

Country code

When you are walking, please follow the country code and remember you are walking across other people's land.

Please keep to public paths, leave gates as you find them, keep dogs under control, take your litter home and take care on roads. Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

Public Transport

Please use public transport as often as you can.

The Colne Valley has a regular train service (Huddersfield to Manchester Victoria) with stations at Slaithwaite and Marsden. For details contact the Northern Trains website at www.northernrailway.co.uk or phone Ticket Sales on 0800 200 6060.

The Colne Valley has frequent bus services. For details contact the West Yorkshire Metro website at www.wymetro.com or phone 0113 245 7676. (Metro also provide details of local train services) Most of the local buses are operated by First Bus. For details check the website at www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/calderdale_huddersfield or phone 0113 381 5000. Local timetables are also available in the Public Libraries in Slaithwaite and Golcar.

Food and Drink

There are cafes and pubs available in Marsden and Slaithwaite.

Accommodation

Details of local accommodation are available from the Kirklees Council website at www.kirklees.gov.uk/visitors/accommodation or by phone on 01484 221 000

Disclaimer

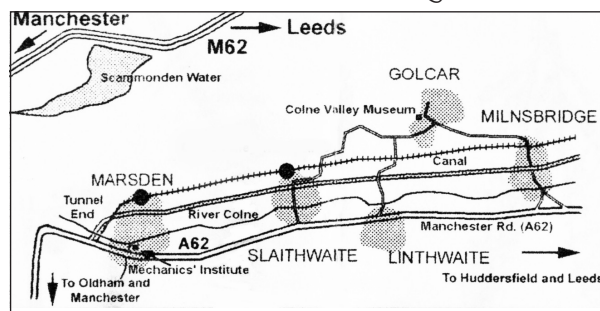
Golcar and Slaithwaite Walkers are Welcome, together with the original leaflet author and leaflet artist, have attempted in all good faith to provide adequate safety warnings and they cannot in any way be held responsible for any claims arising from damage to person or property. It is in the best interest of walkers to observe these safety warnings. Please note that the walking route as described in this leaflet does not imply a right of way. In some cases this walk takes advantage of permissive paths. The definitive guide to local rights of way can be accessed by contacting Kirklees Council website at www.kirklees.gov.uk or phone 01484 221 000.

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The Colne Valley



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one community
inspiring local giving...

The Community Foundation for the people of Kirklees

www.golcarandslaithwaitewalkers.org.uk

The Colne Valley Trail

A series of Countryside and Village Walks

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Slaithwaite and Linthwaite Circular



A family walk exploring some of the history of the Colne Valley

Slaithwaite and Linthwaite Circular

Distance: Three miles.

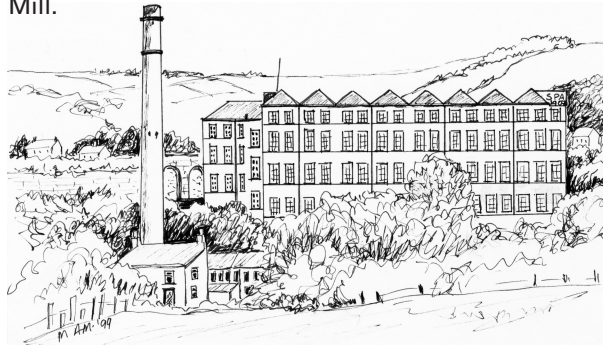
Time: Allow 1.5 to 2 hours.

Note: OS Explorer Map OL21 covers the whole of the walk.

Getting to the start of the walk:

You can get to Slaithwaite by bus from Huddersfield bus station or by train from Huddersfield or Manchester Victoria stations to Slaithwaite station. (See back of the leaflet for public transport details.) If coming by car, there is parking in the centre of Slaithwaite

The walk starts in the centre of Slaithwaite by the Commercial Inn on Carr Lane. Walk along Carr Lane, passing the shops on your left with the canal on your right. Cross Carr Lane at the Pelican crossing and turn right into New Street. Walk along New Street, passing the Health Centre on your right and the Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre on your left. Turn right down Platt Lane. On your left is a large mill building – Spa Mill.



The mill is called Spa Mill because it lies near the site of a mineral spring. The spring water contains the minerals sulphur and iron and so was considered to have medicinal properties. Mineral baths were built in 1825 along with swimming baths, a dance hall, a bowling green and landscaped leisure gardens to walk in. Unfortunately the advance of industry

destroyed this idyllic creation and the site fell into disuse during the first half of the last century and the baths finally closed in 1938. The mineral spring still flows from a concrete cap in the middle of the River Colne and was tested in 1998 by the Environment Agency. A recent initiative by the Friends of Slaithwaite Spa has led to the creation of a local park.

Cross the canal and at the end of Platt Lane, bear right. Cross the road and almost immediately turn left onto a path signposted Slaithwaite Spa. The path goes over the river Colne. Carry straight on up a steep hill which brings you up onto Manchester Road (A 62). Take care crossing the road and go up Linfit Fold opposite. Ahead of you is Linthwaite Hall.

Just before you reach Linthwaite Hall, turn left onto Banks Road. Walk along the road to the newer houses on the right hand side. Bear right on the path behind the new houses. (This is just opposite number 80 on the left hand side of the road.) Follow this path along the back of the houses and go through a gap in the wall where you will see an ascending path in front of you. Continue on this path and go through a metal gate.

You are now on part of the Colne Valley Circular Walk which was created by the former Colne Valley Society in 1973 and is thirteen miles long. A booklet describing the walk is available from local tourist information centres.



The Hall was built by the Lockwood family around 1600 on the site of the manor house of the De Lynthwaites. The Hall is said to be haunted and to have a secret passage leading to Kitchen Fold in Slaithwaite.

Cross the field to the gap in the wall, go through, then cross the field towards some houses until you reach a wooden stile. The path continues straight ahead with houses mainly to the right. Where the path meets a rough road, go straight over (past two large vertical stones) and continue along the path which goes down steps to a road (Stones Lane). Turn left, passing the Methodist Church on the right. Turn left at the junction and go down Chapel Hill, passing another Methodist Church on the right.

From the Church, proceed downhill past the Linthwaite Clough School on the left.

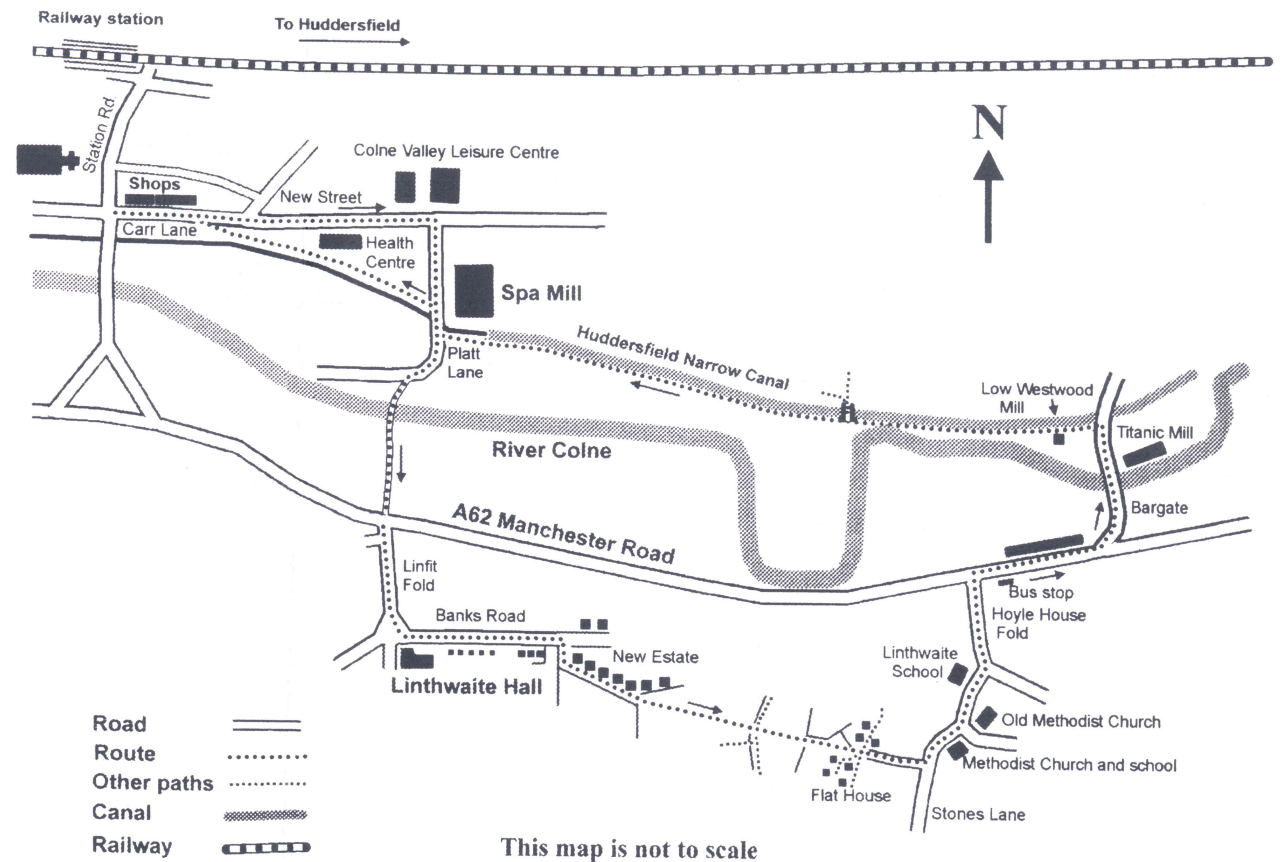
When you come to the road junction, turn left and you will come to Hoyle House Fold and then Manchester Road.

Cross the road using the pedestrian crossing, turn right and continue along the road past a row of shops. At the end of the shops, take the second turning on the left, Bargate, which branches off downhill and becomes Lowestwood Lane. (There is a sign for Wellhouse at the junction.) Go downhill and cross the River Colne.

Note the large mill on your right, Originally named Westwood Mill, it is known locally as Titanic Mill, as it was built in 1912, the same year as the Titanic was launched and lost. The mill was never fully utilised and when it closed it stood derelict until recently when a comprehensive regeneration scheme was carried out. The building now provides apartment living and a health spa.

Walk a further short distance along the road until you reach the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Turn left onto the towpath and ahead you will see Low Westwood Mill. Continue along the canal. You will pass a bridge over the canal at Lees Mill Lane. Do not cross the bridge but carry straight along the towpath. This brings you back to the centre of Slaithwaite. Cross the canal when in the centre and rejoin Carr Lane and its parade of shops.

The walk ends here.



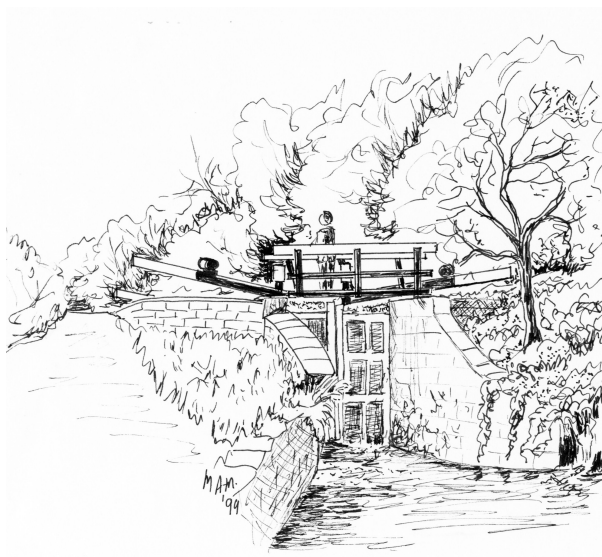
The drawing on the right shows Linthwaite Methodist Church and the Wesleyan Schools in the foreground and the old Methodist Church (1867) in the background. The Colne Valley was a stronghold of the Methodist faith. John Wesley, however, had a job converting the people. He wrote in 1759, "I rode over the mountains to Huddersfield. A wilder people I never saw in England; the men, women and children filled the streets as we rode along and appeared to devour us... How intolerable a thing is the Gospel of Christ to them who are resolved to serve the Devil."





Low Westwood Mill

The mill was built in the late eighteenth century and is one of the oldest in the valley. It pre-dates the canal which was authorised in 1794 and which has 42 locks, rising 436 feet between Huddersfield and Marsden. You will see several of these locks on your tow path walk.



The fringed water-lily can be found in the canal near Lowestwood Lane. When seen in flower (July – August), it looks rather like a yellow water-lily, although it is not related.