



Reviving the  
Roundhouse

# Reviving the Roundhouse

Find out about the Birmingham Roundhouse and its restoration

## Keys Terms:

Disrepair, restore, stables, sustainable

[canalrivertrust.org.uk/stem](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/stem)

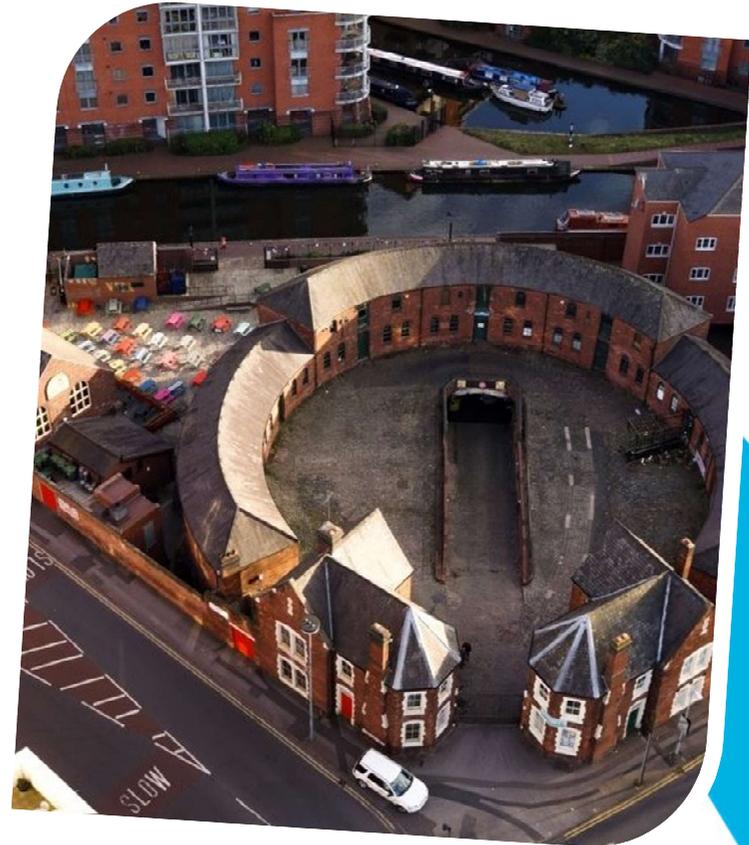
Canal & River Trust charity number: 1146792



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## Objectives

- To discover what the Roundhouse was once used for.
- To learn about the restoration of the site.
- To introduce Roundhouse themed challenges.



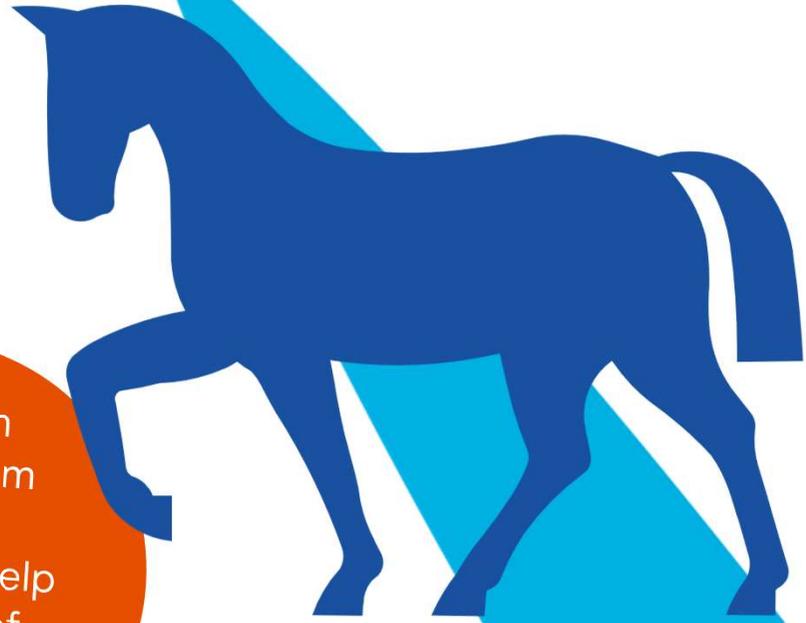




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## Roundhouse History

- The Roundhouse was built by the Birmingham Corporation in 1874.
- It was needed for **horse stables** and as a **storage space**.
- The Birmingham Corporation held a competition inviting architects to design the building.

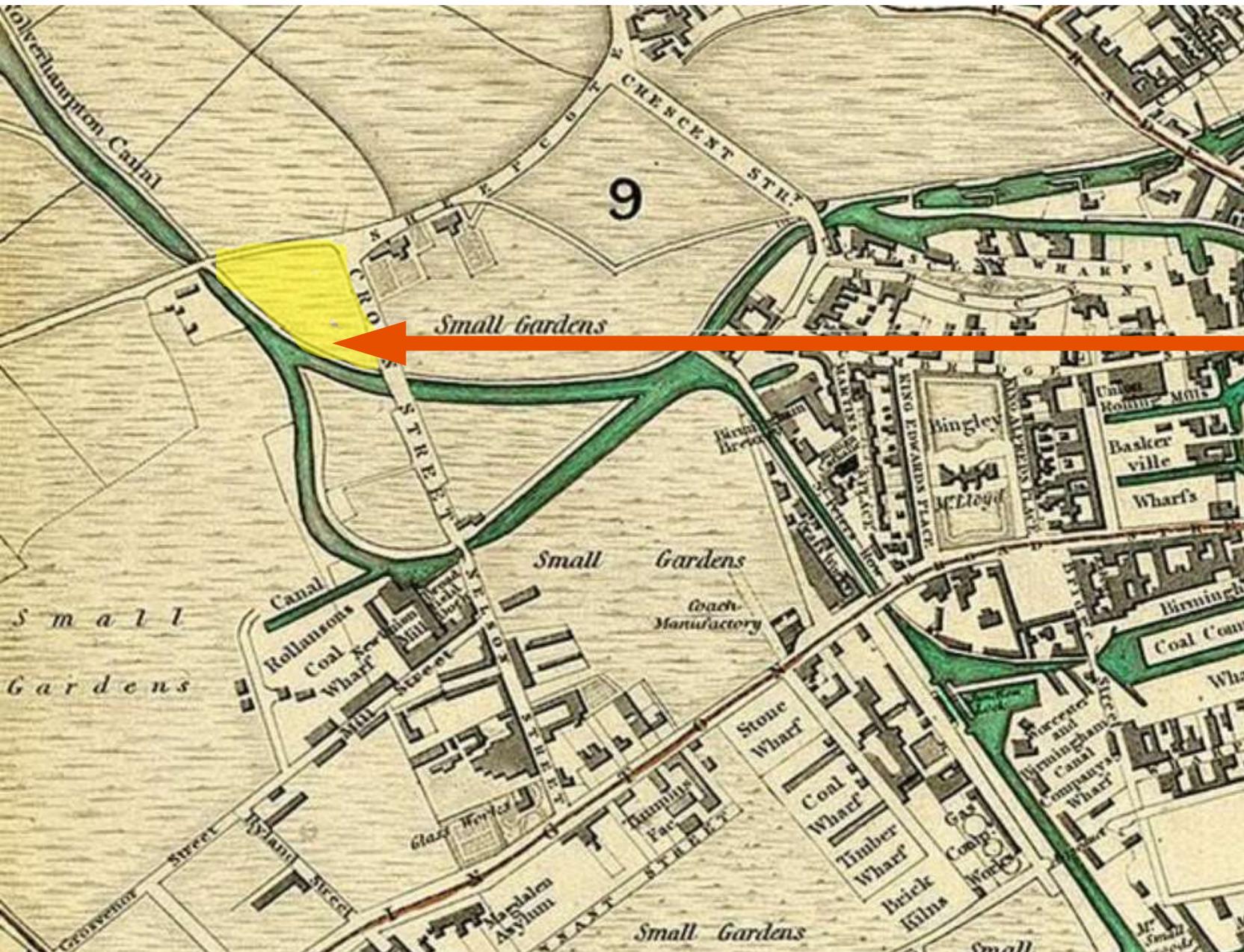
A dark blue silhouette of a horse in profile, facing left. It is standing on a light blue path that leads from the bottom right towards the horse. A dark blue triangular shape is positioned above the horse's head, with a light blue beam of light shining down onto the horse's back.

Victorian Birmingham needed **horses** to help with lots of important jobs.

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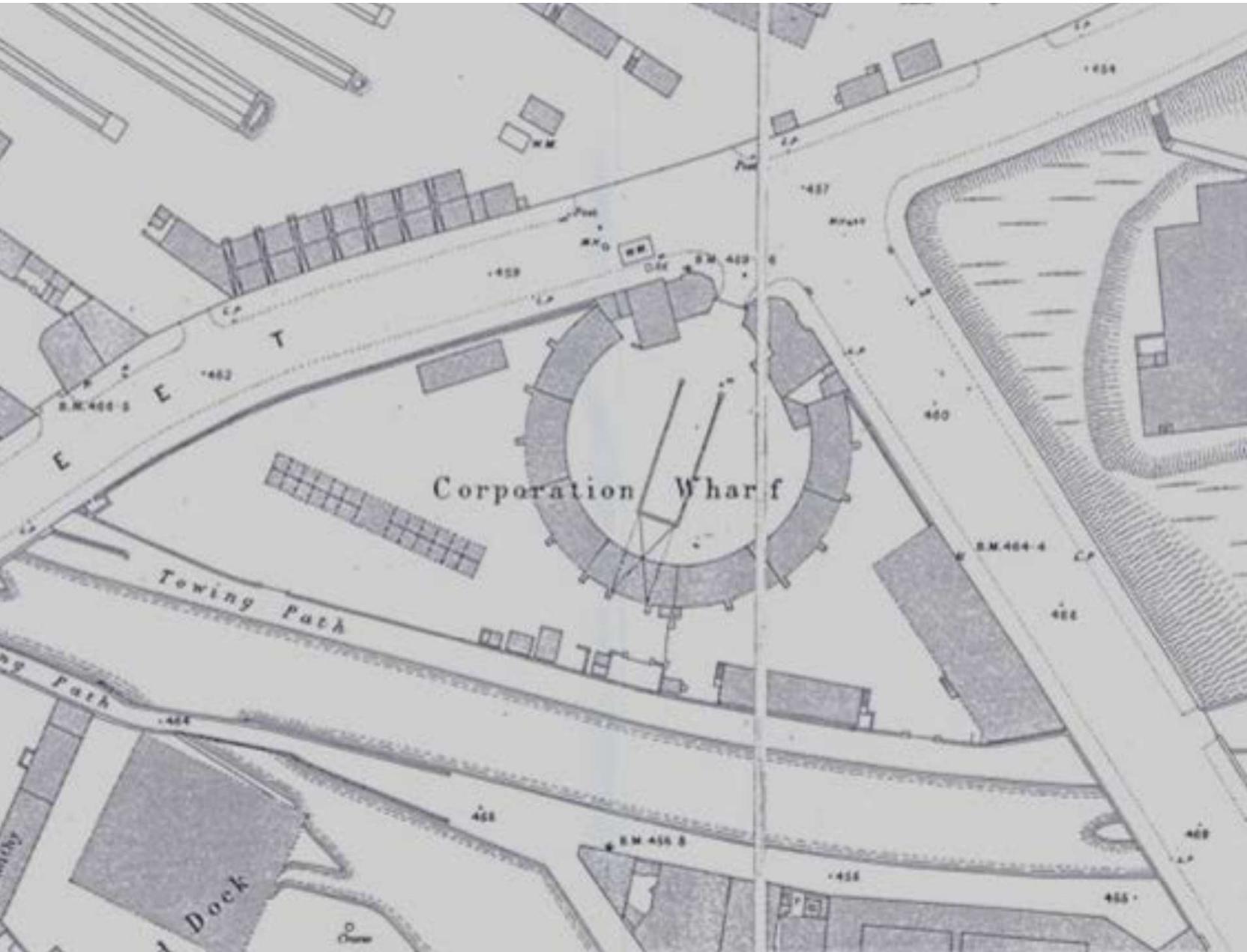
This is a map of the area in 1839 before the Roundhouse was built.

Can you spot the canal?



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This a **plan view** of the winning design.



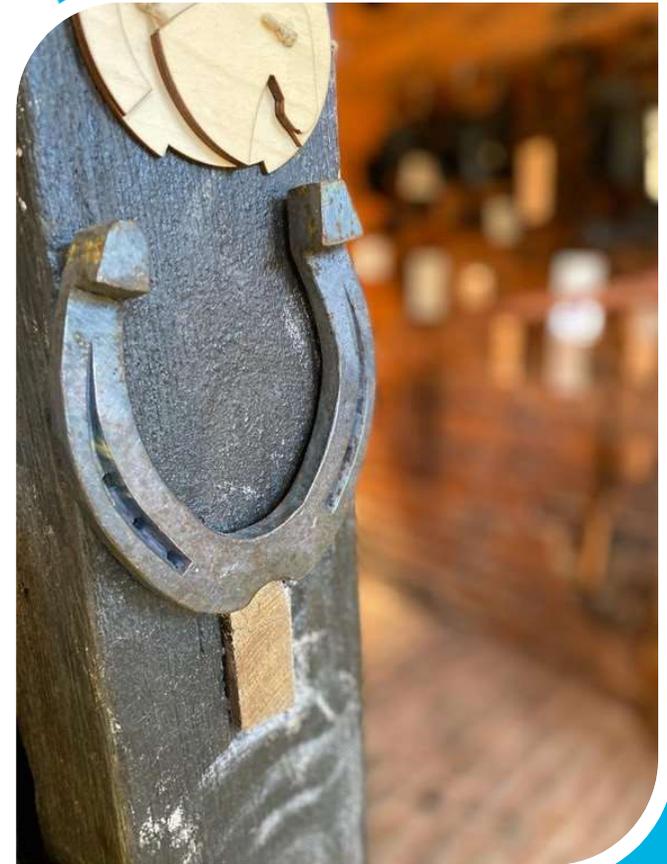
What do you notice about the **shape**?

## The Architect

- An architect called W.H. Ward created the design.
- We think he might have taken some creative **inspiration** from the horses!

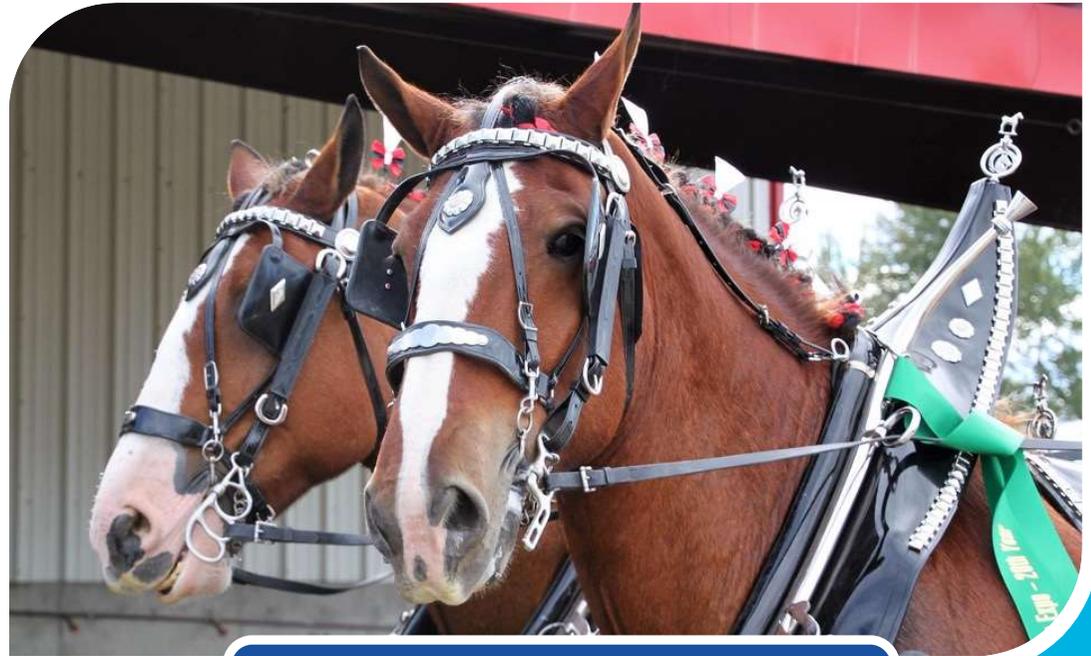


W. H. Ward



## The Horses

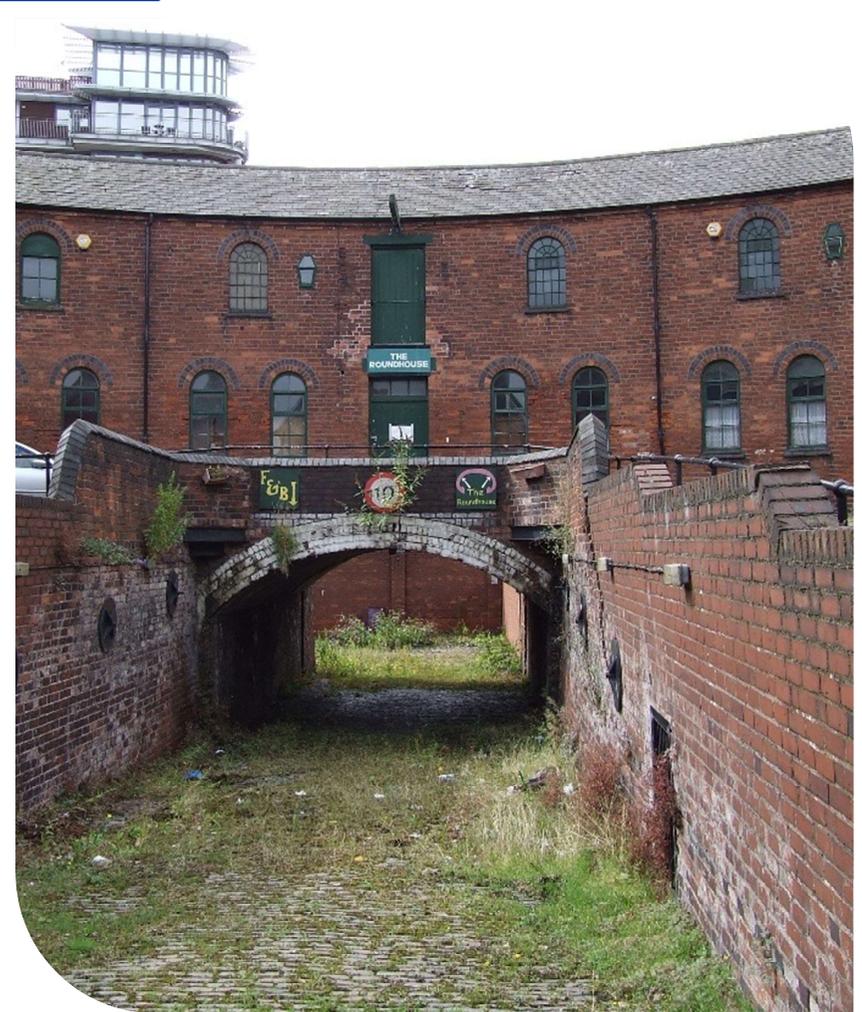
- The Roundhouse had room for 50 horses!
- Many of these would have been used for pulling carts and narrowboats across Birmingham.



**Clydesdale horses used for heavy industrial work!**

## The Roundhouse Decline

- Once railways and motor vehicles became popular, the Roundhouse became less used.
- It fell into **disrepair** and was put on a special list called the '**Heritage At Risk Register**'.
- This amazing building needed help!





## Restoration

- In 2013 a huge project was started to **restore** and **renovate** the Roundhouse.
- The aim was to transform it into a hub for exploring the heritage of the city.
- Renting out some of the building as office space would also help the site to become more **financially sustainable** for the future.

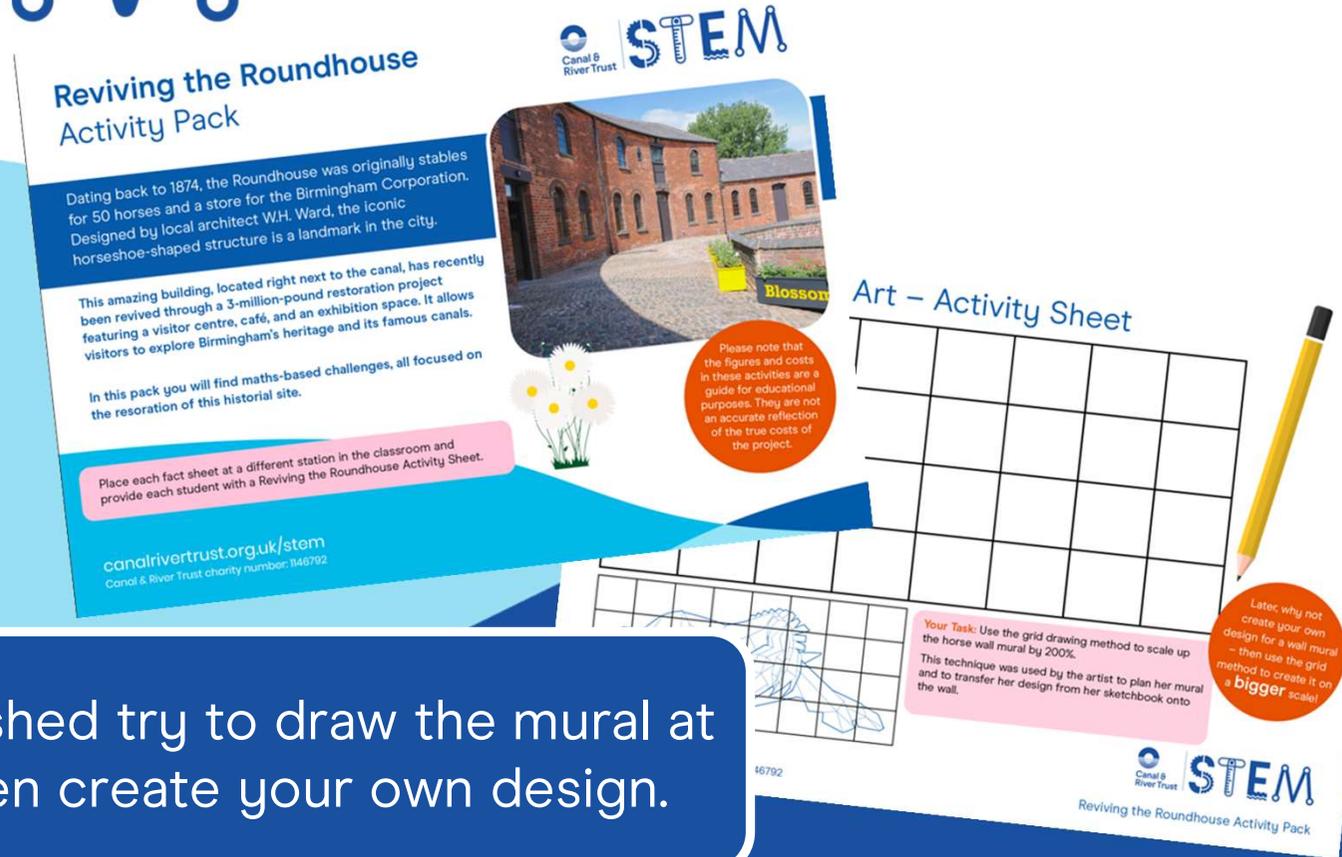


## Your Task

Using the fact sheets, complete the 5 Roundhouse challenges.



When you have finished try to draw the mural at a larger scale or even create your own design.



**Reviving the Roundhouse Activity Pack**

Dating back to 1874, the Roundhouse was originally stables for 50 horses and a store for the Birmingham Corporation. Designed by local architect W.H. Ward, the iconic horseshoe-shaped structure is a landmark in the city.

This amazing building, located right next to the canal, has recently been revived through a 3-million-pound restoration project featuring a visitor centre, café, and an exhibition space. It allows visitors to explore Birmingham's heritage and its famous canals.

In this pack you will find maths-based challenges, all focused on the restoration of this historical site.

Place each fact sheet at a different station in the classroom and provide each student with a Reviving the Roundhouse Activity Sheet.

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**Art - Activity Sheet**

Please note that the figures and costs in these activities are a guide for educational purposes. They are not an accurate reflection of the true costs of the project.

Your Task: Use the grid drawing method to scale up the horse wall mural by 200%. This technique was used by the artist to plan her mural and to transfer her design from her sketchbook onto the wall.

Later, why not create your own design for a wall mural - then use the grid method to create it on a bigger scale!

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