

The Swing Bridge & Engine House



Built in 1880, the Swing Bridge carried the Hayle Wharves Branch Line over the Copperhouse Canal. This line which ran from 1852-1979 carried goods to and from North Quay to Hayle Station.

The Bridge's cantilevered beam was hydraulically operated to lift and pivot. It replaced the 1852 Drawbridge, the corbelled parapets of which still stand at the rear of the Swimming Pool.

The red brick Engine House is built over the canal bank and the former steam engine lifted and turned the bridge. It has a rounded arched door and window frames and the building also stands on a separate arch spanning a leat. The machinery is virtually intact. Only three such bridges were built and the one at Hayle is the most complete.

Badly damaged by vandals in 2001, the Engine House was recently restored by Rail Track Properties Ltd and the Railways Heritage Trust, and given to the Town as part of its Railway Heritage.

