This trail is divided into three sections, with the Milnrow section taking about 45 mins to complete. Then Newhey and Ogden may be reached by car. Each step of the walk is detailed below. This trail starts at Milnrow, Milnrow and Newhey can be reached by bus (Nos. 58, 59, 451, 452, 462) from Rochdale bus station, by Metrolink from Rochdale Railway Station stop or from Rochdale Town Centre stop to Milnrow and Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society Ltd which was established in 1850. It was known as the “Red Store”. Originally a 3 storey building with a school on the top floor, the building was extended in 1878 and in 1956. As entrance to the ginnel (still to be seen at the rear) between the Store and the adjacent “Bobbin Hotel” has also changed its shape, but has for years been used as a shelter by local children.

The development of Co-operative societies and enterprises in Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden reflect many aspects of the optimism and commercial skills of early Co-operatives. Here we find stores and their branches, mills and industrial development, housing, and the extensive use of the railways as aids to development. At Ogden the Co-op became the central focus of the village (alongside public buildings – the former Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society which was established in 1856). The fortunes of the Co-operative societies varied over the years, as did those of Co-ops everywhere, to some extent, where you worked. Your allegiances influenced where you shopped, who you played with, what dances you went to and to some extent, where you worked.

The trail starts at the junction of Kiln Lane with Dale Street.

**Route description**

1. **The Red Store**, 2 Kiln Lane
   At the junction of Kiln Lane with Dale Street is the building which housed the first Co-op in the area: the Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society Ltd which was established in 1850. It was known as the “Red Store”. Originally a 3 storey building with a school on the top floor, the building was extended in 1878 and in 1956. As entrance to the ginnel (still to be seen at the rear) between the Store and the adjacent “Bobbin Hotel” has also changed its shape, but has for years been used as a shelter by local children.

2. **The “Blue Store”, 12 Dale Street**
   Opposite this building is another Co-operative Store, presently occupied by Carpet Creations. This was the impressive home of the Milnrow Cooperative Industrial Co-operative Society (known as “The Blue Store”), founded in 1874, a short time before the adjoining Milnrow Conservative Club was built in 1860. The architectural style of the Blue Store is similar to that on Shaw Road in Newhey and was enlarged twice, as an inspection of the shop fronts indicates. (It is interesting that the present owners of this business were formerly the managers of Lanebottom Co-op at Ogden).

3. **Church Street Woollen Mill, 53 Dale Street**
   On the left, with parts dating from 1846, is a former Co-operative mill, originally known as Church Street Woollen Mill. This became Milnrow Spinning Company and was assiduous in deciding how and when to maintain these buildings and were constructed in 1878. They presently occupied by Carpet Creations and used the present owners of this business were formerly the managers of Lanebottom Co-op at Ogden).

4. **Bentgate Street is fine examples of Co-operative built retail base**
   In 1856. The development of Co-operative societies and enterprises in Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden reflect many aspects of the optimism and commercial skills of early Co-operatives. Here we find stores and their branches, mills and industrial development, housing, and the extensive use of the railways as aids to development. At Ogden the Co-op became the central focus of the village (alongside public buildings – the former Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society which was established in 1856). The fortunes of the Co-operative societies varied over the years, as did those of Co-ops everywhere, to some extent, where you worked. Your allegiances influenced where you shopped, who you played with, what dances you went to and to some extent, where you worked.

5. **The Trail**
   The Trail highlights the proud and significant part played by the Co-ops in the lives of the people of this area.

6. **The Co-operative Heritage Trail**
   The development of Co-operative societies and enterprises in Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden reflect many aspects of the optimism and commercial skills of early Co-operatives. Here we find stores and their branches, mills and industrial development, housing, and the extensive use of the railways as aids to development. At Ogden the Co-op became the central focus of the village (alongside public buildings – the former Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society which was established in 1856).

7. **Co-operative supermarket**
   The present Co-operative Supermarket is on the right.

8. **Co-operative houses, Equitable Street**
   Turn right into Station Road and walk towards Milnrow. On your left is Mydron. The first terraced houses, on the righthand side, form Equitable Buildings and were constructed in 1878. They are additional examples of Co-operative Society confidence, planning and wealth in this area. On the site of the present Milnrow Co-operative houses, Equitable Street.

9. **Co-operative houses, 46-62 Bentgate Street**
   Milnrow Conservation Office, the Fire Station, the Urban District Council Offices, and the Police Station are other 19th century public buildings – the former Milnrow Equitable Pioneers Society which was established in 1856. The architectural style of the Blue Store is similar to that on Shaw Road in Newhey and was enlarged twice, as an inspection of the shop fronts indicates. (It is interesting that the present owners of this business were formerly the managers of Lanebottom Co-op at Ogden).

10. **Co-operative store, 2-4 Shaw Road**
    At the junction of this road (now the A663) with Huddersfield Road (A640), can be seen, on your right the 1896 premises of the Newhey Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. This was a large and thriving store, with wood paneling in the upstairs office and in the 1950’s, a roll-top desk for the Store Manager with polished stairs to the upper floor. The retail space downstairs was divided into grocery areas either side of the milliner’s and chemists and draperies department. Furniture was sold from upstairs. Note the similar architectural style to Milnrow’s Blue Store.
I am a Co-op building!

Look out for window stickers to identify the buildings!

Lanebottom Co-op Store
Turn right off Ogden Lane in Lanebottom. Here, on your left, was the smallest independent Co-operative society in the country, a former weaver’s cottage. Lanebottom Equitable Pioneers’ Society Limited traded for 148 years, closing in 2007. Lanebottom’s lasting success was a tribute to astute buying and management, excellent advertising and an ability to provide whatever was wanted, including furniture, carpets, electrical goods, groceries, drapery, and diamonds – for buyers in many countries. Its building has now been renovated and can be seen next to the Bull’s Head Inn at Lower Ogden.

OGDEN

Co-operative Store, 39a Huddersfield Road
A short distance along the Huddersfield Road (A640), on your left by the steps to St Thomas’ church, is a row of stone cottages. The end property at number 39a was another Newhey Co-operative Store. The Society was formed in 1881 (although some sources state it was a Branch store of the Shaw Road Co-operative), and lasted until 1966 when it merged with Rochdale Pioneers. It appears to have been purpose built with its stone pilasters marking the entrance and windows, and its drawing-in door in the gable end. As the date stone tells us, this was renovated in 1996. It is just visible in the old photo of Newhey station above, looking towards St Thomas’ Church.

Ogden, the next site of this trail, is about 2km from the start of Huddersfield Road. Turn left down Ogden Lane just before a sharp bend on the main road, A640.

Opposite the Store was the Manager’s House, with the Store’s slaughterhouse behind it.

About 200m past the Store and public house, a lane paved with setts takes you to Pioneer’s Villa. These 6 Co-operative stone houses were built for members in 1868.

OGDEN

Pioneer’s Villa
About 200m past the Store and public house, a lane paved with setts takes you to Pioneer’s Villa.

This document was created by The Co-operatives Walking Group (Rochdale) in collaboration with Rochdale Church, Daleville and Rochdale Pioneers Museum.

Start the walk at the Metrolink Station and follow the numbered markers on the map.

This trail is suitable for all abilities.

Visit the website at www.rchdc.coop for more information.

For more information contact the Visitors Information Centre at Touchstones, Rochdale Exchange, 01706 254825 - visit www.visitsrochdale.org.uk

Explore the Five Ways to Wellbeing at http://www.gov.uk/healthy-lifestyle