

## **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  $\frac{3}{4}$  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 canal 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, 01782 785703.

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 tunnel 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.

Work to open up these tunnels is planned from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and as such the canal will be closed for this works.

### **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. There is a service station in Slaithwaite just below lock 22E and this is the last place to pump out until the Wool Road services at lock 24W.

## **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 March and November, a café and exhibition centre and a walk around the tunnel end reservoir. A full events programme operates at Standedge. Through trips operate every other Saturday for up to 20 passengers starting March 19<sup>th</sup> 2011, please ring 01782 785703 for more details or visit [www.standedge.co.uk](http://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. A copy of the Standedge Tunnel customer Guidelines is available on waterscape or the standedge website outlining the passage details. Please note that petrol engined boats and boats with fibreglass hulls are not permitted through the tunnel. For further details and to book please contact Manchester and Pennine Customer Service Team on 01782 785703.**

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 (below Lock 9E)

Linthwaite (above Lock 16E)

Slaithwaite (below Lock 21E)

Marsden (above Lock 31E) – Non tunnel traffic turn here

Marsden (Tunnel End)

Diggle (above Lock 32W)

Wool Road, Dobcross (below Lock 24W) – Non tunnel traffic turn here

Saddleworth Museum (above Lock 21W)

Greenfield (below Lock 19W)

Mossley Roaches (below Lock 15W)

Mossley Bottoms (below Lock 13W)

Staley Wharf (below Lock 4W)

Ashton (below Lock 1W)

Portland Basin

## **Water and Pumpout Points**

All water points need BW yale keys and BW pumpout facilities require a pumpout card.

Located at:

Aspley Wharf Marina (Huddersfield) – BW pumpout and Water

Slaithwaite (Lock 19) – Water and Elsan

Marsden – Water only

Diggle End – Water only

Wool Road (Dobcross) – BW Pumpout and Water

Portland Basin Marina - Pumpout in Marina

## **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 can be 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 which can make mooring difficult; 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 entering the Huddersfield Broad Canal in Huddersfield must be less than 60ft. A Handspike is needed on the Calder & Hebble Navigation and these can be bought from Aspley Basin if required.