

1. Leave Tesco's car park and cross Manchester Road, at the lights, after a few metres turn left onto Buckley St.

2. Follow this until it becomes un-adopted road and continue until you come to the old lock keepers house.  
Built late 18th Century

3. Go down the passage and where it splits turn left to go over the canal via the camel hump bridge.

4. Turn left as you go across the and walk along the towpath towards Ashton. *The canal was built in 1796 and joins Manchester to Ashton-under-Lyne. It is 6¾ miles long and was built to transport coal. It has 18 locks, the locks here are the last on the canal before it reaches Ashton and 38 bridges. Traffic on it ceased in 1958 and restoration work began on it 1974 and is now used for leisure craft. Where the flats are opposite used to be Saxon Mill which produced cotton and closed in 1967 (see picture overleaf)*

5. Carry on along the tow path and under next bridge, Benson's Bridge until near the end on the stone wall (before the next bridge)

6. Turn right down the lane know as Love Lane and you will arrive at the east end of Fairfield Settlement. *As you come out of Love Lane note the Clock and Cupola to your left on the church. Fairfield Moravian Settlement was built in 1785 . It was planned by its own people. The village was self-contained and self-governed, with its inn, shop, bakery, farm, laundry, fire-engine and a physician. There were community houses for the sisters and brethren. The Settlement is of unique importance nationally, being the largest of its kind in Britain. All the buildings are on the statutory list of building of Special Architectural or Historical Interest.*

7. Turn first left onto Sisters' St to the bottom and turn right along the South Terrace which houses the College (former Sisters' House), Church, and Brethren's House (now Fairfield High School). The burial ground is on your left through the double gates. (If you have time please look around)

8. As your reach Brethren St turn left down the ginnel between the burial ground wall and High School boundary on to Fairfield Avenue

9. Take first left onto Broadway. *Members of the Moravian Settlement discussed the possibility of expanding onto nearby land that belonged to the Moravian Church in October 1909. After visiting Burnage Garden Village Fairfield Tenants Limited was set up in 1912. Their committee invited Edgar Wood to prepare an estate layout and construction of houses designed by James Sellers started in 1913 in a neo-Georgian style. The village was never completed, only the left hand side of Broadway (as far as the bend) & Broadway North part way down on the right was finished due mainly to the World War I. Walk the whole length of Broadway to Ashton Hill Lane.*

10. Turn left and go over the Bridge on the Canal. To the right where the new housing development is used to be Robertson's Jam Factory 1891-2008 (see picture overleaf)

11. Follow Ashton Hill Lane round until you meet the junction of Fairfield Road, Market Street and Ashton Hill Lane.

12. Turn right and walk up to the lights. If you have time take a left just a few metres down on the opposite side of the road and look at St Mary's Church built in 1846. Otherwise cross over the lights at Market St and then again at Manchester Road. Turn and look at the old Co-op building built in 1876. *The shopping centre and Concorde Suite (now empty) built in early 1970s replaced the old Droylsden Town Hall (see picture over leaf).* Walk back towards Manchester over the canal bridge which was a spur going to Oldham before being filled in in the 1960s. You will find yourself back at Tesco's.

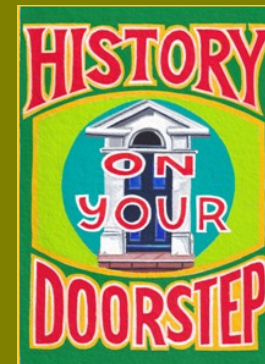
For further information: [www.moravian.org.uk](http://www.moravian.org.uk) (follow links to Fairfield)

This leaflet has been funded by  
Tameside Local History Forum



Pictures on the front cover—(top to bottom) Fairfield Square, Crest of Droylsden, Broadway being built, Logo of History on your doorstep Benson's bridge

## Droylsden—Local History Walk



*History on Your Doorstep*



Camel Hump Bridge



Old Droylsden Town Hall



Broadway



Saxon Mill



Robertson's Jam Factory



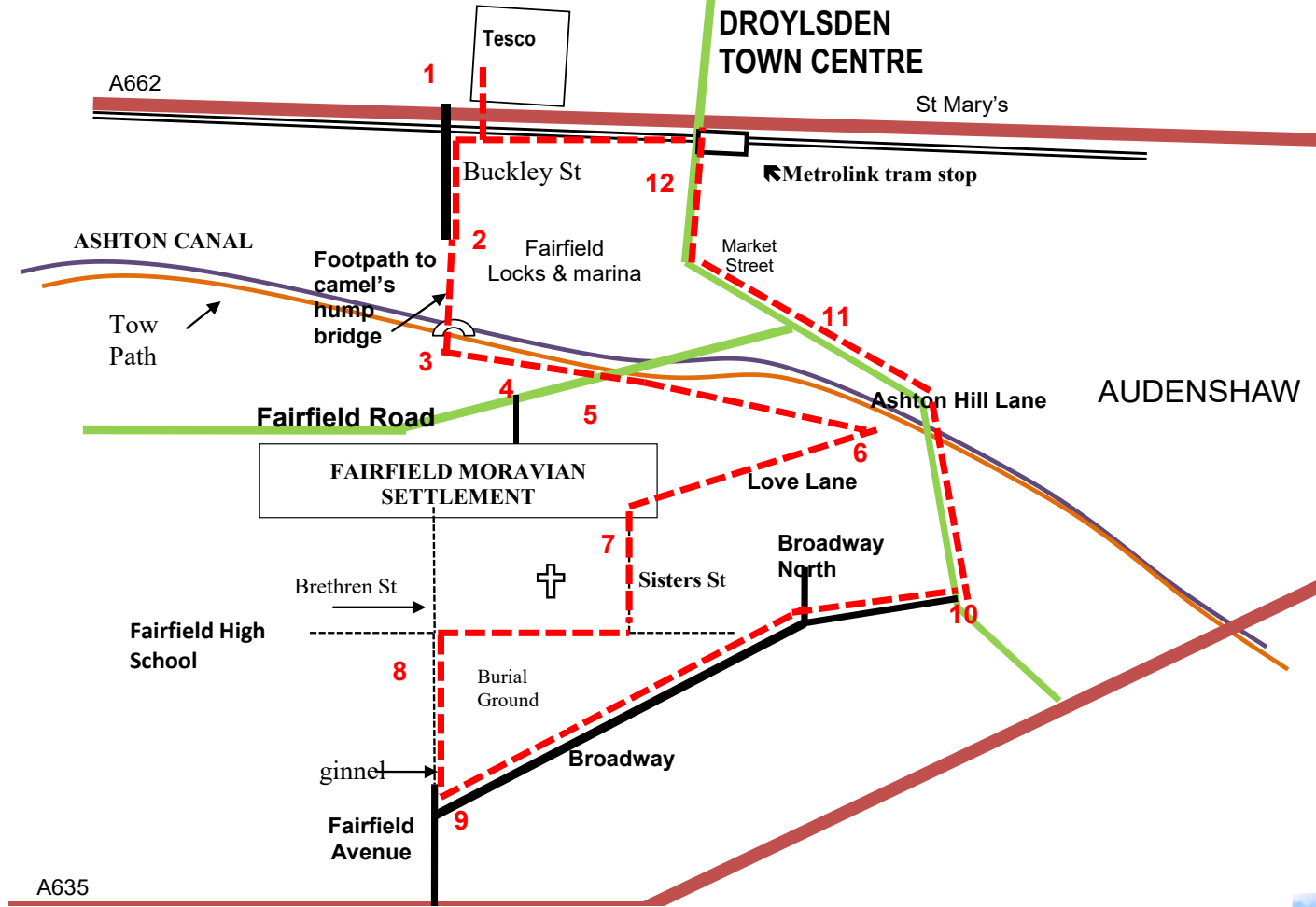
Old Co-Operative building, corner Market St & A662

St Mary's Ashton Road



Fairfield Square 1785 and today

**Key**  
Walking Route to follow  
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See overleaf for explanation of numbers  
Time: leisurely 45mins



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