

## A GUIDE TO CYCLING & WALKING AROUND DUDLEY

### GARDENS, GLASS MAKING AND GREAT LOCOMOTIVES

Dudley has a thriving canal culture that makes walking and cycling in the area a varied and exciting experience.

From the bustling Waterfront at Merry Hill, with its cosmopolitan mix of cafes, bars and restaurants to the breathtaking beauty of Leasowes Park Gardens, Dudley is an area of contrasts. You'll find plenty to see and do by the water and you'll want to come back time and time again...

This handy guide is a brief introduction to some of the great walks and cycle routes just waiting to be discovered in Dudley.



### STOURBRIDGE TOWN ARM

A waterside walk, following the route of The Stourbridge Town Arm for approximately one mile from The Stourbridge Bonded Warehouse to Wordsley Junction.

**Location:**

Stourbridge Wharf, Stourbridge

**Start/Finish:**

Stourbridge Bonded Warehouse

**Distance:** 3 miles/4.8 km (approx)

**Duration:** 1 hour (approx)

**Type:** Linear

**Conditions:** Hard surfaced/flat.

Some areas may become muddy in wet weather, suitable footwear is advised.

**Access point:** Stourbridge Wharf

**Car parking:**

Bonded Warehouse, High Street

1. Leave The Bonded Warehouse – built by the former Stourbridge Canal Company in 1779 and used for the storage of wines and spirits. As you join the canal to begin your walk along the Stourbridge Canal Arm you will see evidence of the area's industrial past all around.

2. Following the towpath, cross the first bridge to rejoin the canal, continuing as it leads you through urban areas with industrial heritage sites. There are also many opportunities to spot wildlife such as kingfishers and sparrowhawks.

3. Cross over the second bridge and continue to follow the towpath passing several houses which back onto the canal.

4. The next bridge you come across, Chubbs Bridge was originally built to provide access to the newly refurbished canalside cone.

5. Continue along the towpath passing old industrial buildings that are still in use today.

6. Just before Wordsley Junction a small row of cottages to your left are reminders of a canalside community dating back to 1829.

7. Upon reaching the junction you can either retrace your steps back to The Bonded Warehouse or turn to your right and enjoy a further walk along The Stourbridge Canal, passing The Stourbridge 16, a flight of 16 locks, leading up to the picturesque Delph 9 and on to Merry Hill, for shopping and a bite to eat!

### DELPH WALK

This 30 minute linear walk takes you from the modern Merry Hill, through changing landscapes and down the rural tranquillity of the lock flight.

**Location:** Brierley Hill

**Start/Finish:** The Waterfront

**Distance:** 1.5 miles/2.4 km (approx)

**Duration:** 30 min (approx)

**Type:** Linear

**Conditions:** Hard surfaced/flat. Some areas may become muddy in wet weather.

**Access point:** Steps up to The Waterfront, off Waterfront Way

**Car parking:** Car park, off Pedmore Way

1. Turn left onto the towpath, and follow the canal as it narrows and winds downhill.

2. Cross the footbridge, and follow the towpath down the flight of 8 locks, looking out for wildlife on both sides of the canal.

3. Look out for evidence of the original lock flight, still visible in the overgrowth to the left of the canal.

4. Why not refresh yourself at The Tenth Lock Pub before retracing your steps to the beginning, or return to the cosmopolitan bars and restaurants of The Waterfront.

Raised water overflow points on the locks create spectacular waterfalls when the canal water is high.

### CYCLE ROUTES

The routes described form part of the Birmingham and Black Country Cycle Routes. Numerous points of interest can be found along their varying landscapes.

This circular route can be divided into various shorter routes. The map highlights access points and road accesses, but parking may be on road in places.

### STOURBRIDGE CIRCULAR

**Distance:** 6.6 miles/10.6 km (approx)

**Duration:** 1 hour 10 min (approx)

**Access point:** Pensnett Road

**Car Parking:** The Dell Sports Centre, Brockmore.

Follow The Stourbridge Canal down the scenic lock flight, cross the bridge and take The Stourbridge Town Arm to The Bonded Warehouse. At this point the cycle route deviates from the canal towpath. Turn right onto the main road, take the pedestrian underpass, and turn to the left. Follow the National Cycle Route signs through urban areas and parks, rejoining the canal at Black Delph Junction. The Delph lock flight to your right leads up to Merry Hill. Turn left onto The Stourbridge Canal and follow it, veering to the left at Leys Junction. Cross at the bridge after the first lock, double back past Leys Junction and return to The Dell Sports Centre. This route includes a low footbridge.



# WHERE TO GO CYCLING & WALKING AROUND THE DUDLEY AREA

## KEY

-  **Cycling Route**
-  **Walking Route**
-  **National Cycling Route**
-  **Rail Station**
-  **Car Park**
-  **Attraction**
-  **Lock**
-  **Access Point**
-  **Canal**
-  **Tunnel**
-  **Road**
-  **Railway**
-  **Motorway**

### Sources of further information:

West Midlands Waterways  
Customer Service Centre  
2 Canalside  
Off King Edwards Road  
Birmingham B1 2NX

T 0121 200 7400

E enquiries.wmw@britishwaterways.co.uk

www.britishwaterways.co.uk

www.waterscape.com

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### PLEASE NOTE

Routes detailed in this leaflet are a guide, and consultation of additional maps is advisable before beginning your trip. Route durations are based on an average speed of 3mph walking and 7mph cycling.

Remember you are responsible for your own safety and children must be accompanied by an adult. Although towpaths are suitable for both cyclists and walkers, appropriate footwear is recommended for muddy areas. Cyclists are advised to take extra care on uneven or steep surfaces and locks. Dismount on narrow sections, at motorcycle barriers and under low bridges and tunnels, particularly in wet weather.

Cyclists should obtain a **free** cycle permit and **all visitors** should observe the Waterway Code; for details please contact the West Midlands Waterways Customer Service Centre on **0121 200 7400**.

For public transport enquiries, please contact Centra on **0121 200 2700** or visit [www.centro.org.uk](http://www.centro.org.uk)

