



skins per year.

Morlands and Baily's were processing about half a million

At the height of the sheepskin industry in Glastonbury, further afield, for example Yorkshire and Lancashire.

however as demand grew, animals were brought in from industries in Somerset. Initially, local stock was used,

SHEEP

WATER is abundant in this part of Somerset. It is important in many local industries, particularly tanning, dyeing and fulling. The River Brue and the Glastonbury to Bridgwater Canal provided a direct route for resources and manufactured goods to be transported.



RAILWAYS allowed manufactured goods to be transported quickly to Bristol and beyond. In 1854 Glastonbury train station - on the mainline between Highbridge and Evercreech - was opened. It was renamed Glastonbury and Street in 1886. It followed to same route as the disused canal.

WINDMILL

until the early 1900s.

Windmill Hill. These

Edmund Hill and

mills on Wearyall Hill,

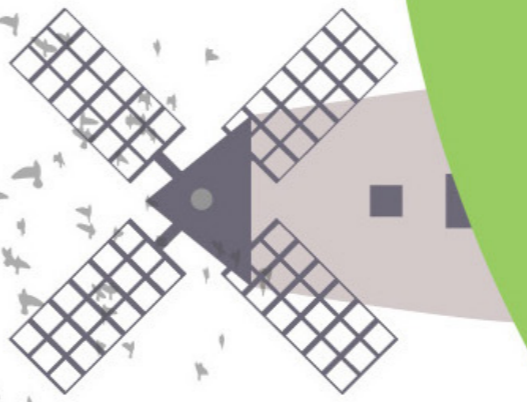
Glastonbury, there were

used to grind corn. In

1300s. They were mostly

Somerset from the

were common in



INDUSTRY CREATIVITY HERITAGE



a walking trail

Beckery Island & Glastonbury

Supported by
Historic England

RED BRICK BUILDING
COMMUNITY ARTS EDUCATION ENTERPRISE

Glastonbury's industrial heritage

- 1086 8 smiths recorded to be working in Glastonbury
- 1127 Henry I grants markets in Glastonbury
- 1244 Windmills in use in Glastonbury and Street
- 1274 Ormund the Tanner processed 72 skins, later sold in Sherborne
- 1333 Glastonbury Abbey produces 11,000 cloves of garlic, 6,000 sold
- 1451 Tannery established at Northover
- 1514 William Rendel and Robert Skynner doing leatherwork at Northover
- 1539 Glastonbury Abbey closed in the Dissolution of the Monasteries
- 1550s 34 Flemish weavers and their families settle in the Abbey grounds
- 1590s Manufacture of woollens, worsteds, jerseys and serge at Northover Mill
- 1620s Stocking manufactured at Northover Mill
- 1640 Windmill built at Wearyall Hill
- 1656 Quakers establish a Meeting in Street
- 1736 Bricks are manufactured in Glastonbury
- 1771 A brick house in use on Wells Road - current site of St Dunstan's
- 1780s Silk manufactured in Glastonbury's market house
- 1825 Clarks founded by John and Cyrus Clark
- 1834 Glastonbury to Bridgwater Canal opened
- 1851 At least 100 people employed making gloves in Glastonbury
- 1854 Glastonbury train station opened; canal closed
- 1867 Baily's building started
- 1871 Clark, Son and Morland founded, employing 65 people
- 1886 AWS Baily producing sheepskin rugs in Beckery Island
- 1891 70 people employed by the railway and timber yards in Glastonbury
- 1899 Telephones installed in Glastonbury
- 1904 Electricity introduced to Glastonbury town centre
- 1932 Morlands produce 45,000 pairs of sheepskin slippers
- 1939 Morlands make flying boots and flying jackets for the Air Ministry
- 1963 Henry Cooper wears Baily's boxing gloves in his winning fight with Cassius Clay
- 1967 Francis Chichester wears Morlands boots on his circumnavigation of the globe
- 1982 Morlands, Glastonbury closes down with the loss of 1500 jobs
- 1992 Baily's closes down
- 2008 Some buildings in the old Morlands complex are saved from demolition
- 2013 The Red Brick Building opens as a community, arts and business hub
- 2022 The Baily's Building and Morlands Building C awarded funding in the Glastonbury Town Deal

Glastonbury Industrial Heritage Trail



River Brue

3 The Baily's Building

This building dates from the mid-nineteenth century, and is listed for its wooden louvred drying halls. Baily's made boxing gloves, sheepskin coats, carpets and tennis racquets; the company closed in 1992. Funded by the Town Deal, the building is being restored and will be used for light industry.



Bride's Mound is the site of an early Christian church, and was possibly a sacred site before that. Its location near the River Brue is significant and it has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries.

1 Northover Mill

Clothmakers, fullers, dyers, quiltmakers and tanners have used this mill since the 14th century, possibly earlier. A Mill was built by Glastonbury Abbey - water was diverted from the River Brue to power a water wheel. The building was renovated by the Beckery Island Regeneration Trust.



4 Glastonbury and Street Railway Station

The station opened in 1854 on the Evercreech to Highbridge line. It provided a regular and efficient way to bring resources to Morlands, Baily's Clarks and other manufacturers, and to move products to Bristol and beyond. The station was closed in 1966. The site is now part of Sydenhams (formerly Snows) timber company.



2 Red Brick Building

These buildings used to be part of the Morlands factory. The site was derelict for thirty years, but some buildings were saved in 2009 and are now a vibrant community asset, with offices, events and a cafe. As part of the Town Deal, Building C is being renovated as the next phase and will house the Life Factory.



5 Glastonbury Bricks Site

Bricks have been made in Glastonbury for several hundred years - a brick house is recorded in 1771 on the Wells Road (where St Dunstan's school is now) and in 1851 there was a brick and tile works on Northload Street. You can still buy your own 'Glastonbury Brick' from Glastonbury Reclamation!



6 Silk Weaving Mill

Glastonbury has been the home of silk weavers several times. After the Abbey was closed in 1539, Flemish weavers moved into the Abbey grounds. Later in the 18th century, silk was woven in the Market House (now the Town Council Buildings).



7 Glastonbury Abbey

The Abbey monks produced huge quantities of food both for consumption within the Abbey and for sale to local buyers - in 1333 it sold 6,000 cloves of garlic. Monks had to generate income from their own manors, so were in effect managers of small rural industries such as farming, and fish farming. The Abbey grounds were also home to tanning, fulling and other light industrial processes.



8 Abbey Barn - Somerset Rural Life Museum

The stone and timber barn, now part of the Somerset Rural Life Museum, was built to store produce by Glastonbury Abbey. It continued to be used until 1972. The Rural Life Museum now houses fascinating displays about life in the area - a good way to find out more about Somerset's rural and industrial heritage.



9 Drapers Sheepskin Factory and Shop

Drapers is the largest remaining sheepskin manufacturer in the area. It was established in 1937 and still makes sheepskin footwear and accessories. The company produces on average 1000 pairs of slippers per week. You can still see some of the manufacturing processes and buy sheepskin products at their factory in Glastonbury.



This is a self-guided walk and passes through a range of areas. Please take care as you follow the trail, particularly with uneven surfaces and unmade roads. Please respect the usual rules of the road and the countryside, and supervise children. If you have any feedback, please contact heritage@redbrickbuilding.co.uk

www.redbrickbuilding.co.uk

