covered gable end staircase.

**18** The Royal Oak across the road is mentioned in the 1841 census but was built much earlier. The neighbouring cottages were probably built in the 1700s.

**19** At the top of the road is the start of the trail at the Mechanics' Institute. This area was the terminus for the Bradford to Eccleshill tram which ran from the early 1900s to the 1930s.

Retrace your steps up Tunwell Lane to turn left by the footpath sign into Robin Drive, then left and walk down Robin Close, where next to 42 is the alleyway to Tunwell Street.

Walk along Tunwell Street towards Victoria Rd. On the right are the Old Mill buildings - parts date back to the early 1800s and the site is due for redevelopment.

**8** Cross over Victoria Road and enter Chapel Street. No's 3 - 11 were the site of a school, and former meeting place for the Mechanics' Institute from 1850. Across the street is the burial ground of Salem Chapel, opened in 1825, which prompted the street's name change from Dobby Row. The burial ground has many grand monuments. Two war graves are tended by the United Reform Church in Victoria Road.

Walk down Chapel Walk to Harrogate Road. Eccleshill Station opened on Harrogate Road in 1872, on the Laisterdyke - Windhill branch of the Great Northern Railway. Embankment supports for the railway bridge can still be seen 100 metres down opposite Hazlecroft.

**9** Eccleshill Station opened in 1872. Walk uphill towards the roundabout. Across Harrogate Road, Union Mill, now known as Pilley's Mill, was built around 1816 and produced woollens.

**10** Union Mill Yard, built around 1816.

**11** St Luke's Church is largely Gothic in style with a modern tower, opened in 1848, stands in front of the school at the end of Fagley Lane which was built in 1845.

Turn right into Victoria Road. On the right, gate posts mark the former entrance to Eccleshill Congregational Church opened in 1889, which replaced Salem Chapel on Chapel Street, and is now the site of the United Reform church.

Victoria Road, formerly Mill Lane, was renamed in 1887 to mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The area was quarried for stone, to the rear of Chapel Street, also between Tunwell Street and Westgate.

Above Hall Road (originally Station Road), the row of houses is built on the site of Eccleshill Hall's tennis courts. The Hall was built in 1713 and demolished in 1878 - the only remains are part of the stone gateposts built into the wall next to the old Central Board (Hutton) school (12), which opened in 1886.

**12** Central Board (Hutton) school. Continue up the road to the junction with Stony Lane

Opposite are the bricked up openings of the Monkey Bridge (13) - the remains of 19th century urinals and the site of Eccleshill's lock up.



## Eccleshill History Trail

