Hello and Welcome to the West Yorkshire Town of Brighouse which lies east of its controlling town of Halifax within the larger [Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calderdale) Council.

Brighouse and surrounding areas were originally heavily involved in both open and deep mining with rich extracts in minerals, coal and stone in fact some remains to the deep mines still are visible with past mining bodies still involved with overseeing the safety and control of these old mines that they still remain in the area today, many now covered over with a never ending supply of new homes expanding this original once small village becoming a considerable town with several developed villagers surrounding this West Yorkshire town.

In the 18/19 centuries the fast flowing River Calder and the Calder & Hebble Canal helped Brighouse thrived in the textile and Industrial revolution bringing several large Carpet Makers, Die Companies, Cloth Blenders and Foundries, etc, including Firths and Cossitt Carpets, Sugdens Flour Mills, Blackhall Engineering Ltd and J. Blakeborough and Sons Ltd Valve Makers along with many more.

Sadly with a ever changing world most of these have now gone mostly replaced with more houses and smaller industrial units all making the most from Brighouse’s new river and canal the M62 motorway

Opencast Quarries still remain today and are still extracting the rich Yorkshire Stone that has been used not just locally but all around the world as it has a way of totally transforms any type of building into a light changing structure as the changing sun brings out the very best of these stunning stone colours.

Brighouse Town Centre sits in the bottom of the valley surrounded by its villages which apart from Bailiff Bridge all are well elevated above the town of Brighouse,

The low position of this town along side of the fast flowing Calder River which the area of Calderdale took its name from, had an old wooden bridge joining the village of Rastrick with Brighouse was thought to be where the name Brighouse came from (Brig from the word Bridge and House as at the time Brighouse was a village of houses) although it was always pronounced in a broad Yorkshire dialog as Brig-a-us and in fact you still find many of the older locals still to this day call it Brig-a-us.

Later along came the Calder & Hebble Canal (later to be called Calder & Hebble Navigation Canal) which ran side by side with the River Calder stretching from Lancashire eventually reaching the North Sea this waterway provided the perfect solution to transport all the local minerals, coal, stone and produce Brighouse could produced, all this led way to a new boom for the small village that not only helped build the thriving town of Brighouse but along the side of the fast flowing river was an ideal place to build many new factories that the river could not only power these new factories but the rivers fast flowing water was used for washing and dyeing cloth as well as cooling the machines and in later years provided the water for the big boilers to produce steam to power the weaving looms 24 hours a day even when the river was flowing slowly.

With some of the mines constructed at the top of these hills which surrounded Brighouse before the railway was introduced, these mines had a big problem transporting the coal and other heavy produce down the steep tracks by horse and carts to the waiting canal barges not only taking a large toll on the horses and carts but was a very slow and time consuming task, so they built rail tracks down the steep hills to take the stone, minerals and coal down to the waiting barges to take it to the many growing town in the north of England and beyond, the rail carriages were powered down the hills to the canal by the sheer weight of the goods, then the empty carriages would be pulled back up the hill with horses via a special winching system.

**Travelling Around Brighouse**

**Entering Brighouse down the A641 Huddersfield & Bradford Road from Huddersfield as you approach the town passing the Woodhouse Lane where the Scout movement has held there activities for decades, then passing Daisy Road as you cross over the railway bridge you hardly notice on your left is Brighouse Rail Station showing a small sign and notice board with steps leading down the side of this stone built bridge to the platform below you almost get the feeling that they don’t want people to know this Railway Station is OPEN for business next to it is the Railway Inn parps giving another clue there is a station near here?**

**At the junction traffic lights is a road leading to dozens of industrial units and factories many now occupying the former Massive J. Blakeborough and Sons Ltd Factory which not only exported valves all around the world but was one of the largest single employer within the Brighouse Area before closing due to world markets, unrest and takeovers, which many blame for its demise? To the left at the lights take you to the area of Rastrick (please see Rastrick section) as you drive through the light the first thing you notice is the Steel single span bridge spanning the fast flowing Calder River if you look ahead to your right you will see the former textile mill now with luxury apartment now quite visual each with their own balconies overlooking the river and beyond the entrance to these apartments is through electronic controlled gates.**

**If you look to the left you may see the remains of the old swimming and slippery baths? With the remains of the old Thomas Sugden’s Flour Mills another large employer now gone, although looking at the large tower silos you may see an array of coloured gripers dotted around these towers as this is now one of the largest climbing centres in the UK.**

**As you pass over the stone Calder & Hebble Navigation Canal bridge on your left is a another former mill now an hotel (Waterfront Lodge Hotel & Prego Restaurant) with the Calder Bar next, which before it became a eating and drinking place was the Albert Picture House opposite this is one of the towns supermarkets on a former mill and bank site, if you turn left at the roundabout it brings you into Bethel Street with JDWetherspoons The Richard Oastler on your right in a former Bethel Church which still houses the old original organ on the balcony, as you pass the back of the old cinema is the old Salvation Hall and set back is the Towns Market with a new pub the Market Tavern which uses the former Pork Pie making building, on the right you cannot help notice a part wooden almost Tudor looking building now the Old Ship Inn formerly the Prince of Wales which used the wood for its construction from the former 101 gun ship called the 'HMS Donegal built in 1958*'*. past this interesting building and passing the Market Street on your right bring you into Briggate with a large flower displayed roundabout (the roundabout without junctions) on your right the imposing building with a clock on the top was the original and former Town Hall a bit more around and looking to your left you will see the Black Bull Hotel as you pass the now so called super loos is another supermarket original the towns first super market built by Hillards of Cleckheaton now owned by a large chain of supermarkets.**

**Turning right at the end of the road takes you into the town’s main street Commercial Street**