



A Town Made by Revolution



Year 4: Visit to Wolverton

There has been a small settlement in Wolverton since the Domesday Book but the town truly came into being with the advent of the railways. Wolverton was chosen as the site of the locomotive repair shop at the midpoint of the London and Birmingham Railway in 1836.

Terraced houses in Wolverton hold clues to its industrial past and Victorian construction. Some have built in boot scrapers by the front door or wooden sashes in the windows. In 1844, the railway built some 200 houses for its workers, along with schools, a church and a market.

There are clues to Wolverton's lost buildings. The Gables is a block of flats named after the railway superintendent's mansion which stood on the site. Near to this there are newer developments of houses and flats on the site of Wolverton's 'Little Streets' simple 'two up two down' houses for the labourers.

The Carriageworks is now a residential development in former railway buildings. One apartment block is in the Royal Train shed which housed Queen Victoria's train. Remnants of its industrial past can be seen in the development.