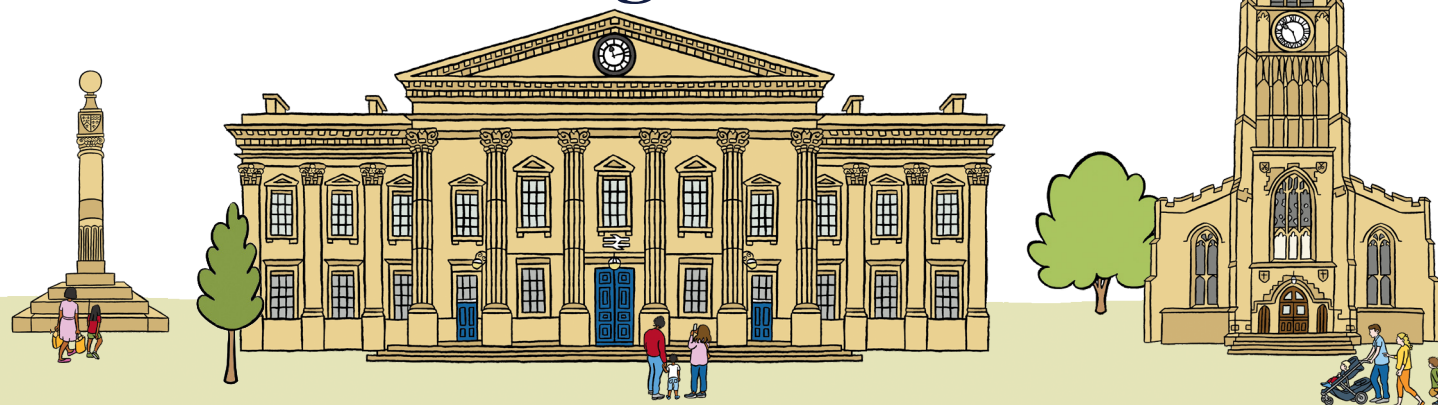




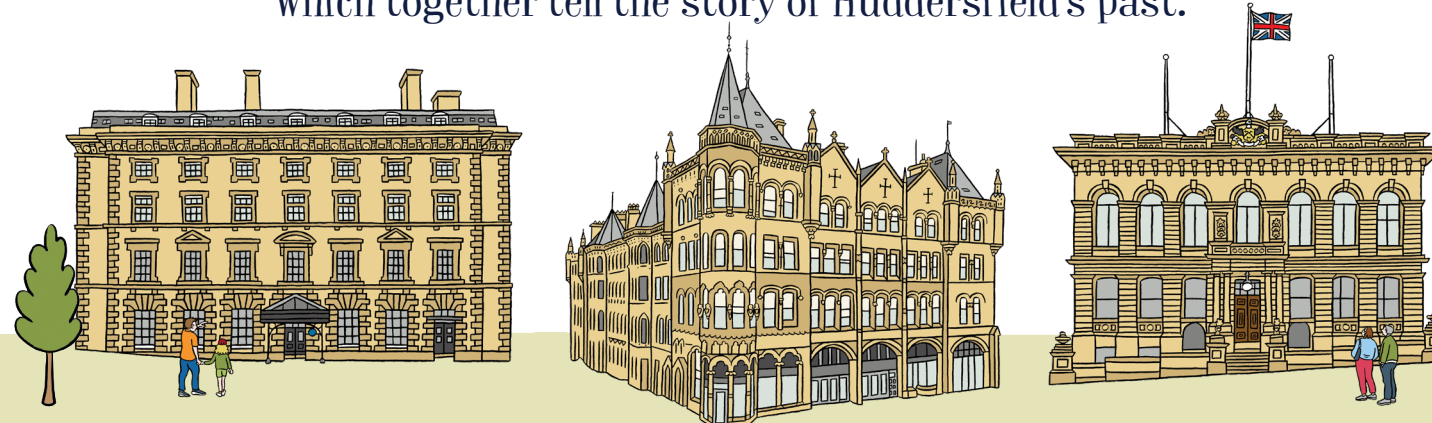
Huddersfield Heritage Mile Trail



A family activity trail for history spotters



A short walk through time
Stop and admire the grandeur of ten historic buildings,
which together tell the story of Huddersfield's past.



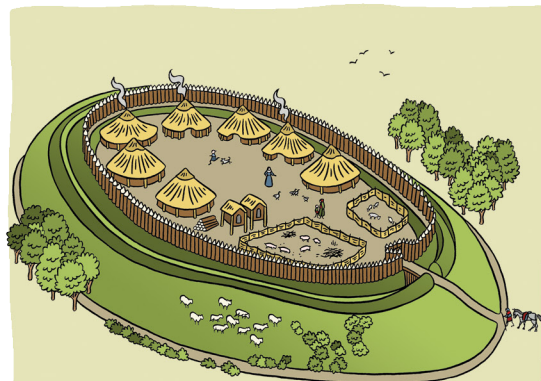
Produced as part of the Huddersfield High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), jointly funded by Historic England and Kirklees Council. A regeneration initiative focussed on restoring the George Hotel and Estate Buildings to breathe new life into Huddersfield's town centre for future generations.

With grateful thanks to local historians David Griffiths and Christopher Marsden.

Trail quiz answers: 1 Prime Minister Harold Wilson; 2 Ramsden & Butler; 3 Lion; 4 Lion; 5 Yes, the building is symmetrical; 6 Ten clocks on the tower; 7 Four clocks on the tower; 8 Huddersfield's town crest; 9 1853; 10 14 stone circle decorations.

Spotting puzzle answers: 1 Huddersfield Railway Station = carved column; 2 Estate Buildings = Green Man face and leaves stone carving; 3 Market Cross = carved stone sphere and coat of arms; 4 Town hall = decorative carved stone panel with a ram's head; 5 Queensgate Market = ceramic sculpture panel; 6 Lawrence Bailey Theatre = oval window; 7 St Peter's Parish Church = wooden door; 8 Open Market = painted cast-iron pillar with town crest; 9 Lion Chambers = lion sculpture; 10 George Hotel = rectangular window.

Huddersfield through the ages



Iron Age settlement

Over 2500 years ago, the Brigantes tribe built an Iron Age fort at the top of Castle Hill. The hill fort was surrounded by deep ditches, stone walls and a wooden fence as a defence against enemy attacks. The settlement was abandoned around 400 BC after a fire. Today, this Huddersfield landmark is topped with the Victoria Tower – a stone monument built in 1899 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

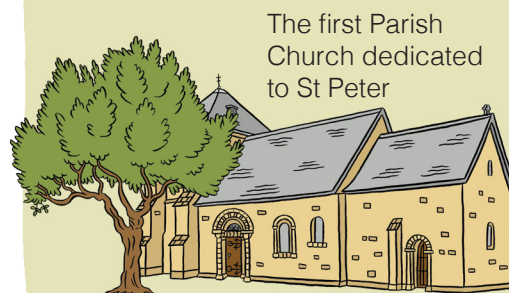
Roman occupation

The Romans built a military fort and bath house at nearby Slack (Outlane) in AD 80. This was an army base for auxiliary soldiers, who were defending the Roman road that ran between Chester and York.



Over time, a small civilian settlement grew up around the fort.

Roman auxiliary soldier



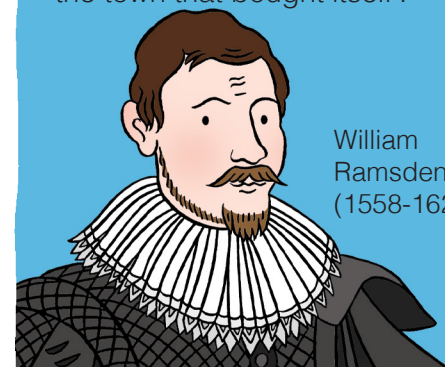
The first Parish Church dedicated to St Peter

Medieval Manor

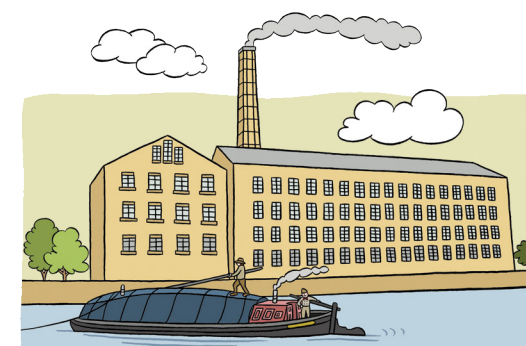
After the Norman conquest in 1066, Ilbert de Lacy became Lord of the Manor of Odersfelt (old English for Huddersfield). In around 1100, Walter de Lacy set up the first church in this rural parish. The story goes that Walter had been thrown from his horse into a swamp and had the church built to give thanks for his life after the accident. The de Lacy family owned the Manor until 1322, when the land became royal property.

Tudor family ownership

William Ramsden bought the Manor of Huddersfield from Queen Elizabeth I in 1599. The Ramsden family retained ownership of Huddersfield for the next 300 years and, in several key periods, encouraged its growth into the town we know today. In 1920, the family sold their estate to the town Corporation for the sum of £1.3 million, which is why Huddersfield is known as 'the town that bought itself'.



William Ramsden (1558-1623)



Georgian industry

Huddersfield's textile industry expanded greatly during the industrial revolution. Large-scale mills began manufacturing cloth made of cotton and linen, as well as wool. The Ramsdens supported this growth by building Huddersfield's Cloth Hall in 1766 – an important trading market for textile merchants. They also built the Sir John Ramsden (or the Broad) Canal in 1780. This canal and the independent Huddersfield Narrow Canal, which opened in 1811, were both used to deliver raw materials to the town and transport finished textiles.

Victorian new town

In the 1840s, the Ramsden estate welcomed the railway to Huddersfield. The new transport lines to Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield brought increased trade and wealth to the town. The monumental station, designed by architect James Pigott Pritchett and built by Joseph Kaye, sits in St George's Square – the centre of the Ramsden's 'new town' development, surrounded by the grand streets and fine Victorian buildings of the 1850s.





Huddersfield Heritage Mile Trail



4 Huddersfield Town Hall

The Victorian Town Hall was built in two halves between 1875-81. The municipal offices are on Ramsden Street and the entrance to the richly decorated Concert Hall is on Princess Street. The Hall is a beautiful setting for music concerts by brass bands, orchestras, artists and the world-famous Huddersfield Choral Society.

Which animal holds a golden shield at the Town Hall entrance?

1 Huddersfield Railway Station

The railway came to Huddersfield in 1846-50. This magnificent station was designed to look like an ancient classical temple with many columns. The central building housed refreshment rooms with ticket offices on either side.

Find the bronze statue in St George's Square. What's the name of this famous local politician?

2 Estate Buildings

This impressive corner block was built in 1870 as the Ramsden estate office. The building is decorated with delicate stone carvings, roof spires and ridged gables. Can you spot these animal stone carvings?

☐ lions ☐ rams ☐ birds

3 Market Cross

In 1671, the Lord of the Manor was granted the right to hold a weekly market in Huddersfield. He built a cross in the market place – a stone column carved with his family coats of arms. What are the family surnames?

6 Lawrence Batley Theatre

This Georgian building was built as a place of worship over 200 years ago. In 1994, the Wesleyan Chapel was turned into a theatre venue for plays, opera and dance shows. Is this building symmetrical (do the two sides match)?

☐ Yes
☐ No

7 St Peter's Parish Church

The first of three churches was built on this site over 900 years ago, after the Norman Conquest. Today's church was built in 1836 with a bell tower standing 37 metres (120 feet) tall.

How many clocks can you see on the tower?

10 George Hotel

This grand hotel was built in the new town square in 1850 to replace the old George Inn, which was demolished to make way for John William Street. The hotel is famous for hosting the meeting in 1895, where the breakaway sport of Rugby League was set up. Count the number of stone circle decorations on the front of the hotel.

9 Lion Chambers

This large Victorian building was designed to house a row of shops at street level and wool warehouses above. The main central entrance led into a splendid shopping arcade with an arched glass roof. When was this building built?

8 Open Market

Huddersfield's open market was built in 1888 for wholesale traders selling fruit, vegetables, fish and meat. The large airy market hall has a decorative cast-iron frame with glass walls and skylights. What decorates the top of the cast-iron pillars?

5 Queensgate Market

Queensgate Market opened over 50 years ago. The hall has a concrete roof, which is made up of 21 upside-down 'umbrella' shapes supported on pillars. This building is decorated with one of the world's largest ceramic sculptures. How many sculpture panels are there?

Spotting puzzle

Look closer at the numbered buildings on your walk through Huddersfield. Match up these details with the right buildings and write their numbers in the spots.

