





RIVER DANE



The River Dane is a tributary of the River Weaver that originates in the Peak District area of England. The name of the river (earlier Daven) is probably from the Old Welsh dafn, meaning a "drop or trickle", implying a slow-moving river. This seems particularly quirky as the River Dane is the longest, cleanest and thought to be the fastest flowing river through Cheshire. Congleton has developed alongside the river which has supplied power for its historic industries. The name of the town comes from the "town on a bend in the river".

LADY WARBURTON'S WALK

Lady Alice married Sir Peter Warburton in 1781. Sir Peter passed away in 1813 at the age of 59. With her husband gone, Alice inherited a fortune that allowed her to establish her own household. Among her assets was Lower Daisy Bank House in Hulme Walfield, Congleton. This picturesque home became her residence for much of her widowhood. Lower Daisy Bank was a modest yet charming estate, and the footpath that connected her home to Giantswood Lane is still known today as Lady Warburton's Walk. Though Lady Alice lived a long and fulfilling life, it is her ghost that continues to haunt the imaginations of those in Congleton. During World War II, many locals claimed to have seen her spectral figure gliding through the mists of Dane Valley or moving through the windows of the now-demolished Daisy Bank House.



WESTLOW MERE



Reclaimed from sand excavation in the 1970's, the mere comprises some eighteen acres of crystal-clear water, fed by natural springs. The Mere is a water run for fly fishing by the Congleton & District Fly Fishers Ltd. Congleton & District Fly-Fishers was founded in the early eighties. Their priorities have included the maintenance of the natural habitat including the surrounding fields and woods as well as the water and their success in this has been recognised in the site being declared a site of special significance because of the wildlife it harbours and the flora it sustains.

OLD MILL ON MILL GREEN



Before the houses this was the site of the Old Mill, an early silk mill established in 1753. It used an internal water wheel to power Italian silk throwing machines. It was notable for its size, and for the involvement of James Brindley in its construction. It continued in use until 1996. It was demolished in 2003.

PARK AND TOWN WOOD



Congleton Park covers an area of 10 hectares (24.7 acres) and includes the historic Town Wood. Designed by Edward Kemp, Kemp had worked under the supervision of Joseph Paxton at Chatsworth, later he was consulted on the designs for Central Park in New York. The park was opened to the public on 29th May 1871. Congleton Town Council's Streetscape team keep the park looking impressive all year round. The wood is designated as an Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland as well as a county Site of Biological Importance. In order for a woodland to be defined as Ancient there must be evidence of continual woodland since 1600 AD.

MACCLESFIELD CANAL



The Macclesfield Canal opened in 1831 and its last commercial use was 1954. It is 26 miles (42km) long and runs from the Peak Forest Canal at Marple to link with the Trent and Mersey Canal. The route was surveyed by Thomas Telford but all the construction and civil engineering was overseen by William Crosley. The high viaduct carries the canal over Dane in Shaw Brook from which the Cloud can be seen to the east. Stone was quarried at the Cloud to enable the building of locks and other infrastructure of the canal. The Macclesfield Canal is proud of its stone mile markers which are a size and quality not seen elsewhere. These were buried during the second world war to prevent use by enemy soldiers. All but 3 along the length of the canal were dug up and restored.



FOL HOLLOW

One of Congleton's medieval routeways from the centre of the town to the south. Known by a number of names, the Kings Way, Wagg Street, Wagg's Road and Fol Hollow. This was the main route to the south and London before the building of the turnpike road across Astbury Marsh.

PRIESTY FIELDS



Between Congleton and the village of Astbury a medieval pathway runs between the principal Parish Church at Astbury and connects with St Peter's Church in Congleton. The pathway, which is about two miles in length, acquired its name because Congleton had not got a dedicated priest at the time, so a Priest had to walk from Astbury to Congleton to perform services. If you inspect the bridge which crosses Howty Brook you can still see the original foundations of the bridge that would have been here in the 11th century.

ASTBURY MERE COUNTRY PARK



The park occupies an area which was an old sand quarry that ceased production in the 1980's. In the fifty years that the site was working, millions of tons of silica sand were extracted.

CONGLETON TOWN HALL

The current Town Hall was built in 1864 and opened in July 1866. The impressive building was designed by Edward William Godwin. The Victorian Gothic building was built to impress and to reflect Congleton's status.



BATH HOUSE AND PHYSIC GARDEN

A Georgian bath house dating back to the 1820s is surrounded by a physic garden created by volunteers and open to the public, just off Cole Hill Bank opposite the Town Hall.



ELIZABETH WOLSTENHOLME ELMY



Elizabeth (1833-1918) was a women's rights campaigner who lived in Congleton and started a girls' school on Moody Street. Emmeline Pankhurst dubbed her 'the brains of the suffragist movement'. Renowned sculptor Hazel Reeves created this statue of Elizabeth in the town which was unveiled by Baroness Lady Hale of Richmond on 8th March 2022.

SNAILY BRIDGE



Bridge 77 Lamberts Lane, Macclesfield Canal. This turnover bridge was engineered to allow the horse towing the barge to cross over the bridge without being unhitched.