

His 'water spinning frame' was at the time 'state of the art' in the manufacture of cotton yarns. The activities of 'machine breakers' (see pamphlet No 3) brought an end to this business and Arkwright withdrew from the lease in 1779.

Within two years rebuilding had taken place and Birkacre continued to develop, concentrating this time on the textile finishing business. The works at Birkacre were used for calico printing, dyeing and bleaching. From the mid 1800's the business was most successful under McNaughton and Thom. Mr John Thom an expert chemist purchased the Burgh and Birkacre Estate from the Anderton family in 1852. Under his guidance the business developed and grew in efficiency

Water power was superseded by steam power and even a private coal mine was opened in 1880 to supply the needs of the works which had now grown so much that they straddled the River Yarrow. The map overleaf shows the position of the mine shafts and railway.

Generally speaking, the printing business was carried out on the 'car park side' of the River Yarrow and the bleaching and dyeing was done at the other side of the river, the 'Coppull side'.

In 1930 the Thom family sold out to larger companies who ran the works until 1939 when the collieries and works were closed down. Subsequently all the buildings and the adjoining lands became derelict.

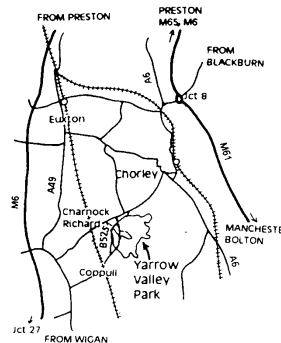
Nature gradually healed the scars after the clearance of the buildings but the site was to remain derelict for over 40 years until the creation of the Yarrow Valley Country Park in the 1990's.



Sir Richard Arkwright, inventor and industrialist. He was originally from Preston.

### How to find us

Yarrow Valley Country Park is located to the south west of Chorley, off the B5251 road between Chorley and Coppull.



This pamphlet was produced by Leisure Services Unit with the assistance of Jack Smith, Local Historian. Designed by Regeneration Unit.

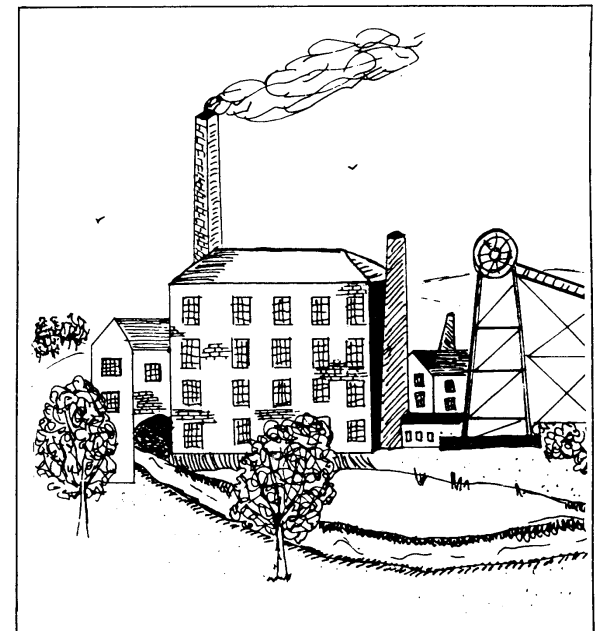
If you require further information  
Contact 01257 279538  
E-mail: [leisure@chorley.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@chorley.gov.uk)

**Chorley**  
Borough Council



[www.chorley.gov.uk](http://www.chorley.gov.uk)

# Yarrow Valley Country Park



## A Brief Industrial History Of The Site

PAMPHLET NO 2

