

SP 30P

**Please Follow The Country Code**

Guard against all risk of fire. Take your litter home.  
Leave gates as found. Keep to public paths across farmland.  
Help to keep all water clean. Keep dogs under control.  
Protect wildlife, plants and trees. Use gates and stiles.  
Make no unnecessary noise. Take special care on country roads.  
Leave livestock, crops and machinery alone.  
Enjoy the countryside and respect its life and work.

**Public Transport**

Please use public transport as often as you can.  
Timetables are available in Tourist Information Centres, libraries and at the Colne Valley Trust, Slaithwaite.

**Buses**

There are frequent buses from Huddersfield which run along Manchester Road and call at Linthwaite, Slaithwaite and Marsden.

For timetable information ring 0113 245 7676 or call at Huddersfield Bus Station.

**Trains**

For local timetable information please ring 0113 245 7676.  
For National Rail Enquiry Service ring 0345 484950.

Railway stations at Huddersfield, Slaithwaite and Marsden.

**Food and Drink**

The Colne Valley is well-provided with a range of pubs, restaurants and take-away food outlets to suit all tastes.

For further information see the local press.

Tourist Information Centres and the Colne Valley Trust.

**Accommodation**

For information see the Kirklees Accommodation Guide, available from Tourist Information Centres.

**Information Points in the Area**

Huddersfield Tourist Information, Albion St. 01484 221000  
Holmfirth Tourist Information, Huddersfield Road 01484 222444  
Colne Valley Trust, 21a, Carr Lane, Slaithwaite 01484 847790  
Mechanics Institute, Peel St., Marsden 01484 843701  
Colne Valley Museum, Cliffe Ash, Golcar. (Sat/Sun p.m.) 01484 659762

**Disclaimer**

The Colne Valley Trust, together with the author and artist of this walk, 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.

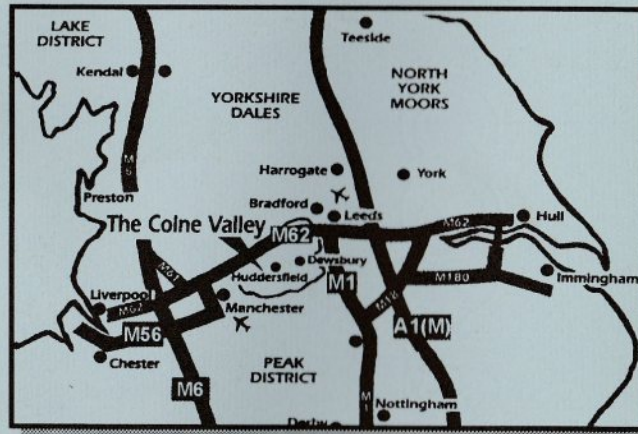
Please note also that the route of this walk does not imply a right of way; in some cases this walk takes advantage of permissive paths.

The definitive guide to the rights of way on this walk can be found at the Highways Service, Flint Street, Huddersfield.

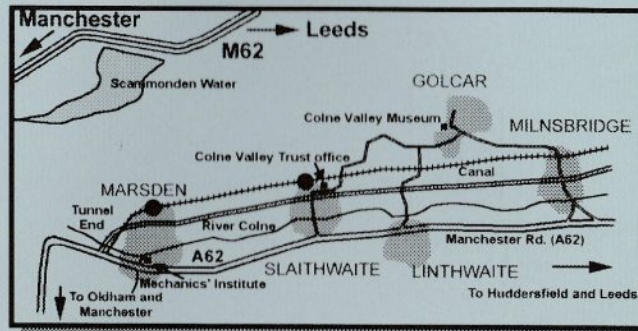
**Acknowledgements**

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Text of the walk by Peter Kirkham.

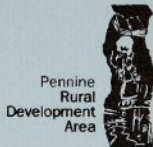
Where we are ...



The Colne Valley



COLNE VALLEY TRUST



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

The Colne Valley Trail

A series of Countryside and Village Walks



Slaithwaite-Linthwaite Circular



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

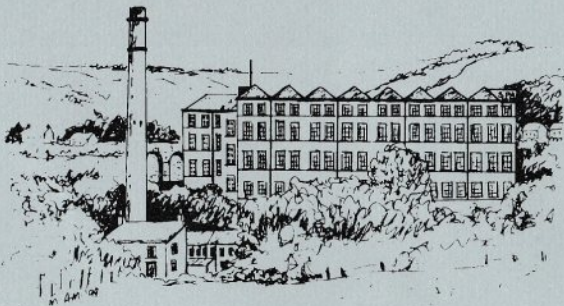


## SLAITHWAITE AND LINTHWAITE

*Circular walk — 3 miles.  
Allow 1.5 - 2 hrs.*

*A useful guide to help you on this walk is the Colne Valley Countryside Guide Sheet 2 (Slaithwaite, Golcar, Linthwaite). See also O.S. Pathfinder 702, or Explorer Series replacement. You can get to Slaithwaite by bus from Huddersfield Bus Station or by train to Slaithwaite Station. If coming by car you can park in the centre of Slaithwaite.*

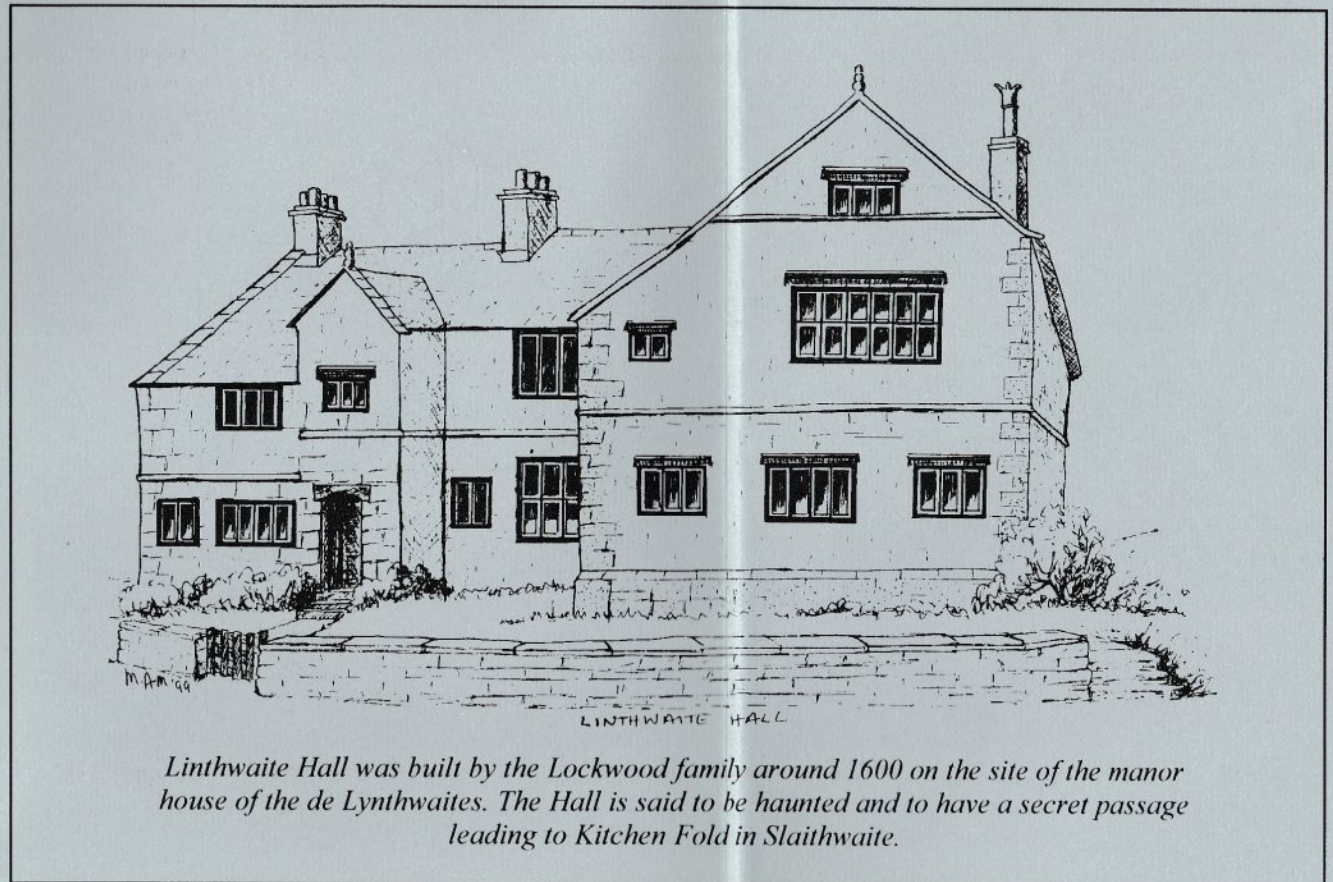
The walk starts in the centre of Slaithwaite on Carr Lane opposite a row of shops. The direction you start off in is towards New Street, keeping the shops on your left. New Street is to the right, branching off the main road. You walk past a Health Centre (on your right) and eventually you will see the swimming baths and Colne Valley Leisure Centre on your left. When you reach here look for Platt Lane and turn right down the road. On your left is a big mill called Spa Mill.



*The mill is called Spa Mill because it lies near the site of a spring. The waters were considered to have medicinal properties and mineral baths were built in 1825 with swimming baths, dance hall, bowling green etc. There were landscaped gardens to walk in. Unfortunately, the advance of industry destroyed this idyllic creation and the baths were 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.*

At the end of Platt Lane bear right, then almost immediately turn left across the road onto a path between high fencing. This crosses a bridge over the River Colne. A rather steep ascent brings you up onto Manchester Road (A62) where you cross over (**watch the busy traffic**) and go up Linfit Fold. Ahead of you is Linthwaite Hall.



*Linthwaite 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.*



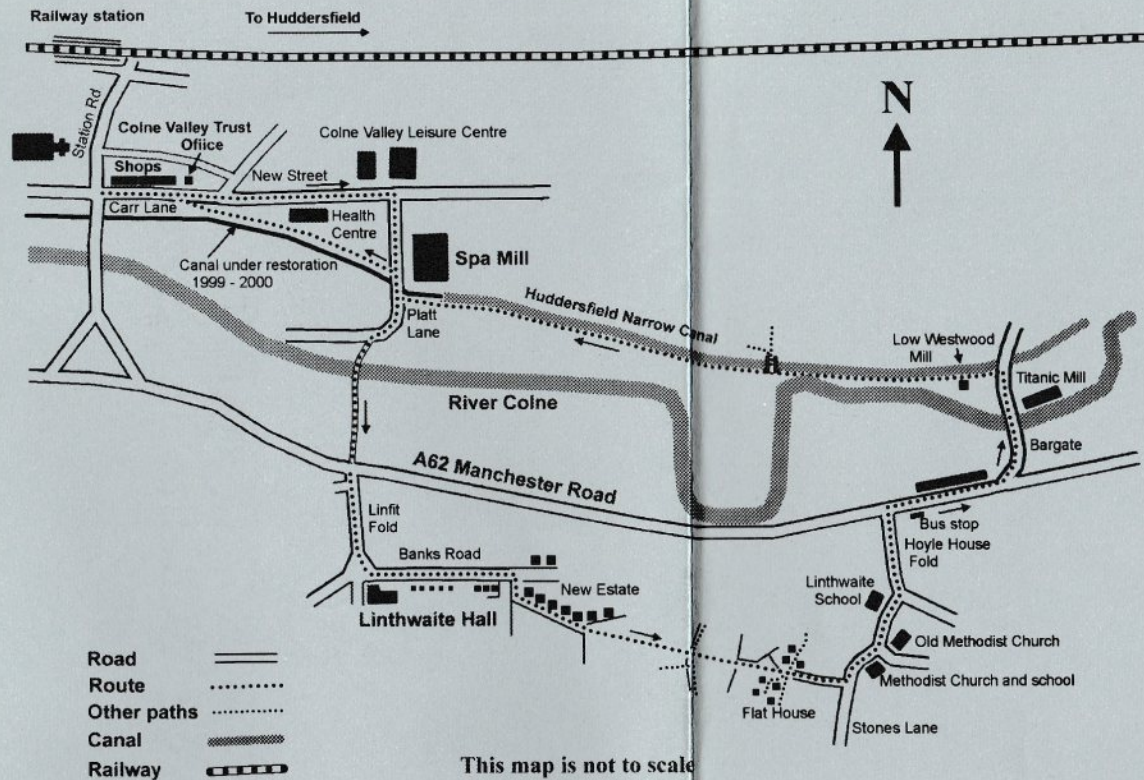
Just before you reach Linthwaite Hall turn left onto Banks Road. Walk along the road to a new estate. Bear right on the path behind the new houses, just past house number 25. Follow this path and go through a gap in the wall where you will see an ascending path in front of you. Continue on this path and go through a metal gate.

*You are now on part of the Colne Valley Circular Walk which was created by the Colne Valley Society in 1973 and is 13 miles long. A publication describing the walk is available from local tourist centres.*

Cross the field to the gap in the wall, go through keeping left on the path then cross the field towards some houses until you reach a wooden stile. The path continues straight ahead with the houses to the right.

At Flat House you come to a rough road cross straight over and take a steepish descent down to a road (Stones Lane). Turn left on this road. Keep left on Chapel Hill past the old Methodist Church and proceed downhill past the County School on the left.

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



*On the right Linthwaite Methodist Church and the Wesleyan Schools, followed by the old Methodist Church (1867). 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' Many will claim that things have not changed!*





***If you have had enough at this point you can get a bus back to Slaithwaite from the stop at the shelter on your right.***

Hardier souls cross the road here, using the pedestrian crossing, turn right and continue along a row of shops. At the end of the shops at Bargate there is a road branching off to the left (Lowestwood Lane). There is a sign for Wellhouse; you go downhill to cross the River Colne.

*Note the big mill on your right (Westwood Mill). It is locally called the Titanic as it was built in 1912 – the same year as the Titanic was launched and lost. It was never fully utilised and now stands closed and derelict though there are plans to convert it for combined sports and residential use.*



Fringed water-lily (*Nymphaoides peltata*). It is a locally introduced plant to be found in the canal near Lowestwood Lane. It looks rather like a yellow water-lily (not related) when seen in flower (July – August).

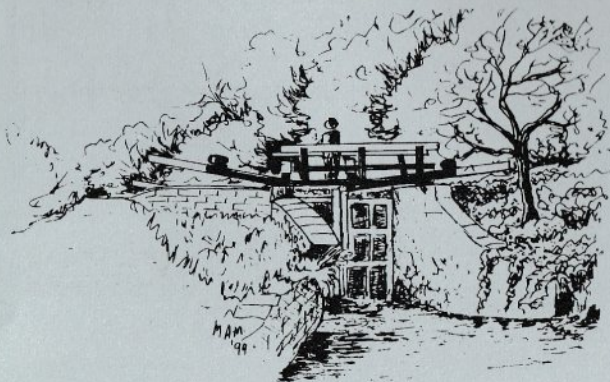
A short distance along the road and you come to the Huddersfield Narrow Canal. Pause for a moment to look for the fringed water lily which you may find in the canal on your right.

Turn left onto the towpath; ahead you will see Low Westwood Mill.



***Low Westwood Mill.***

*This mill was built in the late eighteenth century and is one of the oldest mills in the valley. There are plans for this mill too, as an environment centre. 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 walk.*



This brings you back to the centre of Slaithwaite.

At the time of writing the last part of the canal into Slaithwaite is not re-opened, but your track leads you back to Carr Lane.