

# 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 Caldron Branch of the Trent and Mersey Canal), opened in 1779 to carry limestone from Caldron 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 cafe by the Aga; take a factory tour; decorate your own **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 shopping and cultural centre. Home to 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 Caldron Canal and the Trent and Mersey Canal both dating from 1777. Here is the Etruria Industrial Museum with Jesse Shirely's Bone and Flint Mill, scheduled as an ancient monument in 1975. Etruria and try out the museum's great place to park up your bike and try out the museum's tea room, shop and family-friendly interactive exhibition. The 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 and past Moorcroft Cobridge Park **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 simplified 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 waterescape.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 pathways 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**

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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 Caldron 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.

## City Centre Circular

About the route



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# City Centre Circular



Circular  
 Cycle Ride  
**11**

FREE

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



