



From Ashton-under-Lyne to Huddersfield

 The **Everest of Canals**
 huddersfieldcanal.org.uk


Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Enjoying the Huddersfield canals

Huddersfield Canal Society

Our goal is to promote and ensure the survival of the Huddersfield Broad and Narrow Canals as navigable waterways. The Society is a registered charity run entirely by unpaid volunteers.

Currently, our main activities are providing regular boat trips in both Marsden & Uppermill and running a maintenance team that helps to look after the canals. Please visit our website huddersfieldcanal.org.uk for details on how you can join our volunteers.

The society was formed in 1974 with the ambitious aim of restoring the then derelict Huddersfield Narrow Canal to through navigation. After 27 years of campaigning and restoration, working with the group of enthusiasts, the official navigation authority and the three local authorities, the Narrow Canal was reopened in May 2001 and gained Royal approval with an official ceremony by HRH Prince of Wales in September that year.

The canals are now managed by the Canal & River Trust, a national navigation authority and charity that is responsible for over 2,000 miles of inland waterways.

How to get there by road



Standedge Tunnel

Standedge Tunnel is Britain's longest, deepest, and highest canal tunnel. It is 5.2 km (3.25 miles) long, reaches a depth of 194 metres (636 feet) underground, and sits at an elevation of 196 metres (643 feet) above sea level. It took 16 years to construct, officially opening in April 1811. A £5 million restoration scheme re-opened the Tunnel to navigation and boats are regularly chaperoned through on their trans-Pennine journey along the canal.



Visiting Standedge Tunnel

A unique spot in the heart of the Pennine countryside, Standedge Tunnel makes a perfect family day out. As one of the Seven Wonders of the Waterways visitors can explore deep into the Tunnel on one of the family friendly guided boat trips. Stop for a bite to eat in the cafés and let the kids jump, climb and explore around the playgrounds and the gardens.

For more information and a full list of family events, please see:

tinyurl.com/HCS-StandedgeTunnel



Marsden

Once a centre of industrial unrest during the Luddite movement, when textile workers revolted against 'modern' machines. Marsden now hosts annual events including the Jazz Festival, Imbolc Fire Festival and Cuckoo Day. For further information: Marsden Library and Information Centre marsdenmechanics.co.uk



Slaithwaite

Visit Slaithwaite to see one of the country's only working guillotine gates on a narrow canal. On odd numbered years, during a week in February, the famous Slaithwaite Moonraking Festival is celebrated. slaithwaite.info



Moors and Walks

The canal towpath is an ideal route for exploring the Tame and Colne Valleys and links into a host of other walking routes.

For detailed information, visit the website and search for 'walks':

Tameside

tameside.gov.uk

Oldham

oldham.gov.uk

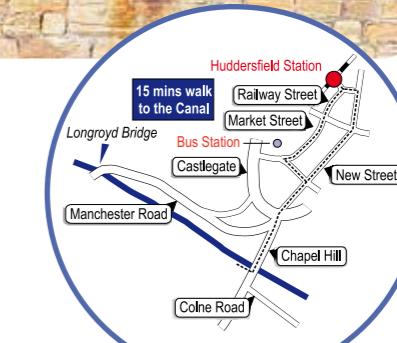
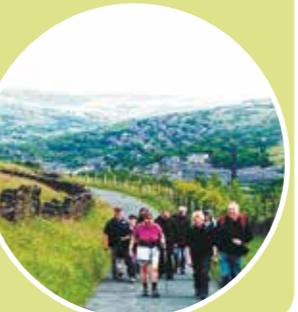
Kirklees

kirklees.gov.uk

National Trust

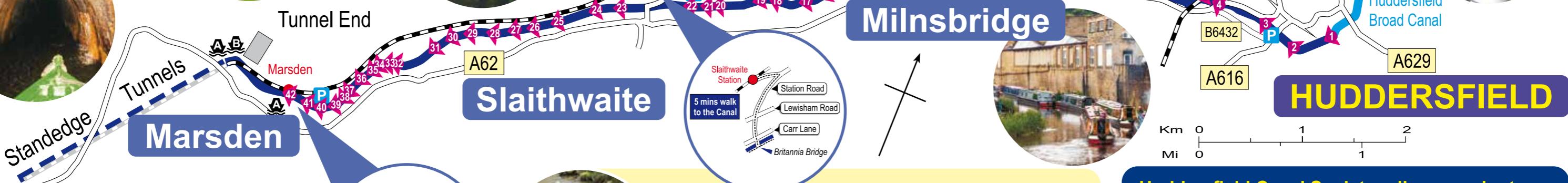
nationaltrust.org.uk

Search for 'marsden moor'.

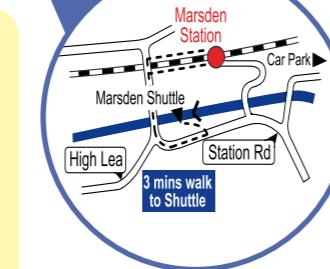
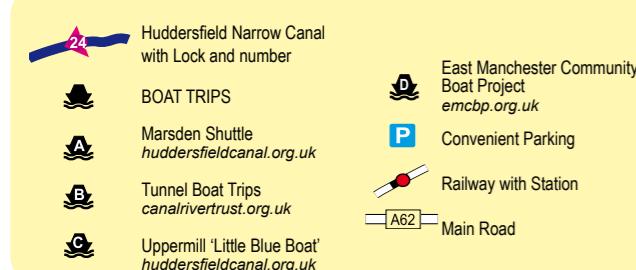


Huddersfield

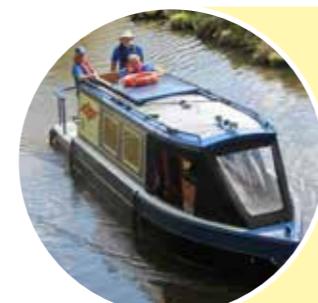
The Broad Canal joins the Narrow at Lock 1E with a towpath to Queen Street South; there is no towpath access to Chapel Hill. Instead, turn left on Queen Street South and then right on to Colne Road which leads to Chapel Hill. Walkers arriving at Huddersfield Station are recommended to follow either route shown and join the canal at Chapel Hill.



Marsden



Slaithwaite



Marsden Shuttle

Our society runs trips between lock 42E and Standedge Tunnel in our modern electric boat. The boat has a wheelchair lift to aid accessibility.

Operating from Easter until the end of October on most weekends & public holidays. We also run mid week as often as we can during local school holidays. The boat carries up to 12 passengers and is operated by trained unpaid volunteers. No fares, we just ask for a donation with cash or contactless cards. Check trips are running on our website. huddersfieldcanal.org.uk

Huddersfield Canal Society relies on volunteers

JOIN today and be part of something special

Volunteer to help run our boat trips and work to keep the canal tidy and navigable. No experience required full training is offered. All you need is enthusiasm.

Enter: tinyurl.com/HCS-volunteering in your browser

HOW TO GET THERE

The Huddersfield Canal is easy to reach by public transport. There are regular bus services along the Tame and Colne Valleys and trains services on the Huddersfield to Manchester Line.

Visit wymetro.com for information on the Kirklees area, or Transport for Greater Manchester at tfgm.com for information on travel in Oldham and Tameside.

The area is easily accessible from the national motorway network - M6/M60 to the West, M62 to the North and M1 to the East of the district (see Map on back cover)



How Far?

Ashton-under-Lyne (Portland Basin)
3km
Stalybridge
4.5km
Mossley
3.8km
Greenfield
1km
Uppermill
3.8km
Diggle
8km
Standedge Moor (most direct route)
8km
Marsden
5km
Slaithwaite
4.8km
Milnsbridge
2.3km
Huddersfield (Longroyd Bridge)

Portland Basin

Step back in time and experience the lifestyle, industries, crafts and trades of previous generations of Tamesiders at **Portland Basin Museum** on Portland Place, Ashton-u-Lyne, OL7 0QA tameside.gov.uk/portlandbasin



Wildlife

The Canal is a haven for wildlife and though Mallards and Canada Geese are common; you may be lucky enough to see a dazzling Kingfisher! Dragonflies as well as a host of butterflies and other insects are drawn to the Canal and at dusk, bats may be seen patrolling the waters.

Uppermill

Discover Saddleworth's heritage at the **Saddleworth Museum and Gallery**, through modern museum exhibitions and there's a free community gallery. High Street, Uppermill, OL3 6HS. saddleworthmuseum.co.uk



Uppermill 'Little Blue Boat'

Our society runs 15 minute round trips for up to 12 passengers from outside the museum. There's never long to wait for the next boat. Operating from Easter until the end of October on most weekends & public holidays. We also run mid week as often as we can during local school holidays. No fares, we just ask for a donation with cash or contactless cards. Check trips are running on our website. huddersfieldcanal.org.uk



ASHTON-U-LYNE



Ashton
Canal

Peak Forest
Canal

Portland Basin

Ashton-u-Lyne

Mossley

Stalybridge

Stalybridge

A635

A670

A670

A635

A6018

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Mossley



Huddersfield Narrow Canal Timeline

April 1794 An Act of Parliament passed authorising the construction of the Canal
April 1811 Official opening of the Canal with a transit of Standedge Tunnel from Diggle to Marsden
December 1944 Canal abandoned by Act of Parliament, prohibiting boats using the Canal
April 1974 Huddersfield Canal Society formed to promote restoration of the Canal
March 1986 £1.2m abolition grant to the Society from Greater Manchester Council
July 1988 British Waterways (No. 2) Act - allowing boats to use the Canal again
December 1996 Major grants received from English Partnerships and Millennium Commission
May 2001 Huddersfield Narrow Canal re-opens to complete through navigation
September 2001 Huddersfield Narrow Canal officially re-opened by HRH Prince Charles
April 2011 Celebrations marking the Bicentenary of the Canal's official opening
April 2014 The Canal Society celebrates 40 successful years
June 2017 The first Pennine Explorer Cruise - a convoy of 12 boats navigate the Canal
Spring 2022 Canal society launches its new, disability-friendly and green, all-electric shuttle boat
Spring 2024 Canal Society starts regular boat in Uppermill with its Little Blue Boat
2026 Events to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Huddersfield Narrow Canal reopening.



Stalybridge

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal passes through the heart of Stalybridge where great views of the Pennine foothills beckon travellers to the east. New developments are embracing the canal-side environment such as at Armentières Square where new apartments, shops and cafés are set to take advantage of this attractive space in the town centre.

The Stalybridge Festival weekend is held on the fourth Saturday and Sunday of June each year incorporating the Carnival Parade on the Sunday which has now been held for over 50 years.

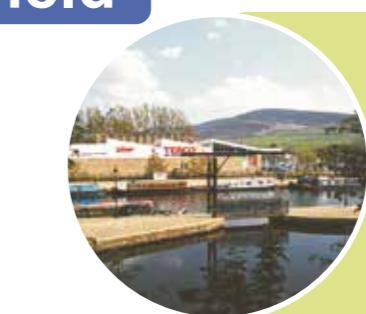


Diggle



'Transhipment Warehouse'
This historic building was constructed by the Canal Company, originally as a Lime Shed, in the 1830s with Thomas Garrett as one of its first Lime Dealers. It was saved from dereliction by the Saddleworth Historical Society during 1979. It was used as an office by our society for a long time.

Greenfield



Greenfield
The mixed development at the Knoll Mill site is significant for the Canal in that it includes the new Saddleworth Marina, providing moorings for up to 16 boats. A liftbridge at the entrance ensures the towpath is still accessible.
There is a pop-up market monthly.

