

Longest, highest and deepest



About to head south from Marsden.

Standedge Tunnel on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal is, at 5.2km, the longest canal tunnel in the country. It is also the highest yet the deepest below ground level, it being possible to look up a shaft to the surface 194m above. Outside are notices banning canoes, as there are outside many shorter canal tunnels.

However, CRT have now recognized the interest and have begun running trips through for canoeists. These cater for a couple of dozen canoeists at a time, for which they provide solo and tandem Prospector canoes, which must be used, and other kit for participants although other personal equipment and clothing may be used as desired.

Trips are run at weekends, one weekend per summer

month, south from Marsden to Diggle in the morning and back in the afternoon, participants usually paddling one way only. A satisfactory level of ability in open canoe handling is required. Being a narrow canal, much of the route is not wide enough to turn a canoe so that anyone feeling ill or unhappy with claustrophobia is asked to make it known as soon as possible as it is better to retreat from the tunnel ends than from the centre of the tunnel. That said, there have been subsequent railway tunnels built parallel, allowing several cross connecting adits, from which smoke used to burst during steam train days. These are now used by CRT staff to monitor groups as they pass and could permit paddlers to walk out if necessary. These adits are lit and the



A section with brick arches.