

Watershed
Bordeaux Quay, BS1
5TX

The Watershed sits along the stretch of water called St Augustine's Reach (named after St Augustine's Abbey Church which is now Bristol Cathedral). This stretch of water is part of Bristol's Floating Harbour. The Floating Harbour was created in 1809 by damming water flow to ensure ships remained upright when the tide went out. The Floating Harbour is an excellent example of engineering know-how. Did you know that the River Frome still runs here, it's just underneath the centre of the city so you can't see it?! You will learn more about the Floating Harbour during the trail.

In Brunel's day (1806-1859) this would have been the most thriving area of Bristol's port.

Architecture Centre
16 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

This building was constructed at the time when the Floating Harbour was created. It would have been here when Brunel first came to Bristol in the 1820s.

Q. Look at the exhibition in the Architecture Centre. What are your ideas for making Bristol into a more youth friendly city?

Arnolfini
16 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

Did you know the Arnolfini used to be a tea warehouse?! Have a look inside to see the wonderful structure of the building – you probably won't find any tea unless you visit their café!

M Shed
Prince's Wharf,
Wapping Rd, Bristol,
BS1 4RN

Q. Find the L Shed, above the doors at the end of the building is a plaque. What used to be on this site? How is this linked to Brunel?

Did you know Brunel was asked to write a report for the Bristol Docks Company to suggest improvements to the docks and harbour? He completed his report in 1843 and over the next 15 years his improvements were put in to practice. His dredging boat (known as a dragboat) may well have been used to help drain the harbour in 1893.

Q. Go inside the MShed. Find the Floating Harbour display in The Bristol Places Gallery – name one item that was found in the silt when the Floating Harbour was drained in 1893.

The Brunel Institute
Brunel's ss Great Britain,
Great Western Dockyard,
BS1 6TY

Underfall Yard
Cumberland Road,
BS1 6XG

Clifton Suspension Bridge
BS8 3PA

Brunel's ss Great Britain was launched in July 1843 from the same Dry Dock where she can be visited today. The ship famously returned to Bristol in 1970 and was restored to its former glory. It is now part of an award winning visitor attraction.

Q. Ask at the desk to access the Brunel Institute. Using any of the reference sources offered to you in the Brunel Institute, find out: what three things made the ss Great Britain such an innovative and technologically advanced ship when she was launched?

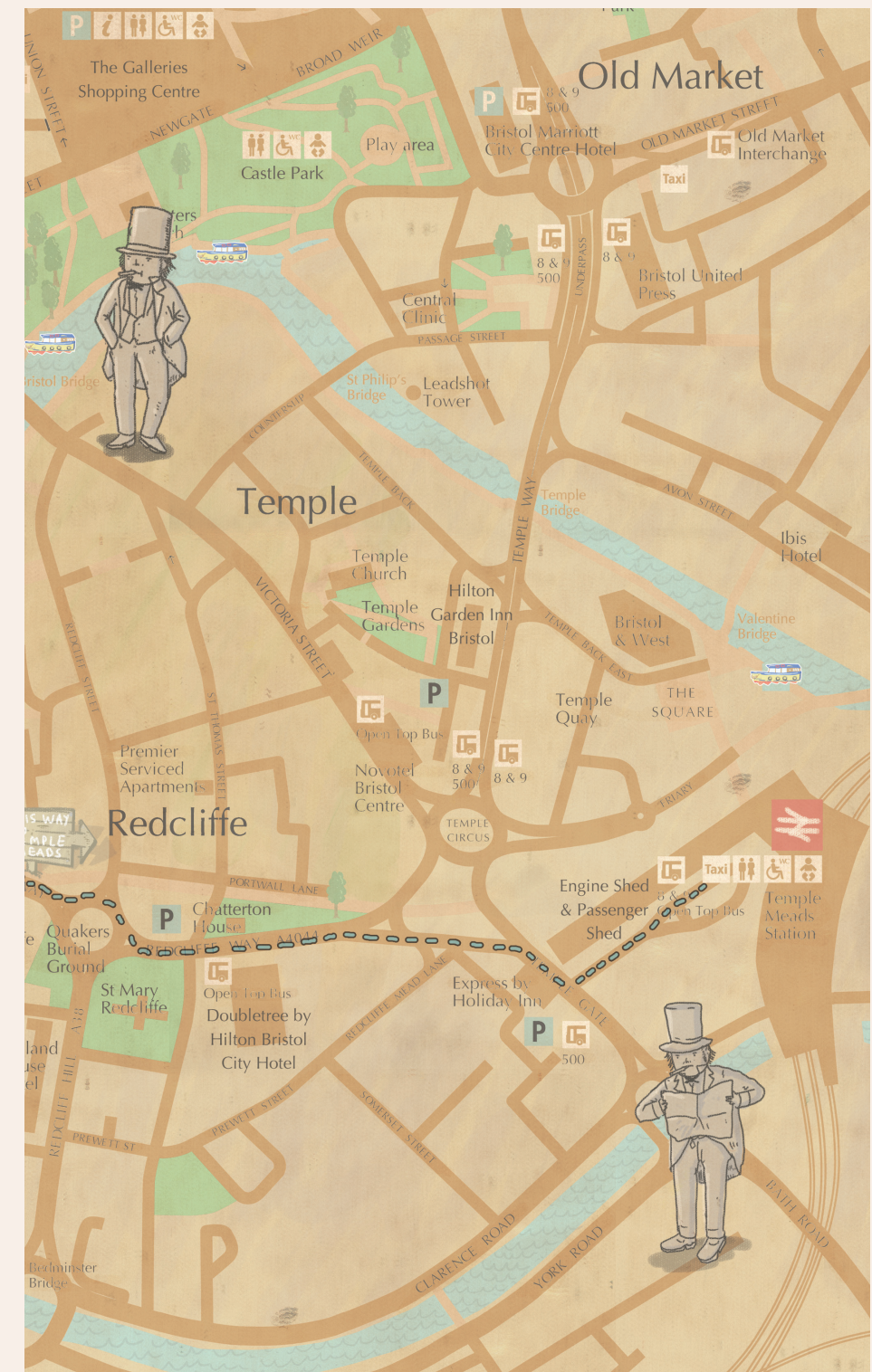
The Underfall Yard is home to a working boatyard including the harbourmasters office. The harbour is still active and requires a lot of work to keep it running. Many of Brunel's improvements to help reduce the silt build up in the harbour and to improve the efficiency of the docks can still be seen today including his sluice paddle.

Q. Brunel's sluice paddle needed to be huge to cope with the water and silt coming through it. Find the wooden pattern (model) of a sluice paddle in the Boiler House and measure its width. NB if the Boiler House is closed, you can still see an original sluice paddle outside the sluice room in the Harbour Master's car park.

You now must get to the Clifton Suspension Bridge to complete the trail. You can walk or take public transport.

The Clifton Suspension bridge was designed by Brunel in 1830 when he was just 23 years old. He was appointed engineer in charge of building the bridge in 1831. Due to financial issues the committee in charge of the bridge had to stop work several times in order to raise more funds. Brunel described the Clifton Suspension Bridge as 'his first child his darling' but sadly did not survive to see it completed.

Q. Examine the Clifton Tower. We know Brunel designed the bridge. Find the names of the two other engineers, listed on the tower, who ensured the Bridge was completed. Q. Find out the date the Bridge was completed. Q. Find out what made the Clifton Suspension Bridge so extraordinary when Brunel designed it in 1831.



For more information, or to find the answers to the questions, visit <http://cliftonbridge.org.uk>.



Supported By:

