

WALKING THE REALLY HORRIBLE HIDDEN HISTORY OF RIVERSIDE - THE PUMPING STATION TOUR



Cambridge Museum of Technology, CB5 8LD

User Guide

This walking trail produced by Historyworks will lead you around the Cambridge Museum of Technology Pumping Station exploring some of its forgotten stories. At each of the stops along the trail, listen along to the audio narrative provided. These can be accessed via our Bluetooth Beacons or an online audio trail.

The Beacons Trail

The Bluetooth Beacon trail created to use en route can be accessed via your web-enabled apple or android device and following the instructions below.

1. Install the Physical Web App (Available from Apple App Store or Google Play)
2. Enable Bluetooth on your device
3. Launch the Physical Web App
4. Refresh Beacon list by pulling down on the list.

The Audio Trail

Audio Trail downloadable in MP3 format available on the web at: www.audioboom.fm/historyworks

The Leaflet & More Information

To find this leaflet, more information on this trail, or to find further history trails by historyworks, please go to www.creatingmycambridge.com/trails
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This trail and accompanying audio have been devised and produced by Helen Weinstein, to whom all suggestions for revisions should be directed (historyworkstv@gmail.com). Expertise and Narration of the trails by Cambridge Museum of Technology Curator, Pam Halls.

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9 DESTRUCTOR FLUE

The flue is a tunnel underneath the boilers where all the smoke accumulated from burning the rubbish, and coke was directed up the chimney. As soot gathered in the flue workers had to sweep annually all areas and shovel out the soot. However, the boilers could not be turned off so the workers would have had to put wet sacks over themselves and run in, do their shovelling, and then run out very quickly. The workers took turns in carrying out this job to keep the area clear.

10 ASH TUNNEL

Ash had to be cleared from the furnaces every 2 hours to ensure oxygen circulated and the rubbish could continue to be burnt. It was raked out by the workers into little trucks on rails and then pushed by hand outside where they were hauled up the hill to a top site using a winch engine which was powered by steam. The ash could be used as a building material and during the Second World War it was used to build roads and airfields. Metal was not burnt because it could be sold for use again.

11 TIPPING/TOP BAY

This is where all the rubbish from Cambridge was brought and tipped into the destructor in the boiler room, initially transported by horse and cart and later on by motorised vehicles. First, the rubbish would be sorted because metal and bottles could be recycled and sold whilst metal was flattened by the corporation steamroller to be converted into neat bales to be sold on. During the Second World War, a wooden frontage was built around the tipping bay to ensure that the flames from the destructors were not shown during the night. If an enemy bomber could see the light, they would have bombed the area, and they could have guessed that the railway was nearby.

12 THE ENGINEERS HOUSE

This is where the Engineer in charge of the pumping station lived with his family so that he was available at all times if there were any problems. The house was built in 1898, a few years after the pumping station opened in 1894. It had everything the 19th century family could wish for including electric lighting, powered by electricity generated using steam from the pumping station, a bathroom, a kitchen range for cooking, a copper for doing the washing and an outside toilet.

The Historyworks trail is based in Cambridge's old sewage pumping station, which was closed down in 1968. Up until 1894, untreated sewage was flowing into the River Cam through a network of collapsing and overused sewers, and many people, including students dumped their chamber pots of pee and poo straight into our river. This tour introduces visitors to the glorious Victorian steam pumping station designed to pump the sewage to a new sewage farm at Milton. The original building was built in 1894 and shows a progression of the development of power, from steam, through internal combustion, to electricity. The site is one of the earliest examples of recycling because the city's rubbish was burned here to produce steam which powered the steam engines to pump sewage to Milton.



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