

= Rivington =

Rivington is a small village and civil parish of the Borough of Chorley , Lancashire , England , occupying 2 @, @ 538 acres (10 @. @ 27 km²) . It is about 6 miles (9 @. @ 7 km) southeast of Chorley and about 8 @. @ 5 miles (13 @. @ 7 km) northwest of Bolton . Rivington is situated on the fringe of the West Pennine Moors , at the foot of Rivington Pike . According to the United Kingdom Census 2001 it had a population of 144 , reducing to 109 at the 2011 Census .

Life in the Middle Ages centred on the families who owned the manor in what was then an isolated rural community . Agriculture , hand loom weaving , quarrying and mining occupied the few inhabitants until the middle of the 19th century . A chapel built before 1541 was replaced by the present church in 1666 and by 1703 Nonconformism led to the building of a Presbyterian church , now a Unitarian Chapel . A grammar school was founded by charter of Queen Elizabeth I in 1556 .

Construction of reservoirs for Liverpool Corporation in the mid @-@ 19th century led to a decrease in the population when farms were cleared , the valley flooded and property in the western part of the village demolished . William Lever bought the Rivington Hall estate at the turn of the 20th century and used his wealth to renovate the old barns and create a large public park .

= = History = =

= = = Toponymy = = =

The origin of the name Rivington is unclear , but is made up of three elements . The first element Riv- comes from either the rowan plants or from the Old English word hreof meaning rough . The second element -ing- usually referred to a place belonging to a person , but in the case of Rivington the element seems to have crept in over the years . The last element comes from the Old English word " tun " meaning a farmstead or settlement . Together the name Rivington may mean " a settlement in the rowans " or " a rough farmstead " .

Rivington has been recorded in many ways in earlier centuries , Rowinton , Rawinton , and Revington were used in 1202 ; Ruhwinton in 1212 , Riuiton in 1226 , Rowynton and Rouynton in 1278 , Roynton in 1332 , Rouyngton in 1400 , Revyngton although rare , and Rovington and Ryvington from the 16th century .

= = = Early history = = =

It is possible that settlements have existed in the area around Rivington since the Bronze Age . Arrowheads , a flint knife , scrapers and the remains of cremations were excavated from a Bronze Age cairn at Noon Hill in 1958 and 1963 ? 64 . It is possible that the name Cobloue on the eastern bank of the Lower Rivington Reservoir derives from the Old English hlaw , a hill , which denoted an ancient barrow or burial place . Evidence for the existence of a settlement here in Anglo @-@ Saxon times is found in the Rivington and Cobloue names .

= = = Manor = = =

In 1212 Alexander de Pilkington held six oxgangs of land in thanage , the majority of land in the Manor of Rivington , and in 1290 it became home to a junior branch of the Pilkington family . Robert Pilkington extended the original Rivington Hall in the 15th century . Rivington Hall Barn is variously dated from Saxon times to the 16th century . Robert 's son , Richard , rebuilt the chapel . Richard ? s son James Pilkington , Bishop of Durham from 1560 ? 75 , founded Rivington Grammar School .

After the death of George Pilkington (1516 ? 97) , the estate passed to his son , Robert , but it was by then in decline . Robert died in 1605 . In 1611 , the Pilkingtons sold Rivington Hall estate to Robert Lever and Thomas Breres .

A quarter of the manor was owned by the Lathoms and an eighth by the Shaws . In the 18th

century the Shaws sold their land to Lord Willoughby of Parham . On the death of Hugh Willoughby the 15th baron in 1765 the Shaws and Roscoes inherited his estates .

In 1729 John Andrews of Little Lever bought the Breres ' share of the manor and was responsible for building the Pike Tower in 1733 . His descendant , Robert Andrews , partially rebuilt Rivington Hall in red brick in the Georgian style in 1774 . After Andrew 's death the property passed to his sister Hannah Maria Andrews , who had married Robert Fletcher of Liverpool . Their daughter , Lucy , married Woodhouse Crompton in 1834 and their descendants remained resident at the hall until 1910 . In 1900 the Cromptons sold their interest in the manor and estate of 2 @,@ 169 acres (8 @.@ 78 km2) to William Hesketh Lever . The Rivington Hall estate was acquired by compulsory purchase by Liverpool Corporation in 1902 as part of the reservoir scheme . William Lever created a 364 @-@ acre (1 @.@ 47 km2) park to the north of the reservoir , Lever Park . He donated the park to the town of Bolton and after his death the park was owned by Liverpool Corporation . The land is owned by United Utilities .

= = = Industries = = =

Foundations of a building that was perhaps a water mill or the manor corn mill are to be found opposite Mill Hill Cottages next to where a possible mill pond was shown on the 1848 first edition Ordnance Survey map .

Until the 19th century Rivington was a rural village built around what is now the village green . Its inhabitants were employed in agriculture on scattered local farms , hand loom weaving in their own homes , working in the local quarries or the small coal mines on Winter Hill . Wilderswood Colliery , owned by Nicholas Fish , appeared in the 1869 Mines List . Coal mining was on a very small scale ; in 1896 the Rivington Moor Colliery employed two workers mining coal from the Mountain coal seam for own or local use .

At Tiger 's Clough , in the River Douglas valley , close to the boundary with Horwich , the Knoll Bleachworks and a calico @-@ printing works were operating before 1800 . They were demolished by Liverpool Corporation as part of the reservoir scheme in the 1860s .

= = = Reservoirs = = =

Rivington was dramatically changed by the construction of the Anglezarke , Upper Rivington , Lower Rivington and Yarrow reservoirs which were built to provide Liverpool with a safe , clean water supply . Nine properties in the valley were demolished before construction work began . The Rivington Pike Scheme , still in use today , was undertaken by Thomas Hawksley between 1850 and 1857 . The scheme was to construct five reservoirs and a water treatment works at the south end of Lower Rivington with a 17 @-@ mile (27 km) pipeline to storage reservoirs at Prescot . Water from two higher level reservoirs , Rake Brook and Lower Ruddlesworth , was carried south in the Goit , a man @-@ made channel connecting them to the lower reservoirs . The scheme was expanded in 1856 , to include High Bullough Reservoir , built in 1850 by J. F. Bateman to supply water to Chorley . The scheme was further expanded by the construction of the Upper Roddlesworth Reservoir in 1867 ? 75 by Thomas Duncan and Joseph Jackson . Yarrow Reservoir , on which work began in 1867 , was designed by Thomas Duncan , the Liverpool Borough Engineer .

In 1900 Liverpool Corporation attempted to acquire the entire area to safeguard its water supply , and proposed to demolish the entire village . Some buildings were protected and others left vulnerable in an Act of Parliament known as the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902 . This allowed the corporation to acquire by compulsory purchase properties in the west of the village , including the Black @-@ a @-@ Moors Head public house and the New Hall , which were demolished between 1902 and 1905 . The result was the small settlement that has remained largely unchanged since then .

= = Governance = =

Rivington was a township in the ecclesiastical parish of Bolton le Moors , in the Salford hundred in Lancashire . It became part of the Chorley Poor Law Union , formed in 1837 , and took responsibility for the administration and funding of the Poor Law in that area . In 1866 Rivington became a civil parish . It became part of the Chorley Rural Sanitary District from 1875 to 1894 , and part of the Chorley Rural District from 1894 to 1974 .

Since 1974 Rivington has been a civil parish of the Borough of Chorley , which comprises 47 councillors each elected for 4 @-@ year terms to represent wards in the borough . In May 2010 the constitution of the Chorley council was Conservatives had 27 seats , Labour 15 seats , Liberal Democrats 3 seats and Independents 2 seats . Rivington is part of the Heath Charnock and Rivington ward and in 2010 elected a Conservative councillor , Pat Case , CBE , who is deputy leader of the council . Chorley is part of the Lancashire County Council created in 1889 under the Local Government Act 1888 and reconstituted under the Local Government Act 1972 . Rivington is part of the Chorley Rural East ward .

Rivington is part of the Chorley parliamentary constituency , which elected Lindsay Hoyle as Member of Parliament for the Labour party at the 2010 General Election .

= = Geography = =

Rivington is situated on the moorland fringe between the high unenclosed moorland of the West Pennine Moors and the fields below . The landscape is characterised by marginal pastures with isolated farmsteads , reservoirs and disused mines and quarries scattered across the hillsides . There is an extensive network of footpaths providing public access . The reservoir valleys are dominated by expanses of water and the Victorian gothic architecture of the dams and embankments surrounded by woodland .

To the east of Rivington is Rivington Pike and to the west the flatter land of the Lancashire Plain . Rivington is north of Horwich and Bolton and to the south of Anglezarke Moor and Yarrow Reservoir . To the west of the village is the wide shallow valley containing the Anglezarke , Upper and Lower Rivington reservoirs . The village is accessed from the west by a road on top of the 876 @-@ foot (267 m) long Horrobin Embankment , a dam that separates the Upper and Lower Rivington reservoirs . The River Douglas has its source on Winter Hill , and flows in a southwest direction forming part of the southern boundary . The River Yarrow has its source on Anglezarke Moor and forms the northern boundary . The area of the township is 2 @,@ 768 acres (11 @.@ 20 km²) , the reservoirs and filter beds occupy 275 acres (1 @.@ 11 km²) .

The underlying geology is Millstone Grit overlaid with coal measures . Gritstone was quarried for building stone in the area . Around Rivington are chalybeate springs and in Dean Wood is a waterfall with a descent of 32 feet (9 @.@ 8 m) .

= = Demography = =

In 2001 , 144 people lived in Rivington , 63 males and 81 females . There were 48 households of which 34 lived in detached houses and 14 in terraced or semi @-@ detached properties . Most households , 60 % , were owner @-@ occupied ; the remainder were privately rented . The mean age of the population was 53 @.@ 4 years . In 2001 most of those employed , 47 , worked in the service industries . Ten worked in extractive and manufacturing industries , and three males were unemployed . The average distance travelled to work by employed persons was 20 @.@ 5 km .

= = Population change = =

= = Economy = =

In the 19th century farming became less economic when construction of the reservoirs reduced the amount of agricultural land in the village . The weaving industry was mechanised , small mines

closed and the population declined further when properties in the village were demolished in the early 20th century . Agriculture , mainly sheep farming , continues although on a small scale . Tourism at Rivington began in Victorian times and after the reservoirs were filled in the 1860s was known as the Little Lake District . Rivington became a popular destination when Lever Park opened in 1904 . From the late Victorian period until the mid @-@ 20th century tourists from Bolton travelled on day trips by tram along Chorley New Road and then on to Rivington on foot , many more visitors arrived by train . Today thousands of visitors are attracted to the village , Rivington Pike and Lever Park every year , making tourism the most significant source of income in the area .

= = Transport = =

Rivington is to the east to the M61 motorway , which connects the M6 and Preston to the north with the M60 and the Greater Manchester conurbation to the south . The nearest access is at Junction 6 . The village is accessed by minor roads from Horwich to the south and Adlington to the west . A winding road to the north passes through Anglezarke and a road over the moors to the east leads to Belmont . The nearest places with regular bus services are Horwich to the south and Adlington to the west , which are served by buses between Bolton and Chorley or Preston .

The arrival of the Manchester and Bolton Railway 's extension to Preston and opening of Blackrod railway station in 1841 brought visitors to the area . The line remains open with stations at Blackrod and Horwich Parkway giving access to Bolton , Manchester , Chorley and Preston .

= = Education = =

Rivington Grammar School 's charter was granted to James Pilkington by Queen Elizabeth I in 1566 . The school opened in 1575 and was rebuilt in 1714 . Blackrod Grammar School , founded in 1568 , merged with it in 1875 . In 1882 Rivington & Blackrod Grammar School opened on a site at the south of the township , close to the boundary with Horwich . The school is now Rivington and Blackrod High School , a specialist technology college , focusing on design and technology , mathematics and science . Year Seven pupils occupy the former Horwich County Secondary School .

The old grammar school building in the village centre is now occupied by Rivington Foundation Primary School .

= = Religion = =

Rivington was a chapelry in the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Bolton le Moors until it became a parish in its own right in 1856 . Rivington Church is built on a hill known as Chapel Croft . An earlier chapel on this site was named in a deed by Margaret Pilkington and her son Robert in 1476 . The parochial chapelry covered Rivington and the surrounding areas of Anglezarke , Hemshaws and Foulds . In 1628 a chapel was built " upon a little toft and quillet of land " by the local population and where divine service was celebrated " for many years of antiquity " . The early 16th century chapel was rebuilt in 1666 and altered and restored during the late 19th century . It is a small plain building built in sandstone with a bell turret . It is an Anglican church and is unusual in that it is not dedicated to any saint or martyr , referred to simply as Rivington Church .

Rivington Unitarian Chapel was built with a bellcote of local stone in 1703 . Originally founded as a Presbyterian church and became Unitarian in the late 18th century . The chapel , which retains its box pews , was restored in 1990 . Both churches are listed buildings and active places of worship .

= = Landmarks = =

= = Rivington conservation area = =

There are a number of listed buildings in Rivington , most of which have Grade II , but two have the higher Grade II * status . They are spread throughout the village and Lever Park , and include the tower on top of Rivington Pike .

There are eight listed properties in the Rivington conservation area , almost half of the houses in the village . Listed buildings include the former vicarage , the Manse House and a row of cottages , one of which was the post office , two rows of cottages at Mill Hill and Pilkington 's Farmhouse , all of which are private residences . Rivington Church and the Unitarian Chapel are active places of worship ; the former grammar school is now a primary school .

The village stocks on the green are inscribed " T W 1719 " on the stone base . The churchwarden and village constable patrolled the village and anyone disregarding the sanctity of the sabbath would be bound in them .

Outside the village centre , the Georgian Rivington Hall , the adjacent Hall Barn and Great House Barn , which is possibly a tithe barn , are all listed buildings . Great House Farm now houses an information centre .

= = = Lever Park = = =

Lever Park is a designed landscape between the open moorland and the chain reservoirs which incorporates the village and buildings of Rivington into the overall design and is " one of the largest and most impressive examples of landscape design in Edwardian England " . It is of national importance and historical significance but has been neglected and has deteriorated . Situated on the east bank of the Lower Rivington reservoir , the park is named after William Lever , Lord Leverhulme , who bought the estate in 1900 and donated 364 acres (1 @.@ 47 km2) of land to the people of his native Bolton as a public park . Under the terms of a compulsory purchase order , William Lever was allowed to continue with plans to lay out Lever Park at his own expense , and he maintained it during his lifetime . The park opened in 1904 and contained a boating lake , a zoo , tree @-@ lined avenues and a network of footpaths . A folly , Rivington Castle , was built as a scale replica of Liverpool Castle at Coblowne Hillock near the Lower Rivington Reservoir . Lodges were built at the entrances to the estate , including Stone House Lodge at the main driveway .

Roynton Cottage , originally a single @-@ storey wooden bungalow , and its extensive gardens were the private property of William Lever , which he used for weekend visits and entertaining , high on the hillside below Rivington Pike . The bungalow was destroyed in an arson attack by suffragette , Edith Rigby , on 8 July 1913 . Its replacement was built of stone . Thomas Mawson designed the 45 @-@ acre (180 @,@ 000 m2) gardens between 1905 and 1922 . The private gardens contained terraces and a pool , a Japanese lake and pagoda , Italian @-@ style gardens , a seven @-@ arched bridge and the Pigeon Tower with Lady Leverhulme 's sewing room on the top floor .

After Lever 's death Roynton Cottage was acquired by the Bolton brewer , John Magee . During the Second World War the bungalow was requisitioned to be used as a billet for troops , and nissen huts were erected in the grounds . After the war the site was acquired by Liverpool Corporation , who decided to demolish the building .

In 1974 the park and gardens passed to the North West Water Authority from Liverpool Corporation , and to United Utilities on privatisation , and are maintained as a public country park for the people of Bolton , protected by rights afforded by the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902 ensuring " Free and uninterrupted enjoyment by the public " . The listed historic landscape of Lever Park now forms part of Rivington County Park and is used for recreation .

= = Sport = =

The Rivington Pike Fell Race has been held on Easter Saturday since 1892 . The fell race originally started from the Horwich railway works , but since 1930 from the park entrance at Lever Park Avenue . It now attracts around 400 runners . The course is 3 @.@ 25 miles (5 @.@ 2 km) and there is a 700 @-@ foot (213 m) ascent .

The area around Rivington and Anglezarke was the location for the 2002 Commonwealth Games

mountain biking competition . The area is well used by hikers and hillwalkers . The Holcombe Hunt meets each year at Rivington Hall Barn .