

Save Portland Viaduct!



well read
informed communications

This education Pack developed by Kate Dawson at Well Read in consultation with local heritage groups and schools. Particular thanks to Denis Hill, Heritage Consultant for his help providing historic background.

at Mill Waters Heritage Site



Buildings can tell us about the past



Castles and their battlements tell us about military history.



Gargoyles were thought to ward off evil spirits.

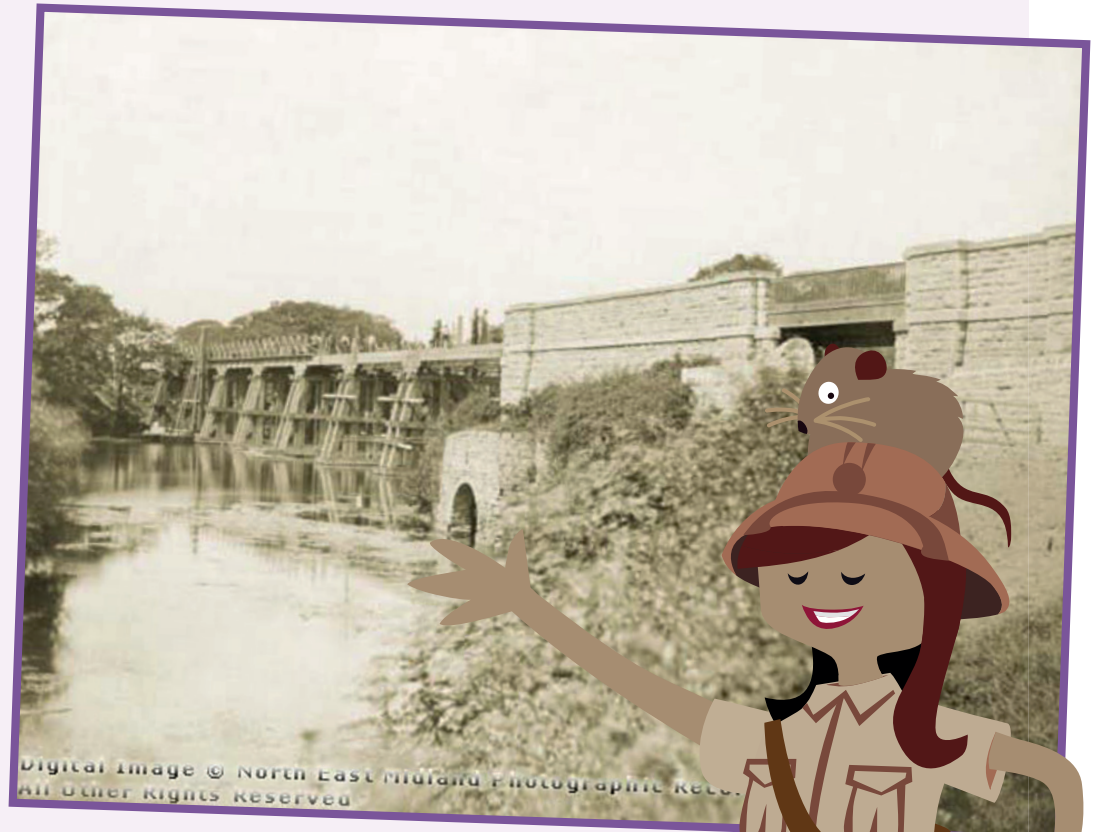
The Portland Viaduct

- Built in 1817 for the Mansfield and Pinxton railway, which opened in 1819.
- It is England's oldest railway viaduct.
- It is built from local limestone.



The new Hermitage viaduct

The Portland viaduct, and sharp bend, were taken out of commission and replaced with the wooden Hermitage viaduct which you can see on this picture (taken in 1871). The older viaduct was still used as part of a siding.



The Duke of Portland

The 4th Duke of Portland - known as 'leather breeches' to his tenants - was an MP and the main landowner around Mansfield and Sutton.

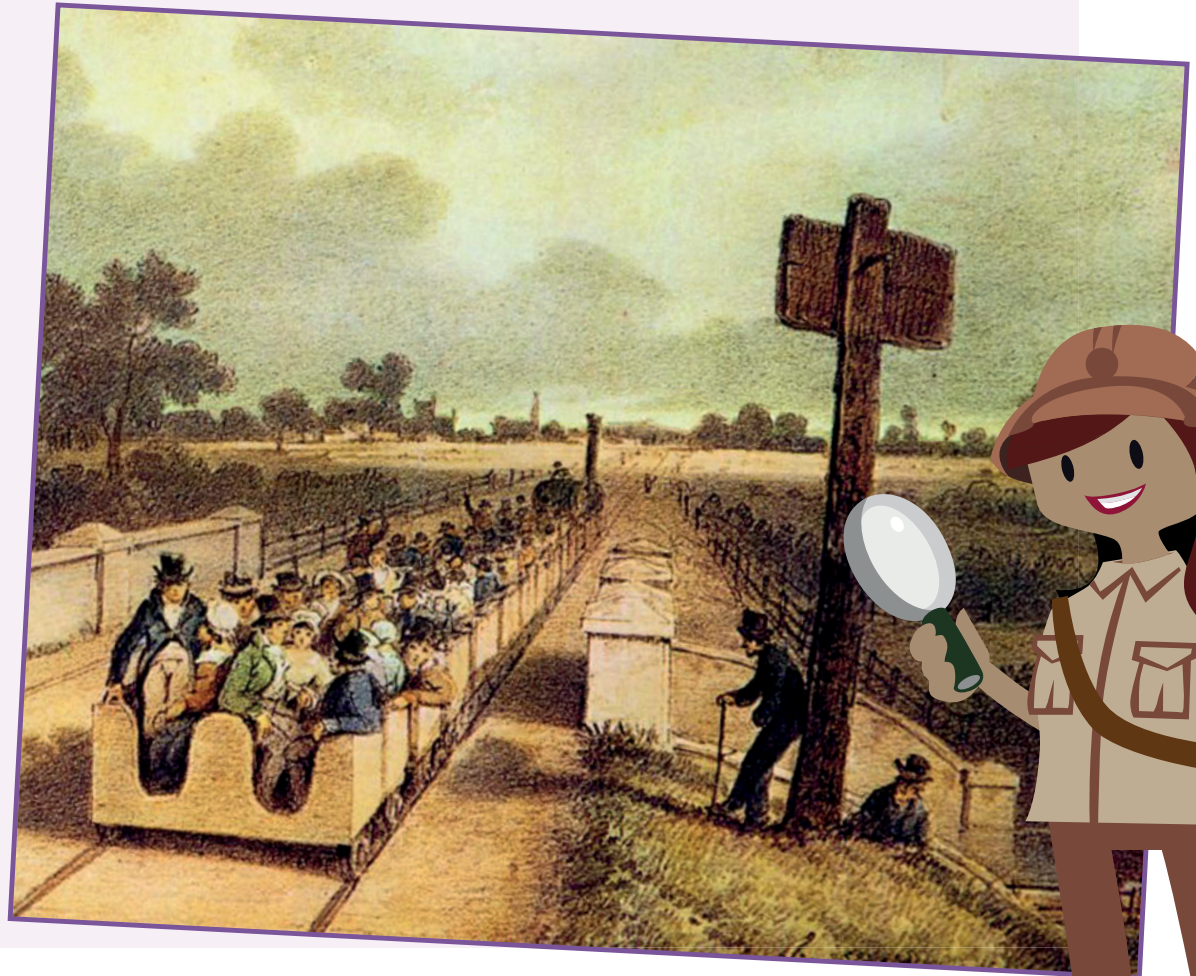
He helped get the proposal for the Railway agreed by Parliament.



Josias Jessop built the Portland viaduct

Josias Jessop was a leading civil engineer.

He also worked on the Liverpool and Manchester railway with George Stephenson (the 'Father of the Railways') before he died at the age of 44 years.



The construction workers

The construction of the railway gave work to the unemployed and would have helped many of them stay out of the Poor House in Sutton.

There was a big celebration in Mansfield when the railway opened. The workers were rewarded with a meal in various pubs, whilst the owners dined at the Swan Inn.



The railway supported the Industrial Revolution

The railways helped move coal around to serve the new steam powered factories.

They also helped transport goods like iron and stone more efficiently to surrounding counties.



What do heritage groups do?

- Research history
- Educate people
- Help protect
- Celebrate history

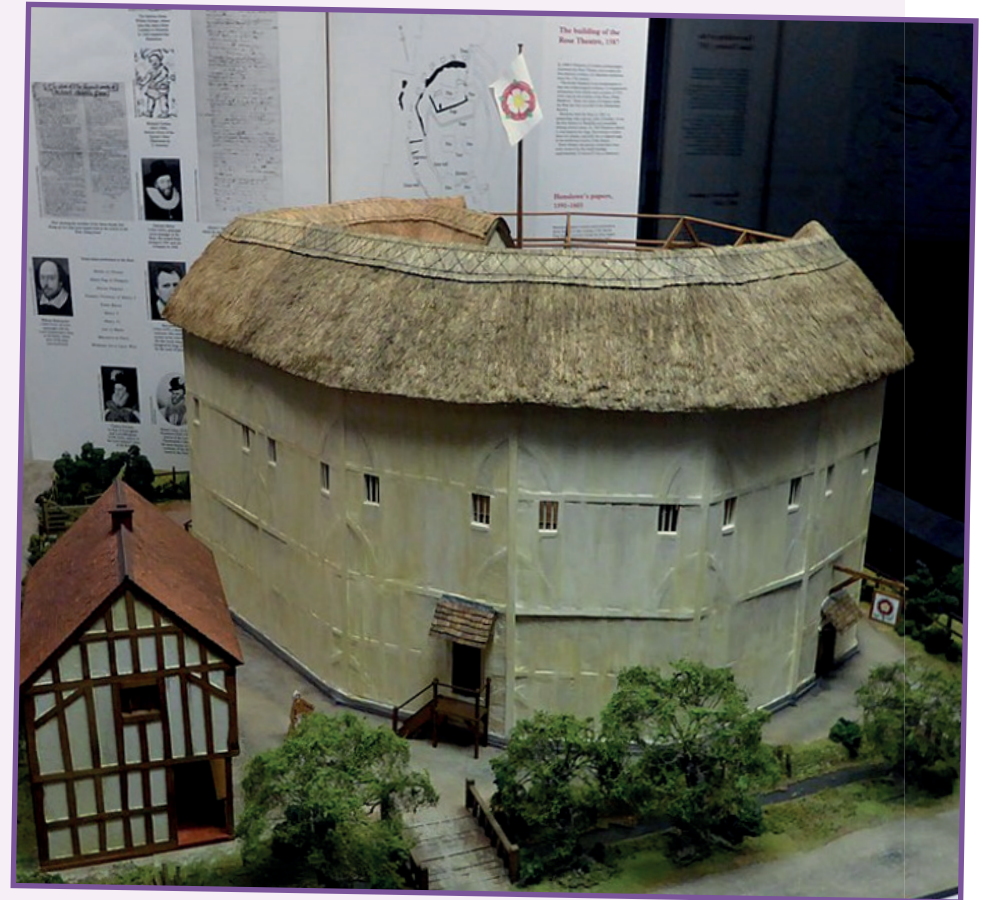
Pictured to the right, Denis Hill of the Mansfield and Pinxton 200 heritage group.



Campaigns to conserve built heritage

Archaeologists were behind a campaign in 1989 to protect the Rose Theatre whose remains were found under the ground on London's South Bank.

With the help of some famous actors including Sir Ian McKellen, Dame Judy Dench and Dustin Hoffman they stopped the site being built on.



Different types of Heritage Assets protected by Historic England



Above: The Church of St Mary Magdalene in Sutton is an important heritage building. It is medieval but was rebuilt in 1854 and 1867. It contains a rare 12th century pillar piscina (a stone basin near the alter).

Below: The iconic Battersea Power Station is now a place to live, shop and enjoy leisure activities.



Heritage can be important for your identity

Heritage provides a link with the people who lived in a place in the past.

We may be personally connected through relatives.

Our heritage might also be reflected in our culture and traditions.

