



Moore Nature Reserve - Moore Nature Reserve comprises almost 200 acres of woodland, meadows, lakes and ponds. It has been managed as a nature reserve since 1991 to reduce the environmental impact of the tip at Arpley. In 1975, Warrington Borough Council submitted plans to create a country

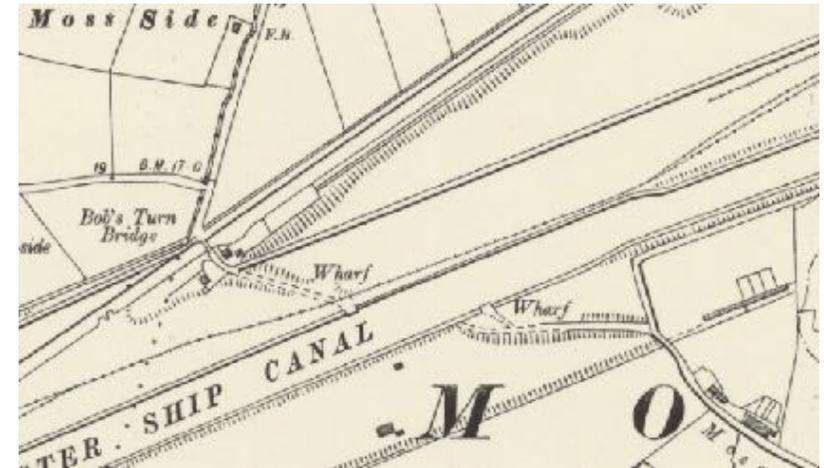
park in the area, with a range of habitats and a rare breeds farm. The plans were never followed up.

Land Use - Before the canals were built, the land was generally very fertile due to flooding by the river Mersey, though it was marshy in places. It has long been cultivated and grown a variety of agricultural crops, with osier beds for thatch, woodland and, in the Middle Ages, peat. More recently sand extraction left shallow areas which have now been filled with water and attract many waterfowl.

Navvies Huts - During the building of the Ship Canal, there was a great demand for labour. Men came from far and wide, bringing their families. Villages were built along the banks of the canal and there was one on the site of what is now Promenade Park.



Smallpox Hospital - There was an outbreak of smallpox during the construction of the canal and Runcorn Rural District Council built an isolation hospital on the bank to the west of Moss Lane. The epidemic peaked in 1892/93 and 35 men, women and children died. They were buried without memorial in Walton St John's Churchyard but remembered in 1990 when a lettered stone was placed over the area of unmarked graves.



Cattle ferry - The building of the ship canal cut access to the Moss side farms and necessitated the building of the road along Promenade Park to Moore Lane swing bridge. To overcome teething problems with the new access, a ferry was installed to allow the crossing of the canal along the old route of Moss Lane towards Bob's bridge. The line of the route to the ferry can still be seen from near the bottom of Moss Lane.



Bob's Bridge - This is the name the Ordnance Survey maps of the time used. There was a wooden turn bridge at Bob's bridge, long gone and filled in to allow easy access onto Moss side. There were a number between Runcorn and the high railway deviation bridge, namely Old Randle's, Bob's, Moore, Bellhouse, Baxter's and Walton.

