

Quorn Parish Council welcomes you to The Slabs

Why The Slabs?

Although the exact line of the path we know today as 'The Slabs' has changed over the years, a thoroughfare of some sort has existed since at least mediaeval times.

The Salt Way was an ancient route by which salt was brought from Norfolk or South Lincolnshire into the Midlands. It came into Charnwood at Six Hills, and from there it ran down Pawdy Lane and into Barrow upon Soar. It then crossed the River Soar and continued into Quorn across these fields. From here it is thought to have continued along what is now Station Road and down into Meeting Street. The earliest records supporting Quorn's connection with this valuable commodity, are in 1336 when Richard De Salter and his family are living in the village, and later that century when the term Saltgate is being used for a field area in Quorn.



Hugo Meynell



Barrow Slabs under water in the 1920s

In the 16th century, the route of the slabs, crossing what was then known as Scotch Green, is recorded for the first time. The path followed the line of the river, going to the South of Quorn Hall, between the house and the river bank, and went as far as the village centre.

In 1788, Quorn Hall was occupied by Hugo Meynell, who founded the famous Quorn Hunt. With the consent of parish representatives and the agreement of the County Quarter Sessions, Hugo Meynell diverted the path to the North side of the Hall.

During the time that Sir Richard Sutton was Master of the Hunt (1847-1855), he maintained a private railroad siding at Barrow, where hounds and horses were loaded for transport to distant meets, and built himself a quarter mile long flagstone walk through the middle of the meadow in order to keep his boots dry while he walked to the train. The path at that time was paved with rough slate slabs and ran along by the side of the river for about 250 yards, before bending to the right and across the avenue of chestnut trees.

The footpath was further improved around 1886 by Edward Warner, of Quorn Hall, when it was straightened, and the slate slabs replaced by granite slabs.

Perhaps the most significant change for the Slabs footpath came in 1991, with the building of the Quorn, Mountsorrel, Rothley bypass. A footbridge had to be constructed to take this important route over the new A6.



Quorn Lane near Barrow Bridge, early 1900s



Quorn Hall early 1900s