

## **Thirty two**                    **HUDDERSFIELD – RAILWAY STATION & BARS**

This is a very fine early Victorian railway station – a remarkable survival – with two very good station bars for real ale and good food enthusiasts.

Take the train from Eccles Station to Stalybridge. At Stalybridge change onto a train for Huddersfield.

Alight at Huddersfield. *This stone built station dates from 1847. Notice the early Victorian iron and glass train shed and the giant lanterns that illuminate it.*

Steps and an underpass take you across to the Manchester platform, and ticket hall. *However the station retains its boarded crossings. Infirm or heavily laden passengers may still use these to cross the lines.*

Outside on the impressive St George's Square look back at the station frontage. *It is a restrained yet impressive symmetrical, classical design with a large central portico.*

Smaller colonnades link the main building to two outbuildings. *Notice the railway badges in roundels on the pediments of these buildings. One is the badge of 'The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway', and the other is of 'The Huddersfield and Manchester Railway and Canal Company'. To the extreme right is an area that presumably had been an early locomotive stabling point.*

The two outbuildings are the important station bars.

At the east (right or Leeds end) of the Manchester platform is the Station Tavern. *A large pub really, it stocks a wide range of hand pumped beers. There are open fires on cold days. Meals and snacks are also served.*

At the west (left or Manchester end) of the building is the 'Head of Steam' bar. *This is divided into rooms by delightful wood and glass walls. There are some hand pumped real ales and a range of European bottled beers. There is a lengthy menu available throughout the day and I can testify to the good quality of the meals!*

The back doors of the bars lead directly onto the Manchester platform for the train home!

CLASSIFICATION:     A DODDLE.  
                              ARCHITECTURE, FOOD & DRINK  
                              RAIL FARE: category three.