

## BREWERY, BONE MEAL AND A RECORD-BREAKING BALLOON

Just a few minutes from the bustling centre of Wolverhampton, the Birmingham Main Line Canal provides both a living history lesson and an oasis for wildlife to thrive.

The city's outstanding 21 lock flight is famous and has won national awards for the way its historic buildings have been preserved and the environment protected. It is the perfect place to slow the pace to a walk or swap the confines of a car for pedal power and enjoy the unique sights and sounds of the waterways.

While you're here, why not pay a visit to the Art Gallery and Museum to see one of the finest contemporary art collections in the Midlands? This handy guide is a brief introduction to some of the great walks and cycle routes just waiting to be discovered in Wolverhampton.



## WOLVERHAMPTON LOCKS WALK

A short walk from the city centre, this linear walk follows the towpath passing 21 locks, historic buildings and changing landscapes. You can begin your walk at either the top or bottom lock – depending on how energetic you're feeling!

Assuming you start at Top Lock:  
**Location:** Top Lock, off Wednesfield Road/Wolverhampton Ring Road, Wolverhampton.

**Start/Finish:** Top Lock, off Wednesfield Road/Wolverhampton Ring Road or Bottom Lock, Aldersley Junction.

**Distance:** 2 miles/3.2 km (approx one way)  
**Duration:** 40 mins (approx one way)

**Type:** Linear

**Conditions:** The route uses existing towpath.

**Access point:** Wednesfield Road  
**Car parking:** Civic centre, Broad Street, Wulfrun Centre, Mander Centre. Access the canal from Wednesfield Road, turn right and follow the towpath.

We've detailed below some of the things to look out for on your walk.

1. Top Lock Cottages - built in the 18th century which are surviving examples of typical canalside architecture.
2. Lock 4 - to the right is the former Springfield Brewery, a Grade II listed building. It was originally built here in 1873 to take advantage of the high quality spring water found on the site.

3. Lock 7 - Fowlers Park, on the right, would once have been a busy railway junction. Now the landscape is given over to many species of butterflies and birds, including willow warblers and gulls.

4. Lock 8 - between locks 7 and 8 is the site of the former Ceres Works, which supplied local farmers with bone meal. It is the origin of the name Bone Mill Lane, which runs adjacent to it.

5. Lock 9 - look out for the remains of a disused railway turntable, which was once used by the Great Western Railway Company.

6. Lock 10 - for a night with a difference, revellers visit the canalside nightclub, built in an old warehouse. On the opposite side of the canal, a bricked up doorway adjacent to the bridge is all that remains of the walkway between the canal and the old Dunstall Park railway station.

7. Lock 12 - the imposing Stour Valley Viaduct has 22 arches.

8. Lock 13 - a world record was set here. The Mammoth hot air balloon, flying on gas coal, reached 37,000 feet without oxygen in September 1862. The record still stands today.

9. Lock 17 - here the canal becomes a lot more rural in character. In spring, you can smell the heady scent of hawthorn and look out for sedge warblers and water birds.

10. Lock 19 - Dunstall Park Bridge probably dates from the opening of the canal. If you're lucky, you may catch a glimpse of birds of prey such as kestrel or sparrowhawk.

11. Lock 20 - this lock was added some time after the rest and is the only one to have single gates at each end. It was built to speed progress through the locks as the present lock 21 was originally very deep and took a long time to fill.

Please note, the complete walk (Top Lock to Bottom Lock and returning) will take approx 1.5 hours. Alternatively, public transport is available which will return you to your starting point.

For service details please contact Centro on **0121 200 2700**

## 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. If you are feeling particularly energetic, why not cycle more than one route? The map highlights access points and road accesses, but parking may be on road in places.

## HORSELEY FIELDS JUNCTION

**Distance:** 6 miles/9.6 km (approx)

**Duration:** 1 hour (approx)

**Access point:** Willenhall Lane/ Wood Lane. Follow The Wyrley & Essington, taking New Cross Bridge, where the towpath changes to the other side of the canal.

## HORSELEY FIELDS JUNCTION TO FACTORY JUNCTION

**Distance:** 5 miles/8 km (approx)

**Duration:** 45 min (approx)

**Access point:** Deans Road

This route begins and ends with a pub, and travels through Coseley Tunnel. To avoid the tunnel leave the canal at Bridgewater Drive, and return via Central Drive.

## FACTORY JUNCTION TO LADYWOOD JUNCTION

**Distance:** 6 miles/10km (approx)

**Duration:** 1 hour (approx)

**Access point:** Dolton Way, off Factory Road. Cycle along The New Main Line and follow the signs for The National Cycle Route, which take you to Ladywood Junction and on into Birmingham City Centre.

## SNEYD JUNCTION TO PUDDING GREEN JUNCTION

**Distance:** 10 miles/16km (approx)














**Duration:** 1 hour 30 min (approx)

**Access point:** Willenhall Lane/ Wood Lane. Follow The Walsall Canal down Walsall Locks and then up Ryders Green Locks.



# WHERE TO GO CYCLING & WALKING AROUND THE WOLVERHAMPTON AREA

## KEY

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

### PLEASE NOTE

Routes detailed in this leaflet are a guide, and consultation of additional maps is advisable before beginning your trip. Route duration's 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 Centro on **0121 200 2700** or visit [www.centro.org.uk](http://www.centro.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:enquiries.wmw@britishwaterways.co.uk)

[www.britishwaterways.co.uk](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk)

[www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com)

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. British Waterways, 100019843, 2004.

