

## Places along the Canal – Norbury Junction

Norbury Junction owes its existence totally to the canal. At its peak over 100 men working on the canal were based here; and a number of canal related buildings were built, mostly of Staffordshire blue bricks and Welsh slate brought by canal.

The first building here was the lock cottage on the Newport Branch. Later the company provided eleven houses for workers, including a block of six cottages constructed at the beginning of the 20th century, and „Ferndale', a grander house for the canal inspector. Open by 1851, the Junction Inn was in the hands of „Parish Clerk, publican and farmer", John Rutter.

Boat traffic was served by two stables, one now demolished and the other next to bridge 38 was converted into „Wharf Cottage" in the early 1960s; and a warehouse, now used as a shop, cafe and offices.

Lock gates were made at Norbury Junction until the early 1940s. Other timber products included fencing, posts, paddles and stop planks etc. The machinery was driven by a 'Maudsley Table' Steam Engine, which survived until the early 1950s when electricity came to the yard.

Boats were repaired and slipped sideways into the canal near the stop gates. A shed on wheels running on rails, a feature of many old boatyards, still exists although no longer mobile. Being on wheels it could be moved over the part of the boat being repaired. The site also included a dry dock and a blacksmith's shop, in which the iron work for lock gates and tools were made.

