

THE BRETTON TERMINUS MERE STONE

The boundary stone, sited in the garden of the Croft, is the only known surviving artefact from Sir John Glynne's canal and, with others, marked the ownership of the land upon which the canal ran.

The canal was opened on the 5th April 1770 to transport coal from Sir John Glynne's estate collieries and ran for some 2.5 miles from here to the national network at Chester. In 1775 a half share in the canal was sold to George Prescott, a neighbouring land and colliery owner. The precise date of the canal's closure is unknown but it is thought to have been during the decades close to the turn of the 19th century.

The boundary stone is a dressed and weathered block of carboniferous sandstone, carved with the initials 'SRG', representing Stephen Richard Glynne (1780-1805) and 'GWP', George William Prescott (1794-1801). A combination of these dates places the inscriptions as having been carved between 1794 and 1801. The word 'Bart^r' is carved below the initials, identifying them as holding the title of Baronet.

The stone was taken from Bretton for safe keeping in 1962 by Alan Voce and friends from the Railway and canal Historical Society. For a time it was kept in Devon. Various people from the village remember the stone being in position and it is referred to in the Ordinance Survey Record Card of 1961.

After a great deal of research by Mr Paul Sillitoe, Mrs Voce was pleased to have the stone returned to its old coal wharf site and the family at the Croft is delighted to be able to display it on behalf of the community, in its proper home and for public interest and benefit.

More information is available from any number of villagers and details relating to Mr Sillitoe's research is published as Paul J. Sillitoe, 'Sir John Glynne's Canal, Hawarden, Flintshire: Recovery and Analysis of an Inscribed Boundary Stone', Archaeology in Wales, Volume 47, Council for British Archaeology: Wales, 2007, pages 93-98.