

COUNTRY CODE

Please follow the country code. Details available at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

First Bus operate regular services between Huddersfield and Slaithwaite. (Services 181, 183, 184, 185) Details at www.firstbus.co.uk

TransPennine Express operate the train service between Huddersfield and Slaithwaite. Details at www.tpexpress.co.uk

FACILITIES IN SLAITHWAITE

Useful information can be found at www.huddersfield.guide

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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DISCLAIMER

Golcar and Slaithwaite Walkers are Welcome have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property.

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www.golcarandslaithwaitewalkers.org.uk





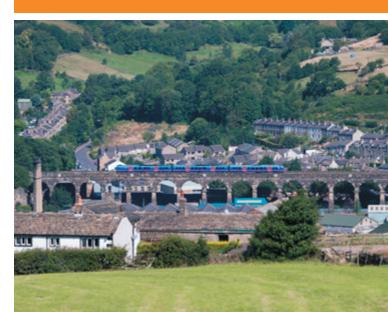
A CIRCULAR WALK STARTING AND FINISHING IN SLAITHWAITE

DISTANCE The walk is about 4 miles long and has about 750 feet of ascent.

TIME Allow 2 hours.

OS MAP The area covered by the walk is included in OS Explorer Map OL21,

South Pennines.





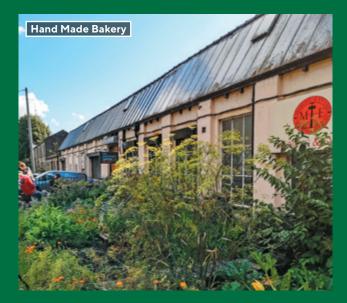
1 THE START OF THE WALK

The walk starts by the Little Bridge Café Bar (details on Facebook), on the canalside, in the centre of Slaithwaite. This is close to the junction of Britannia Road and Market Place and The Commercial pub (details on Facebook).



2 Keeping the Huddersfield Narrow Canal on your right and the River Colne on your left, walk along the canal side, passing a mix of commercial and industrial buildings and the **Hand Made Bakery (www.thehandmadebakery.coop)**.

Construction of the canal started in 1794 and was completed in 1811. It was mostly abandoned in 1944 and finally fully restored in 2001.



At the guillotine lock turn right over the canal and then left uphill (Rotcher Lane). Go under the railway arch.



The railway - the Huddersfield to Manchester line - was opened, initially as far as Stalybridge, in 1849. The Slaithwaite and Crimble viaducts were each built in two sections, Slaithwaite c1845 and c1886 and Crimble c1845 and c1890.

Turn left to a small group of houses - Upper Rotcher.

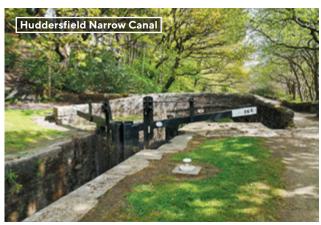
Nearly every building here is listed. Notice a large stone water trough before the first house on the right.

Continue along the lane and up the driveway that leads to Stones Laithe. Go through the interesting turnstile gate and continue to a stone stile. Take the lower path which follows the contour and head towards a wood.

This is Owlers Wood. Owling was a common term for the smuggling of sheep or wool from England to other countries. The participants were called 'owlers'.

Go through the stile, into the wood and take the path that bears downhill. At the bottom of the far corner of the wood is a gate. Go through the gate and down the track to a large metal gate. (Should this gate be closed, there is a stile to the right-hand side.)

3 Turn left, go over the railway bridge and straight ahead there is a flight of steps going down towards the canal. (If you have difficulty with steps, you can follow the track where it bends left, downhill and then bear right to emerge at the bottom of the steps.)

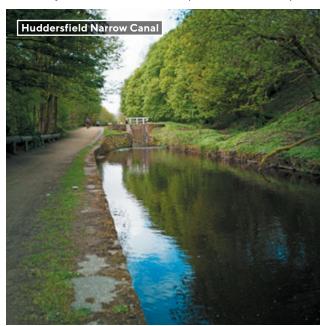


Turn right at the bottom of the steps and follow the track (Old Lane) which runs parallel to the canal to your left.

4 Just after Waring bottom Farm, the track joins West Slaithwaite Road. Turn left, go over the canal bridge and turn immediately right onto the towpath. Carry on along the towpath for a short distance and then turn left over an old bridge to Holme Mills industrial estate.

Walk past **Dark Woods**, a coffee roastery, (www.darkwoodscoffee.co.uk) and **Zapato**, a craft brewery tap (www.zapatobrewing.com). After passing these buildings, bear right and continue along the road.

Where the road bears left uphill, with houses on your left, turn right on to a path which soon bears left, with some farm buildings on your left. Follow the path alongside a fishing pond. Just beyond the end of the pond there is a path



t-junction. Take the path on your left uphill and away from the canal. The path crosses a field and leads to the rear of the Olive Branch (www.olivebranch.uk.com).

5 Go around the side of the building across the car park to the main road (Manchester Road). Cross the road, taking care and turn



right. At the end of the second terrace of houses, turn left up Old Bank Bottom (footpath signed). Note the hare sculpture (pictured here).

Follow the steep path uphill. At the top of the first section there is a footpath signed to the right. Do not take this path, but carry on uphill and take the path on the left, over a stile.

This is part of the Colne Valley Circular walk. (A booklet describing this thirteen mile walk is available from Kirklees Council and various retail outlets).

6 The path goes downhill for a short distance, between stone walls. Where the left hand wall ends, bear right, along the contour, with a wire fence on the left and a stone wall in undergrowth on the right. Cross a wooden stile into a field

Where the path divides, bear left. From this point you can see two ruined buildings. The first, higher up on your right is Old Ash farmhouse (also known as Rollinsons) and the second, straight ahead in the distance is Nathans.

Continue on the path across the field to a wall. Go through the gap in the wall and continue straight on towards Nathans. Go through the gap in the next stone wall. Cross the field to a metal gate. Beyond the gate is a footpath crossroads. Carry straight on. On the left are some unusually designed gates in heavy gauge ironwork.

Pass Nathans cottages on your right. These are mid eighteenth century, listed but long abandoned. Continue to the small metal gate ahead.



The path crosses a small stream and goes into a field. Follow the path which runs alongside a wall to the right.

This section is an old causey track, made of rough flags, part of an old packhorse trail.

Go through the metal gate at the end of the causey and onto a farm track with Hollins Farm on your left.

7 Continue on this track (Hollins Lane) for some distance, (passing a sign for Carters on your left) until you come to a junction with a road (Lingards Road).

A short distance downhill from this junction is the Lingards Mission Church (formerly a school) built in 1851. Note the seven-sided stone tubular finial on the east gable.

Turn right uphill. There is a sign for Top O' The Hill on the right. Then turn almost immediately left on to a foot path which runs behind the house on your left.



Follow the path to a wooden stile, continue and cross the next stile, on the left. This is waymarked. There is a stone wall on the left and a fence on the right and the path enters a field.

There is a good view below, of the viaducts and the church in Slaithwaite from this point. Look back for a good view of Pule Hill.

Follow the path across the field and cross the stile and steps into the next field. Keep to the stone wall on the left. Go over the stile at the end

of the field and along the path to the next stile, with houses on the left beyond.

Go along the gravel track, bearing right at the track junction and join the road beyond. The hamlets of New House and Yew Tree are either side of the road.

8 At the junction turn left down Yew Tree Lane. The road drops steeply downhill. Keep an eye open for traffic as the road is narrow with no pavements.

At the bottom of the lane, go straight across and down the short section of Lingards Road to join Manchester Road. Cross this main road with care, and take the footpath opposite which goes down a series of steep steps to a footbridge across the River Colne. (If you have difficulty with steps, an alternative route is available to return to the centre of Slaithwaite. Turn right and walk down Manchester Road. Turn left onto Ned Lane, left at the bottom onto Britannia Road and return to where the walk started.)



Continue on the track between the car parking area on the left and some industrial buildings on the right and turn right when you reach the canal.

Follow the canal side, keeping the canal on your left, back to the Little Bridge.

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED THE WALK!





OTHER LOCAL WALKS

Exploring Old Slaithwaite

A short stroll which takes in many interesting and historic buildings around the village.

Slaithwaite to Golcar

A circular walk approx 7 miles.

Slaithwaite and Linthwaite Circular

A circular walk approx 3 miles.

Full details of these and other walks are available on our website www.golcarandslaithwaitewalkers.org.uk

