

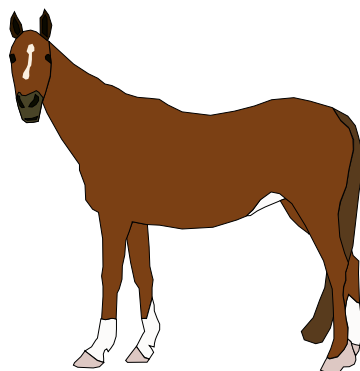
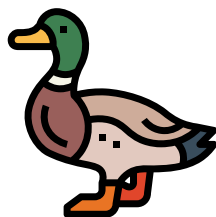
ROCHDALE CANAL

The Rochdale Canal was thought up in 1776, when a group of 48 men from Rochdale raised £237 (£49,692.77 in today's money) and commissioned James Brindley to conduct a survey of possible routes between Sowerby Bridge and Manchester. The canal opened through to Manchester in 1804. This made it the first trans-Pennine canal route.

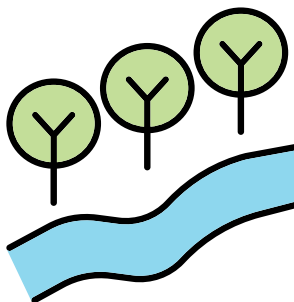
It runs for 33 miles through the rugged heights of the Pennines from Manchester to Sowerby Bridge. The steep climb means lots of locks and stunning views.



It is named after Rochdale, the Greater Manchester town where it was conceived and through which it passes.



During the 18th century, horsepower was the driving force behind the development of Britain's canal system. Horses could pull 50 times more weight in a boat than in a cart. Horseboating continued until the mid 1960s. Today when passing under bridges you can still see grooves in the stone highlighting where horses pulled barges.



The Rochdale Canal re-opened to boats in 2002 after an ambitious volunteer restoration project that brought an end to more than 50 years without through navigation. Obstacles had included two motorways, countless road blockages and a scheme to fill the channel with concrete.



The Rochdale Canal has 91 locks in total. It is one of the deepest locks in the UK and is sometimes nicknamed 'The Everest of canals'.

Seven reservoirs were built to supply the canal with water - including Hollingworth Lake.

