

THE SOUTH PENNINES: THE GREEN ROOTS OF OUR PROSPERITY

October 17th 2014

ECOTEC Research & Consulting Limited (2008)

The economic impact of restoring the Huddersfield Narrow and Rochdale Canals - A Report to British Waterways

“Despite the fact that both canal restorations have only recently been completed, the associated economic impacts are already significant. Both canals support a diverse array of tourism and leisure businesses. Over one third of these businesses believe the restored canals to be important or very important to their business.”

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/library/6344.pdf>

Jacobs Report - The benefits of Inland Waterways - Defra and the Inland Waterways Advisory Council - 2010

Direct, indirect, & induced full time Employment, attributed to the Rochdale and Huddersfield Narrow Canals shown by Local Authority 2004-2010:

<i>Calderdale</i>	95	<i>Rochdale</i>	33	<i>Manchester</i>	33
<i>Kirklees</i>	86	<i>Tameside</i>	17	<i>Oldham</i>	42
Total	306	<i>(235 Direct)</i>			

Tourism and leisure expenditure attributed to the Rochdale and Huddersfield Narrow Canals by boaters, cyclists, and visitors, shown by Local Authority 2004-2010:

<i>Calderdale</i>	£26,605,000	<i>Rochdale</i>	£9,829,000
<i>Manchester</i>	£9,507,000	<i>Kirklees</i>	£23,150,000
<i>Tameside</i>	£4,515,000	<i>Oldham</i>	£11,334,000
Total direct spend	£84,940,000		

Restoration has

- Helped to establish investor and developer confidence
- Brought forward development of vacant or underused sites
- Enhanced vibrancy and vitality of an area
- Added value – canal frontage sites command a premium value of between 15% and 25%

http://www.waterways-forward.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/The-Benefits-of-Inland-Waterways_Final-Report-July-2009_JACO.pdf

A review of the impact of waterway restoration University of Northampton March 2014

“Water Adds Value - Highlighting the impact of the restoration of our waterways”

CRT – IWA 2014

“It is evident that the impact of waterway restorations is very far-reaching and almost always in excess of that which was anticipated and planned for.”

“The Rochdale & Huddersfield Narrow Canals delivered significant canal related development including residential, business and offices use. Visitor numbers for the Rochdale are estimated at 3.8 million visitors with a net impact of £2.5–4.1 million pa, for the Huddersfield Narrow estimates are 2.3 million visitors, with a net impact £2.5–2.8 million pa.”

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/restoration/the-benefits>

Local Benefits Around the Pennine Ring

Huddersfield	In Huddersfield the new University development is clustered around the canal
Slaithwaite	From being a unloved liability the canal became a focal point of the regenerated village giving it a chocolate box appeal
Marsden/Tunnel End	The Visitor Centre at the Standedge Tunnel Portal has become one of the major visitor attractions on the national waterway system with 38,000 visitors in 2013 and on target for at least as many in 2014.
Uppermill	The principal visitor destination in Saddleworth. The canal between here and Dobcross was the first section to be restored with a popular trip boat operating for around 30 years.
Stalybridge	The restoration of the Huddersfield Narrow Canal has been credited with the transformation of Stalybridge with new shops, housing, and bars created following the re-opening of the canal.
Failsworth	Removal of the Co-op Superstore to unblock the Rochdale Canal has resulted in the creation of a Canal Basin, now a central feature of the District Centre and unlocked £30m of surrounding development.
Todmorden	The restored canal has become a focus for community initiatives.
Hebden Bridge	The canal has played a significant role in establishing the town as a hugely popular visitor destination – and the accolade of being 4th funkier town in the world.
Sowerby Bridge	The home of Shire Cruisers.

Environmental Benefits

Transport: Promotion and development of the canals as important off-road sustainable transport corridors for walkers and cyclists has helped secure transport funding, improved their strategic value and ultimately increased their use by the public.

Air Quality: Restoration of and investment in Canals is leading to a reduction in exposure to poor air quality - delivering improvements which have benefits both for the natural and human environments.

Flooding: Canal restorations can positively impact the environment in relation to flooding, land drainage and water quality.

Heritage: Restoration frequently secures the conservation and new uses of important heritage buildings and structures, including industrial buildings and other structures offering economic benefits and engendering a sense of local pride and a connection with local history.

Crime Reduction/Community Safety – Transformation from unloved, neglected no-go areas to accessible, well used features of the public realm reduces opportunities for crime and encourages community ownership.

BUT

Canal restoration is not a “magic bullet” – a vast amount of work and resources have gone into what has been achieved so far – but much remains to be done if we are to consolidate and build upon these achievements.