

# University Heritage Trail

## About the University of Huddersfield Heritage Trail

The University's origins lie in the creation of a Young Men's Mental Improvement Society by employees of local industrialist, Frederick Schwann in 1841. It became a Mechanics' Institution in 1843, combined with the Female Educational Institute to form a Technical School and Mechanics' Institute (1884), then a Technical College (1896), College of Technology (1968) and Polytechnic (1970) before becoming a University in 1992.

The opening of the Ramsden building in 1883 established the institution on the Queensgate site. Celebrating its 175th anniversary in 2016, it has grown from teaching 40 students to over 23,000 students today, and was *Times Higher Education University of the Year* in 2013-14.

*'In recognition of the importance and necessity of the Education of the people, few towns can claim such honourable distinction as belongs to Huddersfield.'*

Female Educational Institute Annual Report, 1859

For more photos and audio content to complement your walk, visit <http://www.hud.ac.uk/175>

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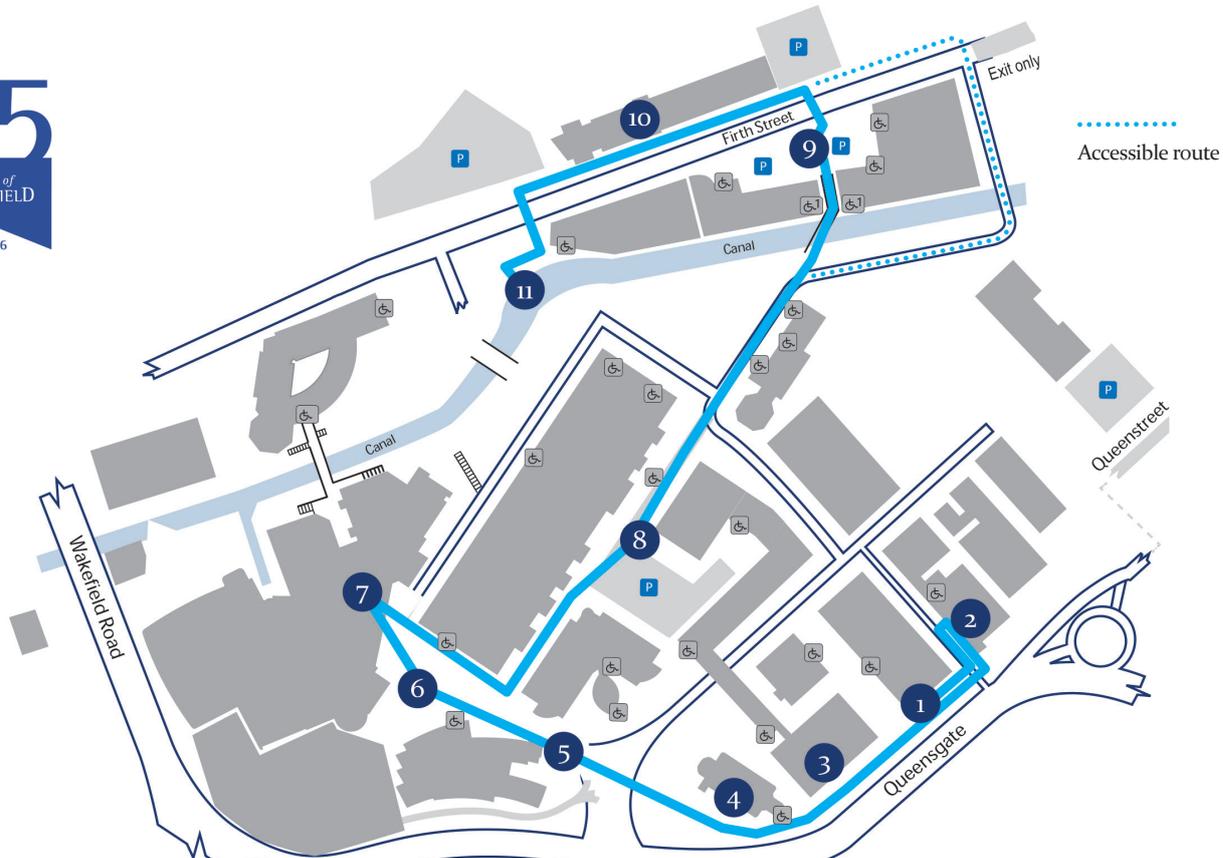
Images: University of Huddersfield Archives ([www.heritagequay.org](http://www.heritagequay.org))

## 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:

[www.discoverhuddersfield.com](http://www.discoverhuddersfield.com) Email: [info@discoverhuddersfield.com](mailto:info@discoverhuddersfield.com)

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### Key:

- Pedestrian area
- Parking
- One way traffic flow

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 Ramsden Building ▲

The Ramsden Building was designed by Edward Hughes - a pupil of George Gilbert Scott - in the Gothic Revival style. Before being used for classes a Fine Art and Industrial exhibition, visited by over 300,000 people, was held. The facade features arms of the Guild of Clothworkers, the Borough of Huddersfield, and the Ramsden and Brooke families, all of whom helped fund the building. The triptych mural at the top of the stairs was painted by Head of Art JR Gauld as the College's First World War memorial.

### 2 Sir Patrick Stewart Building ▲

This building was refurbished in 2005 to house the university's drama department. Formally the Milton Congregational Church, it was established in 1883 after a large group of dissenters followed their liberal Calvinist minister from Ramsden Street Independent Church.



### 3 Joseph Priestley Building ▲

Following public fundraising, construction on a new Chemistry building began in 1936. The photograph shows the foundation stone ceremony in July 1937. Completed in 1939, it was immediately commandeered for war use. Between 1941 and 1946 it housed the Avery Hill Teacher Training College who had been evacuated from London. War time classes for radio mechanics and the women's ATS were also taught here.

### 4 St Paul's Hall ▲

St Paul's Church (1829-1831), designed by John Oates and built by notable local builder Joseph Kaye. At the opposite end of the old road from the parish church of St Peter's it was built to serve a growing local population. It became the College Chapel in 1968. An organ designed by Philip Wood was installed in the 1970s. Converted to a concert hall in 1980 it is now used for graduation ceremonies and hosts the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.



### 5 University Entrance ▲

This view now looks on to the Harold Wilson Building, constructed in 1996. The photograph shows the former Textile and Engineering towers. Built at the end of the 1950s they replaced the Textile Industries Building on Princess Street which had been demolished in 1961.

### 6 University Square ▼

The Square was redeveloped in 2016 and is now encompassed by a number of recent developments in the university estate, including Creative Arts Building, Student Central and the Oastler Building. The photograph shows the former sunken courtyard and the Great Hall where the Creative Arts Building is now sited. The original open air walkway under the Schwann Building to the canal has been filled in to create the atrium space and Library entrance.



### 7 Schwann Building ▲

The Schwann Building (1974-1977) has dominated the Huddersfield skyline for the past 40 years. Designed to meet the growth in student numbers in the 1970s, its hillside location connects the upper campus with the canal below. The upper floors were originally student accommodation, with lower floors housing administrative departments, support services and the Library. This now connects to Student Central and Sports Hall facilities, opened in 2014. It also contains Heritage Quay, the University Archives service.



### 8 The Green ▲

From here the impact of campus re-development over the 20th century can be seen. St Joseph's Primary School with its rooftop playground subsequently became the Students' Union before being demolished in 2005. Re-developed as the Brontë Lecture Theatres in 2014, it also contains smaller teaching spaces.

On the left the Edith Key Building originally housed the Music department in the 1960s. It now provides research facilities for the School of Human and Health Sciences.

On the right the Technology Building has been modernised from the initial weaving workshops to house recording studios, and from 2016 a new Railway Research Institute.

### 9 Canalside Buildings ▲

These award winning conversions have successfully conserved an important part of Huddersfield's textile heritage. Canalside West was converted from Firth Street Woollen Mill, which had been built in 1865 and produced cotton, before moving into carpet production in the 20th century. Since 1995 it has been the home of the School of Computing and Engineering. Next door, Canalside East was part of Larchfield Mills. Built as a steam powered mill



in 1865-6, it was leased to George Brooke, who produced fancy woollen and worsted goods.



### 10 3M Buckley Innovation Centre ▲

Named after former 3M CEO and university alumnus Sir George Buckley. It was built on another area that formed part of the Larchfield mill complex on the far side of Firth Street facing onto the River Colne. The centre houses companies engaged in research and advanced manufacturing in the technology and chemical sectors. It was designed to encourage both business to business and business to higher education collaboration.

### 11 The Canal ▼

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal was constructed between 1794 and 1811. The canal fell into disrepair after the expansion of the railway, until a campaign to reclaim it for recreational use led to its restoration in 2001. The canal and towpath now form an attractive route through the centre of the campus.

