



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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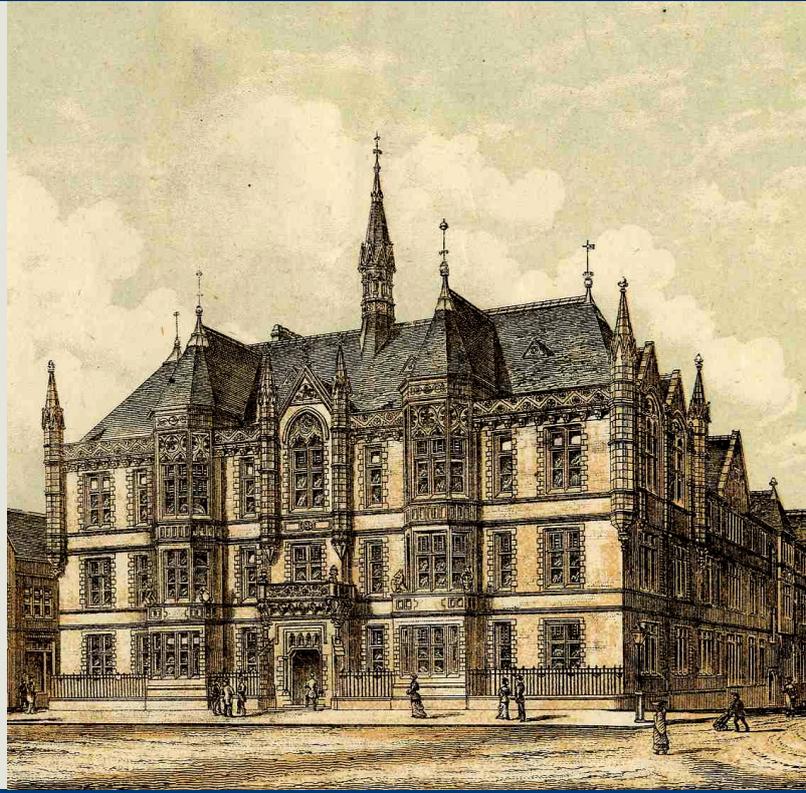
Images: University of Huddersfield Archives (www.heritagequay.org), AHR Architects, David Wyles

Produced in association with the University of Huddersfield

Information

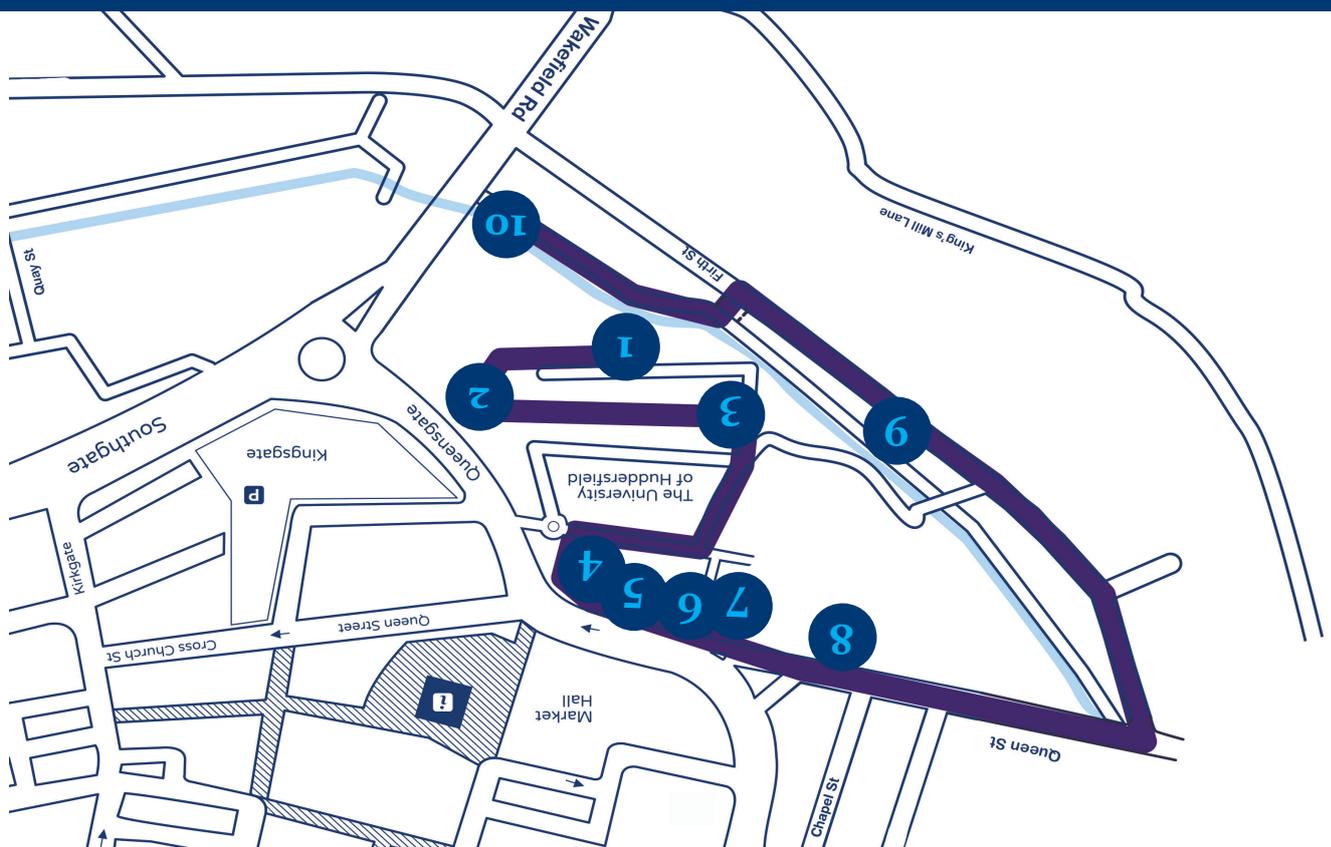
For more information about Discover Huddersfield or to learn more about the project and how to get involved, please get in touch through the following media: www.discoverhuddersfield.uk Email: info@discoverhuddersfield.uk

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University Heritage Trail

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 Schwann Building (1977)

The Schwann Building has dominated the Huddersfield skyline for over 40 years. Designed to provide space for 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. The lower floors house administrative departments, support services and the Library. It also contains Heritage Quay, the University Archives service.



2 University Square

The Square was redeveloped in 2016 after many of the buildings around it reached completion, including the Richard Steinitz Building, Student Central and the Oastler Building. The photograph shows a corner of the former sunken courtyard, Textile and Engineering towers (demolished) and the Technology Building, part of which was redeveloped in 2021.

3 The Green

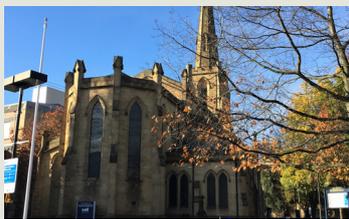
From here the impact of campus re-development over the 20th century can really be seen. St Joseph's Primary School was distinctive with its rooftop playground and subsequently became the Students' Union before being demolished in favour of a purpose-built space in 2005. Re-developed as the Brontë Lecture Theatres in 2014,



it contains large lecture theatres and smaller teaching spaces.

On the left the Edith Key Building originally housed the Music department and 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.



4 St Paul's Hall (1831)

This church was designed by John Oates and built by notable local builder Joseph Kaye. Sited at the opposite end of the old road from St Peter's Parish Church, it was built to serve a growing local population. It became the College Chapel in 1968 and a Philip Wood-designed organ was installed in the 1970s. The University converted the space to a concert hall in 1980 and today it is a multi-purpose events space as well as hosting the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival.

5 Joseph Priestley Building (1939)

Teaching space on campus was a perennial problem, and after public fundraising, construction on a new Chemistry building began in



1936. The photograph shows the foundation stone-laying ceremony the following year. Upon completion it was immediately commandeered for war use.

Between 1941 and 1946 it housed the Avery Hill Teacher Training College which had been evacuated from London. Wartime classes for radio mechanics and the women's ATS were also taught here.



6 Ramsden Building (1883)

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

7 Sir Patrick Stewart Building (1885)

This building was refurbished in 2005 to house the university's drama department. Formally the Milton Congregational Church, it was originally established after a large group of dissenters followed their liberal Calvinist minister from Ramsden Street Independent Church. For a time in the 1990s it was the home of the Student Union and has also been a nightclub called Eden and Bel-Air.

8 Sovereign Design House (1955. Converted: 2019)

This Grade-II listed structure was built as a bathhouse for the workers



of Thomas Broadbent. The University acquired the land in the 2010s and converted the building into a café and gallery space. The original lockers and taps are still on show inside as part of a sympathetic restoration by architects AHR, who were also responsible for the original structure. Across the grass is the Barbara Hepworth Building, which houses the art, design and architecture departments.



9 Canalside Buildings

Converted from two former mills, these award-winning conversions have successfully conserved an important part of Huddersfield's textile heritage. The Haslett Building was converted from Firth Street Woollen Mill (1865) which produced cotton, before moving into carpet production in the 20th century. Next door, the Spärck Jones Building was part of Larchfield Mills. Built in 1865-6, it was leased to George Brooke, who produced fancy woollen and worsted goods.

10 The Canal

The Huddersfield Narrow Canal was constructed between 1794 and 1811 to connect the Huddersfield Broad and Ashton canals via a tunnel at Standedge. The canal fell into disrepair after the expansion of the railway, until a popular 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.

