

NAVIGATION NOTES FOR THE HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL

British Waterways has produced these navigation notes to help you enjoy your trip on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. These notes are published as a supplement to the Boater's Handbook which provides practical, detailed advice and safety information for boaters on all our waterways.

Introduction to – The Huddersfield Narrow Canal

This 19 ³/₄ mile (32km) canal has 74 locks and runs from Lock 1E in Huddersfield to lock 1W at Old Ashton Wharf. The locks are numbered from each end of the tunnel with those on the west side of Standedge Tunnel suffixed with a letter W and those on the east side with an E.

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal provides the shortest route of the three Trans-Pennine canals and links Manchester with the Huddersfield Broad Canal via Standedge Tunnel, the longest, highest and deepest canal tunnel in Britain. It also links with the Ashton Canal and Peak Forest Canal at Portland Basin.

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal and Tunnel bookings are managed by British Waterways Manchester and Pennine based in Stoke, 01782785703.

Extensive restoration has been undertaken on both sides of the Pennines to make the Huddersfield Narrow Canal a navigable channel once again. Once called the Impossible Dream this £32m restoration project was mainly funded by the Millennium Commission and the English Partnerships. The project included the restoration of numerous locks and tunnels, and involved the construction of new sections of canal channel in Slaithwaite and Stalybridge as well as a number of new locks and bridges.

Huddersfield Tunnels

The tunnels under Sellers & Co works is the longest of the newer tunnels at 320 metres. The tunnel under Bates & Co works is 90 metres long. In between these tunnels there is a length of towpath 150 metres long. There is no access from this towpath to Huddersfield town centre. Moor at Aspley Wharf Marina to use facilities in Huddersfield

Slaithwaite

Here, the canal has been rebuilt through the village and new locks and tunnels have been constructed. There are limited visitor moorings in the town centre and towpath moorings exist on both sides of the village within a few minutes walk. Also please beware the low road bridge.

Marsden and Standedge Tunnel

The longest, deepest, and highest canal tunnel in the country, Standedge - on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal - is nearly three and a half miles long.

The tunnel took 16 years to build at considerable cost of life - with the final section being overseen by renowned engineer Thomas Telford in 1811. The Tunnel is 196 metres (645 feet) above sea level, and burrows 194 metres (638 feet) underneath the Pennines.

There are short trips into the tunnel Tuesday – Sunday between April and October, a café and exhibition centre and a walk around the tunnel end reservoir. A full events programme operates at Standedge. Through trips operate on the first Saturday of each month for up to 20 passengers, please ring 01782785703 for more details or visit www.standedge.co.uk.

Passage through Standedge Tunnel is available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This must be booked at least 3 days in advance. For further details please contact Manchester and Pennine Customer Service Team on 01782785703.

The picturesque town of Marsden offers shops, pubs, market and craft stores. Nearby, beautiful Marsden Moor (National Trust) offers walking, angling cycling and wildlife.

Winding Holes on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal

There are winding holes at the following locations:

Aspley Wharf Marina

Milnsbridge (Lock 9E)

Linthwaite (Lock 16E)

Slaithwaite (Lock 21E)

Marsden (Lock 31E)

Marsden (Tunnel End – Tunnel traffic only)

Diggle (Lock 32W – Tunnel traffic only)

Wool Road, Dobcross (Lock 24W)

Saddleworth Museum (Lock 21W)

Well-i-hole Bridge

Greenfield (Lock 19W)

Mossley Roaches (Lock 15W)

Mossley Bottoms (Lock 12W – 13W)

Staley Wharf (Lock 4W)

Portland Basin

Water and Pumpout Points

Located at:

Aspley Wharf Marina (Huddersfield)

Milnsbridge (mobile service) – Pumpout

Slaithwaite (Lock 19) – Water and Elsan

Marsden

Diggle End - Water

Wool Road (Dobcross) - Pumpout in Marina

Portland Basin Marina - Pumpout in Marina

British Waterways' padlocks which can be opened with a BW Yale / service station ("Watermate") key. The BW Yale key also unlocks the water points and sanitary stations.

Craft Dimensions

HUDDERSFIELD NARROW CANAL

Length	Beam	Draught	Headroom
21.95m	2.05m	1.05m	1.88m
72ft	6ft 10ins	3ft 6ins	6ft 2ins

General Notes for the Huddersfield Narrow Canal

Water levels are a big problem on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal as it is extremely difficult to maintain the level of water needed. As there are many short pounds between locks, careful management of water is essential. Please ensure all paddles are fully closed after use, if there is a problem British Waterways needs to be informed as soon as possible so that the effects can be minimised. The Huddersfield Narrow Canal is heavily locked. There are 74 locks in total. (Note that where possible we have provided indicators which are marked by white paint to help you). When travelling downhill, filling the lock below, before emptying the lock above, minimise the water wastage over by-washes.

At many places throughout the length of the canal, there is a "ledge" approximately 1 metre wide just below water level. Boats cannot get into the side on these lengths and care should be taken when passing other boats not to approach the edge too closely. This is a build feature of the canal and is not related to inadequate dredging.

Boats not booked for passage through Standedge Tunnel are required to turn back at the bottom of the Marsden flight of locks (Lock31E) on the East side or at Wool Road (Lock24W) on the West side. The Priority is always to down hill traffic. A Handspike is needed at Huddersfield for the entry on to the Calder & Hebble.