Attractions on route

1 Central Forest Park

Central Forest Park is a beautiful green space in the heart of the city. A reclaimed former colliery area with a lake, "twin peaks" view points, skate plaza of international standard and large equipped play areas. The grassland provides an important home for insects, birds, and unusual plants, while carboniferous fossils can be found in the loose shale of the pit mound.

2 Caldon Canal

The Caldon Canal (more properly named the Caldon Branch of the Trent and Mersey Canal), opened in 1779 to carry limestone from Caldon Low Quarries. Along the way, enjoy a visit to the delightful Victorian working factory at **Emma Bridgewater Pottery** and dine or enjoy a cuppa in the café by the Aga; take a factory tour; decorate your own masterpiece in the studio; or shop for gifts and seconds. The route along the canal also takes you through **Hanley Park** - a "heritage" park dating from 1897 with lake, fountain, modern sculpture, sports facilities and equipped playgrounds. From here the shortcut option of the route takes you to through the **City Centre** – the regional shopping and cultural centre. Home to the **Regent Theatre**, Victoria Hall and **The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery** which houses a genuine "Spitfire" fighter plane and the largest collection of Staffordshire Ceramics in the world, as well as being the home of the Staffordshire Hoard, the largest and most valuable Anglo-Saxon treasure ever found.

3 Etruria Junction

Junction of the Caldon Canal and the Trent and Mersey Canal both dating from 1777. Here is the Etruria Industrial Museum with Jesse Shirley's Bone and Flint Mill, scheduled as an ancient monument in 1975. Etruria Industrial Museum is a great place to park up your bike and try out the museum's tearoom, shop and family-friendly interactive exhibition. The **Trent & Mersey Canal** was the most ambitious part of canal pioneer James Brindley's plan to connect the main rivers of England. Its importance was recognised by its early name of the 'Grand Trunk' Canal. The canal was promoted by pottery producers such as Josiah Wedgwood, eager to abandon the rutted roads of the area for this new, smooth form of transport. It runs through the heart of the Potteries.

4 Festival Park

Home to the National Garden Festival in 1986, "Festival Park" is now a leisure and retail park. Much of the parkland, pools and trails have been retained as public open space. Some sculpture from the garden festival still remain, as does the full-size stone circle. Festival Park is home to Wedgwood Royal Doulton Factory Shop, Stoke Ski Centre, Water World, and the Moat House Hotel which incorporates Etruria Hall – former home to Josiah Wedgwood.

5 Grange Park Greenway

Grange Park has recently had major improvement made including enhancing existing footpaths and links between Cobridge and Festival Park which then connect on to the national cycle network. After passing through Grange Park, the route takes you through **Cobridge Park** and past **Moorcroft Heritage Visitor Centre**. Described as the world's best kept secret, a visit to the Visitor Centre will reveal Moorcroft's unique handcrafted, quality, collectable art pottery.

Based on a simplifed map. For help on using shortcuts, extensions or combining routes, please use the more detailed Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme Cycling Map and Guide 2011

Remember always follow the Highway Code

Check over your right shoulder regularly. Do not cycle on the pavement, unless it is signed for cyclists. Be considerate when passing other users, such as pedestrians and horse riders, especially if approaching them from behind. They may not know you are there. Always allow plenty of room and do not pass too quickly.

This is one of a series of circular leisure rides. The Leisurely Cycle Rides leaflet gives an overview of all the routes you can choose from and also lists the dates you could join other cyclists for a guided ride around the routes. Each route map can be downloaded from cyclestoke.co.uk or you can request a copy by telephone on 01782 238692 or email cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk

Safety Advice

Ride considerately on greenways and towpaths by giving priority to pedestrians and warning them of your approach. On towpaths follow the "waterways code" ride in single file away from the canal edge and take care at potential hazard points such as low bridges, bridges with low side barriers, blind bends, moorings and cobbled sections. Also take care when crossing roads and using the "on road" sections and at the locations shown on the map by the red caution symbol.

Before cycling on a towpath you must get a cycle permit and check that cycling is allowed on the section you wish to use. Check with the local waterway office on 0845 671 5530 or visit waterscape.com to get free permits and more information.

Disclaimer:
Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this leaflet, the author cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information contained herein and accepts no responsibility for any error or omission. Stoke-on-Trent City Council shall not be liable for any death, personal injury or damage to property arising from the use of the route indicated in this guide except to the extent that liability cannot be excluded by law. Users of all routes shown in this map do so entirely at their own risk. We cannot guarantee that all routes and bridleways will always be passable.

Your views If you have any comments or suggestions about the route email cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk or telephone

01782 238692

City Centre Circular

Circular Cycle Ride 11

CycleStoke

FREE

Miles: 10 (loop)
Time: 2 hours
Level: Easy

cyclestoke.co.uk

cyclestoke.co.uk

City Centre Circular

CycleStoke

About the route

A fantastic 10 mile circular ride starting from Central Forest Park that loops around the City Centre. The route follows some fantastic off-road paths and passes through some of the city's beautiful parks and open spaces.

The route follows National Cycle Route 55 to join the Caldon Canal. After passing through Hanley Park, you join the Trent & Mersey Canal at Etruria Junction and then follow the recently improved Grange Park Greenway to Cobridge. The route passes through Cobridge Park and then takes National Cycle Route 5 back to Central Forest Park.

A short cut option enables you to easily divert into the City Centre and enjoy the shops and attractions on offer.

email: **cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk**
telephone: **01782 238692**
visit: **cyclestoke.co.uk**

Follow CycleStoke on TWITTER and FACEBOOK

CycleStoke

city of stoke on trent

City Centre Circular

1 Central Forest Park

- Leave car park and turn right on to path by lake
- Follow path to toucan crossing and cross over main road (Chell Street) to road opposite (Cromwell Street)
- Continue along Cromwell Street over crossroads and then take second right on to Derek Drive and follow road to end (following signs for National Cycle Route 55)
- Go through gate and turn left onto the off-road path, continuing to follow the signs for National Cycle Route 55
- Follow path as it turns right and continue down steep hill until it joins the road (Ralph Drive)
- Turn right onto Ralph Drive and continue to end
- At end turn left (Repington Road)
- After 200m turn right on to path through trees across grassed area
- Cross over road (Repington Road) on to Aveling Road and continue to end
- Turn right on to Milton Road and continue through traffic lights over bridge
- Continue along winding road to next set of traffic lights and continue under bridge
- Continue along Milton Road and turn right immediately after the public house (The Foxley)
- Continue to path to the left of industrial units and follow path to road (Hardman Street)
- Follow Hardman Street to end and turn right on to Maunders Road
- Continue over bridge crossing canal
- Immediately after crossing over canal, when it is safe to do so, get off your bike and join the pavement on your left
- Turn back on yourself and push your bike along the pavement retracing your steps back towards the bridge that you have just crossed
- Go down ramp to canal towpath
- At bottom of ramp, turn left on to canal towpath taking care of low headroom under bridge

2 Caldon Canal

- Follow towpath and continue under several bridges including bridges passing under Redhills Road and Birches Head Road.
- Continue under bridges passing under Cromer Road and Bucknall Road.
- The next bridge (Ivy House Road) is a lifting bridge and the towpath crosses the road
- Continue under next two bridges (Botteslow Street and Eastwood Road)
- Pass under new footbridge, bottle kiln on left and **Emma Bridgewater Pottery** on right
- Continue under bridges (Lichfield Street, Ridgway Road and **Hanley Park**)

Possible shortcut to Central Forest Park via City Centre

- *Continue to next bridge (bridge number 5b) in Hanley Park and come off towpath, up the ramp and cross over the canal bridge*
- *Follow main path up through park past the pavilion and play areas to Regent Road entrance*
- *Turn left out of park, then right on to Regent Road and then take fourth street on the left (Lower Bethesda Street)*
- *Continue to traffic lights and cross Potteries Way using bus/cycle lane (or pedestrian crossing)*
- *Continue along Bethesda Street past **The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery** to end.*
- *Cross over Albion Street on to cycle lane and then turn right at traffic lights on to Piccadilly.*
- *Continue up Piccadilly, past **Regent Theatre** and cross Pall Mall and continue to end.*
- *Cross over Stafford Street and turn left on to cycle path on footway in Stafford Street.*
- *Continue on cycle path to end, cross over road (Quadrant Road) and continue along road under Potteries Shopping Centre bridge*
- *Turn left at roundabout and walk on footway over Town Road bridge.*
- *Cross side road (Union Street) and enter Central Forest Park by metal tree and follow path back to car park where you started*
- Continue heading west towards Etruria Junction passing under bridges (College Road, Stoke Road, Shelton New Road, and Bedford Street)
- Immediately after passing under bridge (2) turn left on to road then turn right through bollards on to path and continue to towpath passing white bridge

3 Etruria Junction

- Pass Etruria Industrial Museum and turn right on to **Trent & Mersey Canal** towpath heading north and go under main road

4 Festival Park

- Continue past marina and cross canal by footbridge (118), by the Toby Carvery Public House turn immediately right, down to canal towpath turn right and continue on towpath heading north - caution lack of visibility from right
- Continue on towpath and walk bike over bridge (119) to cross back over canal (cobbles, slippery when wet)
- Turn left and leave the towpath before reaching next bridge.
- Follow ramp up off the towpath and turn right on to shared cycle/footway along Forge Lane and continue to end
- At junction turn left on to Festival Way
- Continue along Festival Way and before the road bends around to the right turn left onto an off-road path shown by feature sign (Grange Park Greenway)

5 Grange Park Greenway

- Follow path up the bank, continue straight on at crossroad of paths and join Stonor Street
- Cross main road (Waterloo Road) and continue ahead onto Rushton Road to end
- Cross Elder Road and enter **Cobridge Park**
- Push bike on path and take first right and then immediately left through railings to exit park
- Turn right to join National Cycle Route 5 passing the bottle kiln of **Moorcroft Pottery** on left
- Cross Leek New Road at toucan crossing
- Go up steep greenway to end (by Forest Park link feature sign)
- Cross road to park entrance
- Follow path down steep hill and turn left at bottom
- Follow path back up to lake and car park

Miles:	10 (loop)
Time:	2 hours
Level:	Easy

clockwise route

Take extra care here
Please turn over for information about safety.

©℗ Indicates cycle storage is available.

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