

## Attractions on route

### 1 Central Forest Park

A reclaimed former colliery area with a lake, "twin peaks" view points, skate plaza of international standard and large equipped play areas.

### 2 City Centre

The regional shopping and cultural centre. Home to the **Regent Theatre**, Victoria Hall and **The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery** with one of the finest collections of pottery in the UK, a genuine "Spitfire" fighter plane, and the Staffordshire Hoard.

### 3 Hanley Park

A "heritage" park dating from 1897 with lake, fountain, modern sculpture, sports facilities and equipped playgrounds near university and railway station.

### 4 Etruria Junction

Junction of the Galdon Canal and the Trent & Mersey Canal both dating from 1777.

### Etruria Industrial Museum

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 tea room, shop and family-friendly

interactive exhibition. The museum's resident

blacksmith created the new cycle parking hoops, can you

spot the CycleStoke logo in the ironwork frame?

### 5 Festival Park

The site of the 1986 National Garden Festival. Today a

major retail, business and leisure park and also including the

"Black Prince" marina and canal-side pub "The China Garden".

Between Festival Park and Westport Lake the towpath

passes **Burleigh Pottery** (Burgess, Dorling & Leigh) a 19th

century model pottery still producing traditionally

patterned pottery ("Burleighware") that is

sold on the premises.

### 6 Westport Lake

A local nature reserve with the largest

lake in the city. The one mile path

around the lake has a good surface. A

cycle along this path will help to work up

an appetite for a stop at the visitors centre

2009 is built from environmentally friendly

materials, is highly energy efficient and is run by Staffordshire

Wildlife Trust. The park also has an adventure play area.

### 7 Dimensions

Public leisure centre and swimming pool. The route from

Dimensions to Forest Park follows the former North

Staffordshire Railway "Loop Line" (known as the "Knotty")

that ran from Etruria to Kidsgrove and closed in 1962. It

passes close to **Port Vale Football Club** which moved to

Vale Park in 1950; and **Burslem Park** - the Grade II listed

"heritage" park which opened in 1894. The park

boasts historical features, gardens, a lake with

fountain, modern sports courts and play

area. **Burslem Town Centre** the "mother

town" of the Potteries has many fine

historic buildings and **Moorcroft**

**Pottery** which is famous for its "tube

lined" decorative ware and has an

exhibition and shop.

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](mailto:cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk)



## Short cut directions

### Possible short cut to Etruria

At end of Piccadilly go straight ahead at traffic lights on to Broad Street and continue to traffic lights

Turn right on to Potteries Way

At the next set of traffic lights turn left on to Clough Street

Continue along Clough Street to traffic lights and continue straight across on to Dundee Road. Follow to end and then turn right on to Belmont Road

Continue on Belmont Road to end, dismount and push bike up ramp and turn left up on to Etruria Road

Walk your bike for short distance on pavement crossing the canal and then turn left down ramp on to the Trent

& Mersey canal towpath rejoining the main route

### Possible short cut to Hanley

Before going under main road leave canal towpath via the ramp on the left

Turn right and walk your bike for short distance on pavement crossing the canal

Turn right down ramp and continue on to Belmont Road

Turn left on to Dundee Road and continue ahead through traffic lights on to Clough Street

At end of Clough Street, turn right on to Potteries Way and then left at traffic lights on to Broad Street

At the top of Broad Street keep right and join the bus lane cycle lane from the right

At traffic lights go straight ahead on to Piccadilly joining the Forest Park

### Possible short cut to Cobridge Park

Turn left and leave the towpath before going under next bridge

Turn right on to Forge Lane and continue to end

At junction turn left on to Festival Way

Continue along Festival Way and turn left on to an off-road path shown by feature sign (Grange Park Greenway)

Follow path up the bank, continue straight on at path junction and join Stonor Street

Cross main road (Waterloo Road) and continue ahead on to 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 and turn right to rejoin main route

## 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 [waterwayscape.com](http://waterwayscape.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 bridgeways will always be passable.

**01782 238692**

If you have any comments or suggestions about the route email [cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk) or telephone

**Forest Park to Westport Lake**  
About the route

Much of the route is on historic transport routes including the Trent and Mersey Canal and the Caldron Canal both dating from 1777 and the former North Staffordshire Railway "Loop Line" dating from 1848. Many tunnels and bridges still remain on the loopline and it is now part of National Cycle Route 5. Much of the route is attractive parkway that passes a rich heritage of historic buildings, fascinating museums and glorious parks and open spaces as well as an array of modern shopping and leisure facilities. The route is an eight mile loop of which about six miles is on greenway or towpath. The route description starts from Central Forest Park and takes you in a clockwise direction. This makes the on road section from Central Forest Park to Hanley Park easier, because it's downhill, and the uphill return sections are on greenway. There are several car parks along the route e.g. Westport Lake and Etruria Locks which could be alternative start points. Options for shortening the route are shown on the map.

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# Forest Park to Westport Lake

Circular  
Cycle Ride  
**2**

**FREE**

Miles: **8 (loop)**

Time: **2 hours**

Level: **Easy**



