



Factsheet 1

Sir Robert Rawlinson (1810 – 1898)

- Born 28th February 1810 in Bristol.
- 1831: Began his engineering education working in a stone mason's yard before moving to Liverpool Docks and working in the Engineers Office.
- 1836: Worked for the London and North Western Railway as a resident engineer under the guidance of the Railway Pioneer George Stephenson
- 1844: Accepted an engineering post working on the Bridgewater Canal.
- 1847: Appointed superintendent with responsibility for designing and constructing the brick-arched ceiling in the St George's Hall, Liverpool.
- 1848: Following the introduction of the Public Health Act he was appointed as one of the nation's first sanitary inspectors. Responsible for inspecting many of the chief towns in England.
- 1855: Sent to the Crimea by the Prime Minister Lord Palmerston to improve hygiene conditions in Army Camps and Hospitals. Work of the Sanitary Commission led to a drop in hospital death rates from 43 to 23.4%
- 1861: Robert Rawlinson is commissioned by the Worthing Pier Company to design Worthing Pier. Work on the Pier commences in 1861. Pier is open to the public on the 12th April 1862.
- 1863: Publishes report on water supply and draining in towns and cities. Government implements reports findings and work is undertaken to improve the supply of water and drainage to over 100 towns and cities.
- 1866: Appointed chairman of the Royal Commission on the Pollution of Rivers.
- 1870's: Appointed Chief Engineering Inspector to the Local Government Board.
- 1894: Served as president of the Institution of Civil Engineers.
- 31st May 1898: Died in London and is buried in Brompton Cemetery.

