



Industrial Age Timeline - Key events

1763 Turnpike road from Oswestry reaches Llanymynech

1791 Ellesmere Canal (now the Llangollen) started to be built

1796 Montgomeryshire Canal opens

1797 Montgomeryshire Canal connects to Ellesmere Canal at Llanymynech

1801 Chirk Aqueduct opened

1805 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct opened

1810-20 Thomas Telford constructs the Shrewsbury to Holyhead Road

1820 Oswestry's first gas works opens in Willow Street

1848 Oswestry's First Railway Line arrives: a branch off the Shrewsbury and Chester line at Gobowen

1851 Oswestry population 4,817

1860 Second Railway Line to Oswestry by the Oswestry and Newtown Railway from a separate station

1861 Oswestry population 5,414

1864 Third rail line to Oswestry. The Oswestry, Ellesmere & Whitchurch Railway brings its line into Oswestry from the north-east

1864 Birth of the Cambrian Railway, created by the amalgamation of 4 railway companies. HQ established in Oswestry

1866 Criggion Quarry near Welshpool opened

1881 Oswestry population 7,847

1881 Work commences on the construction of the Lake Vyrnwy reservoir and aqueduct that passes under Oswestry

1891 Oswestry population 8,496

1891 Closure of New Trefonen Colliery, last pit in the Oswestry coalfield

1891 First electric lighting installed in the area at The Quinta, Weston Rhyn

1899 Hoffman kiln built at Llanymynech

1903 Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway opened

1904 First motor car registered in Oswestry

1904 Tanat Valley Light Railway opened

1911 Oswestry population 9,991

1913 Drill Brickworks closed

1914 Lime quarrying and burning finishes at Llanymynech

1923 Great Western Railway absorbs the Cambrian Railway network of lines

1934 Oswestry street lighting changes from gas to electric

1936 The canal at Llanymynech breached and drained

1944 The canal now known as The Montgomery was officially abandoned

1941 Coventry Climax factory evacuates to Oswestry

1961 Oswestry population 11,215.

1963 Welshpool and Llanfair Railway opened as a Heritage Railway

1964 Tanat Valley Light Railway closed

1965 Last trains run south from Oswestry

1966 Last scheduled rail service from Gobowen to Oswestry

1968 Closure of Ifton colliery, the last colliery in North Shropshire

1972 Cambrian Railways Society formed to establish a railway and industrial museum at Oswestry Station and the preservation of the Gobowen - Blodwel line as a heritage railway

1975 Llangollen railway reopened as a Heritage Railway

1987 Restoration of Montgomery Canal begins

1998 Cambrian Railways Trust founded to support the restoration of the railway from Gobowen

2005 First passengers travelled on a short journey at Llyncllys South Station.

2009 Pontcysyllte and Chirk Aqueducts granted World Heritage Status

2009 Cambrian Railways Society and Cambrian Railways Trust merge to become Cambrian Heritage Railways

2011 [Oswestry population 17,105](#)

2022 Cambrian Heritage Railways re-opens line from Oswestry to Weston Wharf