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Weaverham & Acton Bridge

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Welcome to Weaverham & Acton Bridge

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

Bridge

Acton

Weaverham &

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.

This area was once famous for its orchards and



Weaverham & Weaverham Petal Walks Acton Bridge

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 thanksand a courthouse. 300 years, collecting taxes and maintaining a prison giving for being saved from a shipwreck, he gave it to the Cistercian monks. The monks ruled for the next

described Weaverham as 'a charming village of courtyards and foaming blossom'. In 1819 Ormerod, who wrote a history of Cheshire,



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 1874. started producing soda ash for the cotton industry in

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 Weaverham remained a quiet rural village until the for social events. 1920s when ICI needed more housing for their



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'.

but became Acton Bridge in recent times to avoid confusion with Acton near Nantwich. The Saxon

Acton Bridge is a small village on the bank of the River Weaver. It used to be called Acton in Delamere,

Acton Bridge

ocal Orchards

Fruit trees and orchards have been an important feature of the landscape since medieval times. Apple, pear, cherry and plum trees were common in workers' gardens as well as the larger homes. 'Plant pears for your heirs' was an old Cheshire saying as pears were less trouble than apples although they were picked skill and strength. rather than shaken off the trees, a job that required

or Hassle pears were one of the most common Acton Bridge was known for its fruit trees, particularly pears, and still has six historic orchards today. Hazel skins looked similar to toads 'toadbacks' because the black dots on their brown varieties grown in the area,

Acton 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.

and packed into hampers ready to be loaded on the 5.20am train to Liverpool. Up until the Second World War fruit was graded





www.actonbridge.org

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

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

www.weaverhamtrust.co.uk

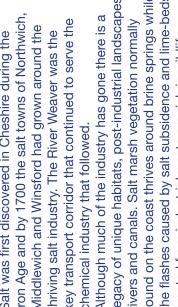
Landscape Partnership.

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

For information on Acton Bridge visit

legacy of unique habitats, post-industrial landscapes, Iron Age and by 1700 the salt towns of Northwich, Middlewich and Winsford had grown around the chemical industry that followed.

Although much of the industry has gone there is a key transport corridor that continued to serve the rivers and canals. Salt marsh vegetation normally Salt was first discovered in Cheshire during the thriving salt industry. The River Weaver was the a unique landscape



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.

