

## The Making of Manchester

A guide for teachers and group leaders

### The Gallery

Making of Manchester tells the story of the history of Manchester from Roman times to the present day. Text, graphics and tableaux accompany exhibits including pottery and other objects, maps, photographs and ephemera.

### Using the gallery

The gallery is housed on the ground floor of the Station Building and is fully accessible for people in wheelchairs and pushchairs.

The gallery is organised into several small sections making it advisable to split a class into smaller groups. Children below the age of 12 will find the text on the display panels challenging.

There are no toilets in the building.

### What's in the gallery?

The entrance hall is shared with the Underground Manchester Gallery and includes a brief three-minute video about the history and current use of Station Building. The rest of the gallery is organised in chronological sections as follows.

#### Romans

A tableau of a street scene in the Roman settlement of Mamucium showing timber framed buildings and people in both Roman and Celtic dress. Graphics and text provide information on the Roman occupation of Britain. Roman construction materials from the archaeological excavations of the fort at Castlefield are on display.

#### The Manor of Manchester

Manchester was relatively unimportant in the pre-industrial period and retained a medieval form of local government until 1838, illustrated here by standard weights and measures used by Manor of Manchester inspectors to check market trade. Displays also explore the woollen and linen industries. Some textile merchants, such as Humphrey Chetham the founder of Chetham's library and school, had become wealthy. By 1759, the growth of trade had made Manchester into 'a fair and thriving town'.

#### The Factory System

The sound of the factory bell can be heard calling mill workers to work. As the factory system developed new forms of discipline were required to manage the workforce. Exhibits include a 'clocking on' machine, a two-faced waterwheel clock that showed both 'mill time' and real time, and a night watchman's truncheon.



### Shock City 1800 – 1850

The social and political consequences of Manchester's rapid transformation from a market town into an industrial city are depicted in this section. The Peterloo Massacre of 1819 is commemorated by a tableau with audio, a plaque of the leading radical Henry Hunt, a sabre and a clock depicting leading parliamentary reformers of the time. A two-room display of a squalid and insanitary slum illustrates the living conditions of the poorest members of society. (There is an exit from here into the 1830 Warehouse.)



### Civic Pride 1850 - 1914

Exhibits set out Manchester's growth and growing wealth and self-confidence. Exhibitions held in the city, the construction of the Manchester Ship Canal and the development of the Trafford Park industrial estate are all explored as examples of this.

### Difficult Times 1914 -1974

Displays depict aspects of life in the last century. Two videos record the Second World War blitz and post-war reconstruction plans. Exhibits of consumer goods made in Manchester depict the emergence of post war affluence.

Exits from the gallery lead onto a display about the regeneration of Manchester at the end of the twentieth century. The room includes a traffic light salvaged from the junction of Market Street and Cross Street following the IRA bomb in 1996. Continuing from here on the ground floor visitors can move into The Liverpool and Manchester Railway Exhibition or down stairs to the basement, which contains Underground Manchester.