

Local history: The Anderton Boat Lift

Why was the Anderton Boat Lift built?



I can explain why Anderton Boat Lift changed the transport of goods in British history.

The Anderton Boat Lift, also known as 'The Cathedral of the Canals' or the 'Eiffel Tower of the Waterways', was built to transport boats 50 feet from the Trent and Mersey Canal to the River Weaver.

In 1777 the Trent & Mersey Canal was opened to carry clay and flint to Staffordshire and finished pottery back to Liverpool. It was a way of transporting cargo and lots of people began to use it.

The River Weaver and the Trent & Mersey Canal ran near each other and it was decided to try to join the two to make moving cargo even easier. Edwin Clark was asked to design a boat lift, which was

Primary sources of evidence.	Original, first hand accounts from that time
Change	To become different.
Impact	to have a strong effect on something, to make a difference

I know how the purpose of the Boat lift changed over time.

1875
Edwin Clark built a lift with two caissons which balanced each other. This system worked well supporting the transport of goods using the waterways.

1908
Colonel Saner converted the lift to electricity. He used electric motors and huge big pulleys and weights to move the caissons. A stronger frame had to be built to hold all the extra weight. The transporting of goods via the water continued.

Present Day
The lift fell into disrepair as other ways of transporting goods became popular, easier and more efficient. In 2002 the lift was restored and reopened as a tourist attraction to help people understand the movement of goods in the past and the lives of people who worked there.

