

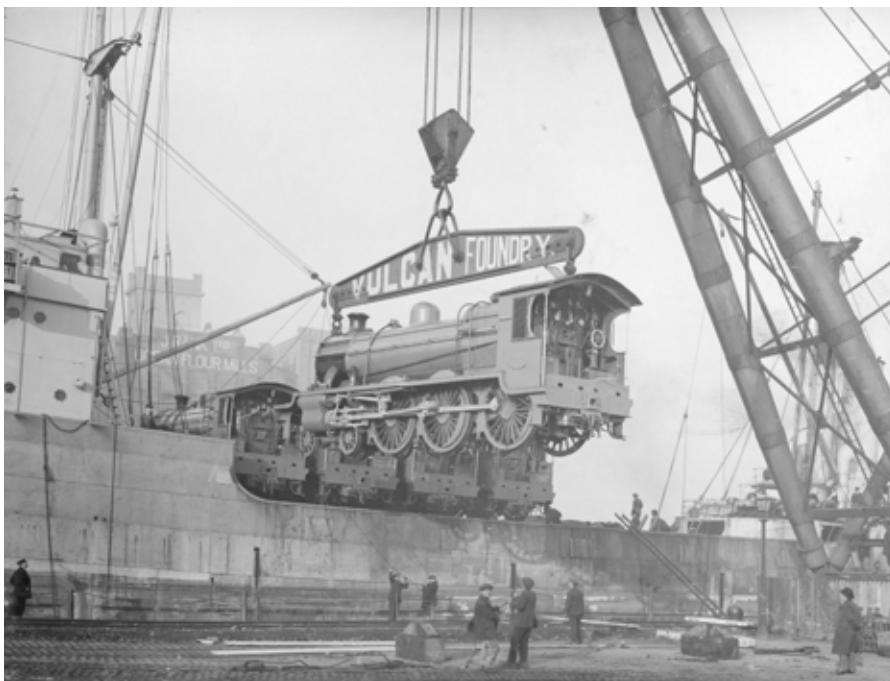
From Wallasey Pool to Wirral Waters

There were plans to create a dock system on the Birkenhead side of the river Mersey since the 1820s but it was not until 1844 that the first stone was laid. It was designed as an inland system by enclosing the tidal inlet of Wallasey Pool. The docks were developed over a number of the years, with the first section opening in 1847 and by 1880 the main dock system was complete.

On the north side of the East Float were grain warehouses and mills and on the Wallasey Dock were foreign animal wharves or lairages. Bidston Dock was planned as an extension to the dock system, and specifically the Great Float, and opened in 1933 and would provide specialist facilities for handling bulk iron ore.



Birkenhead Grain warehouses, view across dock, 1915



Loading of Indian Railway locomotives at Birkenhead Docks, 1924

The grain warehouses were built in the 1860s initially to store grain but later converted to provide milling facilities. By the early 20th century, Birkenhead Docks became an important flour milling centre, with numerous companies, including Joseph Rank and Spillers, located on the Great Float's quaysides.

Loading of Indian Railway Locomotives at Birkenhead Docks, 1924 The Docks were also used to export British-made locomotive engines abroad.

This photograph shows locomotives manufactured by the Vulcan Foundry based at Newton-le-Willows, bound for India.