



Action Swing Bridge carries the A49 over the river while close by runs the West Coast Main Line. The railway crosses the River Weaver on Dutton Viaduct, designed by leading railway engineers Joseph Locke and George Stephenson. When it opened in 1837 it was the longest viaduct on the Grand Junction Railway with twenty sandstone arches, splayed at the base for extra stability.



Acton Bridge is a small village on the bank of the River Weaver. It used to be called Acton in Delamere, but became Acton Bridge in recent times to avoid confusion with Acton near Nantwich. The Saxon spelling is Actune, Ac meaning oak, and tune or tun meaning farm or place, so the name meant 'Oak Farm' or 'a place in the oak forest'.

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Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham & Acton Bridge

Welcome to Weaverham & Acton Bridge

Come and explore the villages of Weaverham & Acton Bridge in the heart of the Cheshire countryside.

This area was once famous for its orchards and indeed there is an old Cheshire apple variety called Wareham, named after Weaverham. Road names such as Russet Road and Strawberry Lane all give clues to the rich heritage of the area.



Saltscape - a unique landscape

Salt was first discovered in Cheshire during the Iron Age and by 1700 the salt towns of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford had grown around the thriving salt industry. The River Weaver was the key transport corridor that continued to serve the chemical industry that followed. Although much of the industry has gone there is a legacy of unique habitats, post-industrial landscapes, rivers and canals. Salt marsh vegetation normally found on the coast thrives around brine springs while the flashes caused by salt subsidence and lime-beds created from industrial waste are rich in wildlife.



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Weaverham

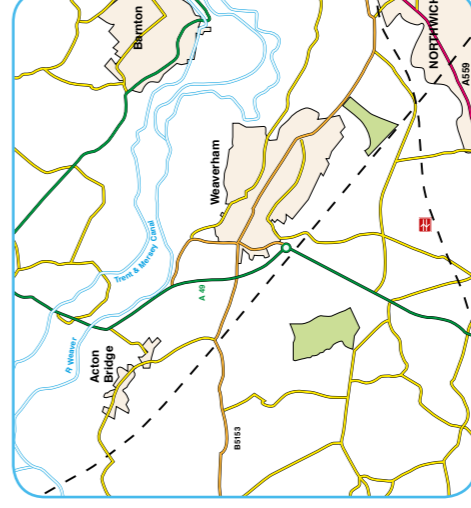
Weaverham was an important Saxon hamlet on the banks of the River Weaver. The land passed to the Crown in Norman times and when Edward I founded Vale Royal Abbey in 1277, supposedly in thanks-giving for being saved from a shipwreck, he gave it to the Cistercian monks. The monks ruled for the next 300 years, collecting taxes and maintaining a prison and a courthouse. In 1819 Ormerod, who wrote a history of Cheshire, described Weaverham as 'a charming village of courtyards and foaming blossom'.



John Brunner and Ludwig Mond came to salt-rich Cheshire in 1872, looking for a site to build an ammonia works. Winnington Works was the first and started producing soda ash for the cotton industry in 1874.

Weaverham remained a quiet rural village until the 1920s when ICI needed more housing for their workers as demand grew for new chemical products such as dyestuffs, plastics and paint. Owley Wood Housing Estate was a well planned development with wide, tree lined roads and many facilities including allotments, tennis courts, bowling greens and a hall for social events.

Weaverham Petal Walks Weaverham & Acton Bridge



A 4 mile circular walk exploring the villages of Weaverham & Acton Bridge.

Weaverham Petal Walks have been devised by Weaverham Trust and funded through Saltscape Landscape Partnership.

www.weaverhamtrust.co.uk

Saltscape - Follow the story at www.saltscape.co.uk

For information on Acton Bridge visit

www.actonbridge.org

