Before 1750 Penwortham was relatively cut off from Preston by the River Ribble. The only means of crossing this dangerous tidal river was by fords from the Old Ferry house (now demolished) or by one of the ferries. In 1750 the river was bridged, fords were no longer necessary. The first bridge over the Ribble was built in 1750. A broad stone bridge, Penwortham Old Bridge in 1840. Paintings by John Ferguson. A very rural community. Its inhabitants weaving, poultry keeping, cheese making and market gardening. Before 1750 Penwortham was a spur or hamlet of Preston, but with its own character. saw Penwortham begin to develop into a suburb of Preston, but with its own character. Another large bridge which opened in 1915 on payment of a toll, access became easier. The advent of trams and railways and finally the bus route from Preston is clearly marked on the tithe map of 1893 has the letters BH next to the Black Bull Inn, showing the inn was a beer house, rather than a public house, licensed to sell only beer but not spirits or wines. Beer was made on the premises, and the pub raided the houses and farms.

Now set off on an easy direction past the row of houses until just past the library you will find the next house. Is cycling with children please be aware that traffic on inland roads can be busy, but the remainder of the route is on quieter roads or cycle paths. This pleasant traditional farmhouse was built in 17th century vernacular domestic architecture. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. The hall is one of only a handful of listed buildings in Penwortham today, it was Grade I in 1966. It is now converted into flats for older residents of Penwortham.

The walk begins at the Black Bull Inn, 63 Pope Lane, Preston PR1 0HA. There are no car parks behind the row of shops next to the pub. The bus route from Preston to Penwortham is 3 minute 10 minutes.) A right into New Lane, the restaurant, over the Black Bull Inn.

Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. The hall is one of only a handful of listed buildings in Penwortham today, it was Grade I in 1966. It is now converted into flats for older residents of Penwortham. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston. Penwortham Hall was built in 1800 by John Horrocks, founder of the great Horrocks cotton manufacturing company in Preston.
7 Middleforth Green
The name of the street is an abbreviation of the former 'groat' or common, it was enclosed gradually from the medieval period and its eventual complete enclosure in 1584, but was originally an open space or common land which could be used by the inhabitants to graze their sheep, pigs, cows and poultry. The area was rough grazing, stubble, and bog with several ditches and streams.

8 The Methodist Chapel
A great deal of Penwortham's history is tied to Methodism. The first chapel was built on this site in 1813 and then rebuilt in 1853. It was made redundant in 1970 when a new and larger church was needed for the growing congregation. This was erected close to the Bridge Inn. The later church still remains open. The old chapel is now a motor business, and has a blue plaque to commemorate its origin. The old vestry building, next door, has a blue plaque to commemorate its origin.

9 Manor Cottages
This charming row of cottages was built in 1796 and was part of Middleforth Green originally and was part of the Penwortham Hall estate. To lessen the connection with its past use, porches were added and the houses re-named Manor Cottages.

10 Penwortham Fire Station
Built in 1930, this station serves South Ribble and Penwortham. The old buildings were on the same site and were replaced by the current station. The penwortham fire station was closed in 2000 and the building was sold. It now houses a motor business and a listed building.

11 Penwortham Old Bridge
The /first chapel was built on this site in 1813 and then rebuilt in 1853. It was made redundant in 1970 when a new and larger church was needed for the growing congregation. This was erected close to the Bridge Inn. The later church still remains open. The old chapel is now a motor business, and has a blue plaque to commemorate its origin. The old vestry building, next door, has a blue plaque to commemorate its origin.

The Pear Tree Inn
This pub is the one part of the Penwortham Hall estate and at the time of the tithe map it was used as a small factory for cotton weavers. By 1861 Preston's large scale factories had taken over this area into Greenbank Road for a closer look.

Walk past the cottages and go up Leyland Road. Keeping right you can look for the old road for the next landmark . . .

Penwortham Old Bridge
This is the remains of the old bridge which replaced the old chapel, seen earlier on the walk. This later church is still in existence but not visible from our walk.

Malt Kiln Cottage
This cottage was originally a water-powered mill, which used the new railways to distribute their produce all over the country. It didn’t take up malting, but was employed as a ‘railway plate layer’. By this time beer-making was going into the hands of large scale breweries, ‘railway plate layer’.

Beeching railway cuts of the early 1960s.

From this point take the public footpath/pavement beside the Methods Church, keeping straight ahead to the footpath across the road. This takes you to the next path junction which you bear right. You emerge on the same place on Hill Road South. From here you can see the old chapel, seen earlier on the walk. This later church is still in existence but not visible from our walk.

Manor Cottages, Greenbank Road
This is the remains of the old bridge which replaced the old chapel, seen earlier on the walk. This later church is still in existence but not visible from our walk.

Manor Cottages, Greenbank Road
This is the remains of the old bridge which replaced the old chapel, seen earlier on the walk. This later church is still in existence but not visible from our walk.

Walk past Manor Cottages, look through the gap in the side of the road for the next landmark . . .

From Malt Kiln Cottage continue up the path to the junction with Pope Lane, look right and follow the road back to the black bull Inn.