

Historic Buildings Trail

About the Historic Buildings Trail

Friedrich Engels called Huddersfield 'the handsomest by far of all the factory towns in Yorkshire and Lancashire' and today it is famed for having more listed buildings than all but two other places in England.

This trail provides a taste of the town's extraordinary architecture, from grand Victorian buildings built of local sandstone to gems of modern design. It is an abridged extract of a heritage leaflet, developed by Huddersfield Civic Society (www.huddersfieldcivicsociety.org.uk) and Huddersfield Local History Society (www.huddersfieldhistory.org.uk).

Information

For more information about Discover Huddersfield or to learn more about the project and how to get involved, please get in touch through the following media:

discoverhuddersfield.com

Email: info@discoverhuddersfield.com

@discover_hudds

Discover Huddersfield



HUDDERSFIELD
Town Centre Partnership Limited

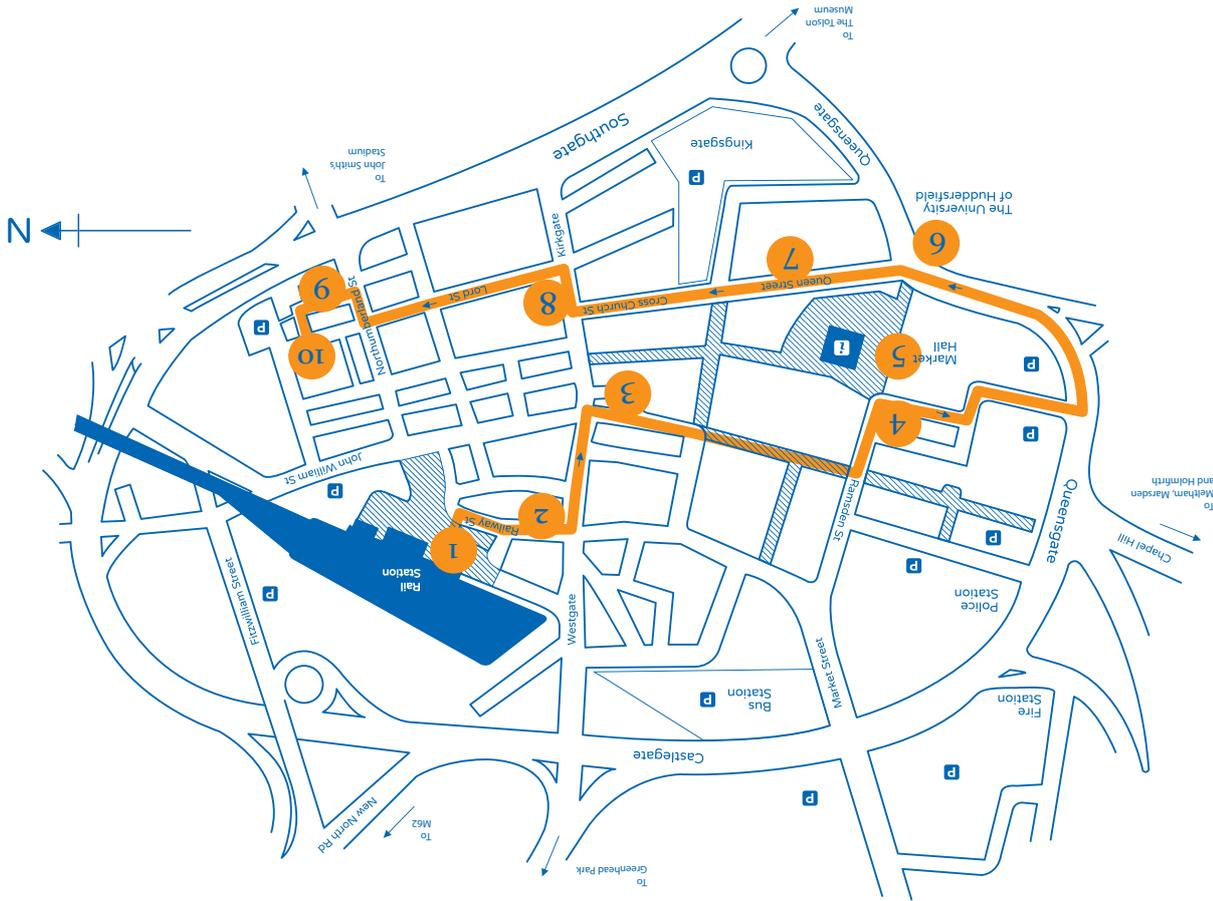


Welcome
to Yorkshire
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Historic Buildings Trail

← One way traffic flow
P Parking
Pedestrian area
Key:



Discover Huddersfield offers new ways to experience this amazing Yorkshire town, through guided walks, talks and trails. See Huddersfield at its very best: grand listed buildings and small independent shops; a place for radicals from the Luddites to the Sex Pistols; birthplace of Rugby League; a town rich in creativity, stories, heritage and the odd ghostly encounter.



1 St George's Square

Developed by the Ramsden family, the impressive facades of buildings around the square are based on the palazzi (palaces) of Renaissance Italy but were used predominantly as offices and warehouses. The statue of Huddersfield-born Prime Minister, Harold Wilson (1916-95), was unveiled in 1999.

The neo-classical Railway Station (1846-50), described as "a kind of stately home with trains in", was designed by J P Pritchett and built by Joseph Kaye, responsible for many of the town's Georgian and Victorian buildings.

Clockwise from the station are:

- The George Hotel (1850, by William Wallen & Charles Child). Rugby League was founded here in 1895.
- Lion Buildings (1852-4, by Pritchett). The lion is a fibreglass copy of the original, which was in Coade stone.
- Britannia Buildings (1856-9, by William Cocking). Built as warehouses and offices. Converted for Huddersfield Building Society by local architect Clifford Hickson in 1926.
- Tite Buildings (1856), a woollen warehouse by Sir William Tite, who oversaw the design of the buildings' neo-classical facades.



**2 Estate Buildings
Byram Arcade**

(1871/2, by W H Crossland). The estate offices of the Ramsdens who owned the manor of Huddersfield from 1599 to 1920, when the estate was sold to Huddersfield Corporation. Locally born Crossland also designed Rochdale Town Hall and Royal Holloway College, Surrey. Byram Arcade (1881/2, also by Crossland), includes the Ramsdens' coat of arms over the entrance.



3 Market Place

The market cross, bearing the Ramsdens' coat of arms, was erected soon after market rights were granted in 1671. Notable buildings include: Lloyds TSB (1912, by Gibson, Skipwith & Gordon), typical of the 'Edwardian baroque' style; RBS (by William Cocking, c.1860), in an ornately detailed Italianate style. To its left is the entrance to Market Walk, known locally as 'Wappy Nick'.



**4 Huddersfield Town Hall
Princess Street**

Huddersfield was incorporated as a Borough in 1868 and the Town Hall, by Borough Surveyor John Abbey, was built in two stages between 1875 and 1881. The richly-decorated concert hall provides a magnificent setting for performances including the world-famous Huddersfield Choral Society.

**5 Huddersfield Library
and Art Gallery
Queensgate Market**

(1937-40, by E H Ashburner). The sculpted figures, by James Woodford RA, represent the youthful spirits of literature and art. Facing the library is Queensgate Market (J Seymour Harris Partnership, 1968-70) with its internally dramatic reinforced concrete 'umbrellas' and Fritz Steller's ceramic sculptures on the Queensgate (ring road) elevation.



6 University of Huddersfield

Across Queensgate the University campus has a number of notable buildings. St Paul's Church (John Oates, 1829) is now a concert hall while to the right is the elaborate Gothic Ramsden Building (Edward Hughes, 1881-4), built as the first technical college.



7 The Lawrence Batley Theatre

When built by Joseph Kaye in 1819, Queen Street Wesleyan Chapel was the largest in the country, with around 2000 seats. It reopened as the Lawrence Batley Theatre in 1994. On either side are elegant Georgian houses and the former Court of Requests (1825), now a club.

8 St Peter's Parish Church

(1834-6, by J P Pritchett). Built in the Perpendicular Gothic style, on a site occupied from around 1100. Notable inside are the altar canopy and east window by Sir Ninian Comper (1921). Kirkgate Buildings, opposite the church, was another Ramsden development by W H Crossland (1880), in the 'Queen Anne' style. Don't miss the striking shop front of Neaversons (by Sharp & Law of Bradford, 1935).

9 The Mechanics' Institution

(1859-61, by Travis & Mangnall of Manchester). The first purpose-built home for the Mechanics' Institution, founded in 1841. Such institutes offered liberal and technical education for skilled workers. In 2002 the building was converted to creative lofts by Brewster Bye of Leeds.



10 Wholesale Market

(1887-88, by the Borough Surveyor, Richard Dugdale). Now a retail market. Note the decorative elements applied to its functional structure. Dugdale was also responsible for the design of Greenhead Park (1881-4).