

Attractions on route

1 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 cafe. The **visitor centre** which opened in 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.

2 Tunstall

Tunstall is the most northern of Stoke-on-Trent's six towns. The route gives an opportunity to stop off at the town and make use of the retail facilities before continuing on National Cycle Route 5 passing the former Tunstall station on the North Staffordshire Railway 'Loop Line'.

3 Harecastle Tunnel

Harecastle Tunnel is actually two tunnels - though only one is in use today. They sit, side-by-side, on the Trent & Mersey Canal just north of Stoke-on-Trent. Both are nearly 3000 yards in length. The first Harecastle tunnel was engineered by James Brindley, took eleven years to construct, was completed in 1777, and was more than twice the length of Britain's longest tunnel at that time. The tunnel was an essential part of the transport system taking raw materials and finished ware to and from the Potteries. The second was required to relieve congestion, and was built by Thomas Telford. It took just three years to complete, opened in 1827, and is still used today. The tunnel is only wide enough to carry traffic in one direction at a time. Boats are sent through in groups, alternating northbound and southbound.

The route takes you in through **Bathpool Park** passing the children's play area, sports pitches, outdoor fitness machines and lake. The park is a great open space area providing habitats for lots of birds and insects. It is also home to Kidsgrove Ski slope. The bluebells in the woodland at the edge of the path are a fantastic sight in spring too.

A short onroad section follows, before you rejoin the canal south at Harecastle Tunnel South Portal. Here the bridge crossing the canal has railings which are recycled railway tracks. The towpath takes you back to Westport Lake.



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



Short cut directions

Possible short cut to Trent & Mersey Canal

- Turn left on to shared cycle/footway and cross over road (Carsington Drive).
- Continue up the bank along shared cycle/footway on James Brindley Way to the large roundabout.
- Use toucan crossing to cross James Brindley Way, cross over High Street, and then use toucan crossing to cross Reginald Mitchell Way (to effectively go straight on at roundabout)
- Following signs for Trent & Mersey Canal, continue down Reginald Mitchell Way on shared cycle/footway, crossing Marlborough Way at roundabout.
- At next roundabout turn right on to Chatterley Road and continue on shared cycle/footway.
- At end of shared cycle/footway, cross the road, and continue for short distance before turning left through cycle barrier down path to canal bridge with Harecastle Tunnel South Portal to your right.



Hint Riding with the family?

Ride in a line with children in the middle of the adults, if there is only one adult, they should be at the back, keeping an eye on all the children in front.

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 here. Always allow plenty of room and do not pass too quickly.



Safety Advice

Ride considerably 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

Miles: 8 (loop)
Time: 2 hours
Level: Easy

FREE

Westport Lake to Kidsgrove



Circular Cycle Ride
8

cyclestoke.co.uk

Westport Lake to Kidsgrove About the route

A pleasant 8 mile circular route taking in some wonderful sights of the city and Newcastle-under-Lyme. The route description starts at Westport Lake and goes in an anticlockwise direction. There are several car parks along the route you could use as an alternative start point, such as those in Tunstall and Kidsgrove. There are a couple of short stretches of on road riding, but these have pavements along side them. If you are not confident riding on the road or have young children with you, you could push your bikes along the pavements instead. The route is mainly off-road and uses a section of the former North Staffordshire Railway 'Loop Line', now part of National Cycle Route 5, and the Trent and Mersey canal towpath. It passes or goes through several nice parks and retail areas where you could stop and make use of the facilities available before continuing on the route.

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

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Westport Lake to Kidsgrove

For a longer ride combine this with routes 2, 3 or 6 in the series, see the Leisurely Cycle Rides leaflet for more ideas.



Miles: 8 (loop)
Time: 2 hours
Level: Easy

anti-clockwise route

1 Westport Lake

- From **visitor centre** follow road over canal bridge to access height barrier
- Go on footway through cycle barrier with metal sculpture on left
- Go through 2 tunnels (Davenport Street and Westport Road) to the fork in the path
- Take left hand fork in path and at second fork take right hand path and continue to end and into Hand Street
- At end turn right in to Pinnox Street and go to main road (Scotia Road)
- △ Cross over at crossing and go up road opposite (King William Street) via cycle way
- Turn left up first side road (Huntlee Road) and go through bollards

2 Tunstall

- Turn right along path (National Cycle Route 5) through open space passing new retail stores and Tunstall town centre on left
- Turn right by old railway signals (former Tunstall Station) and go under bridge (The Boulevard)
- When reaching next road (Little Chell Lane) cross over
- △ Cross next road (Furlong Road) at refuge and go up path opposite, signposted National Cycle Route 5
- Cross next road at crossing and go down path opposite passing pool on right
- Pass under big bridge (Tunstall bypass) and go up ramp
- ... **Possible short cut to Trent & Mersey Canal** (directions overleaf)
- Turn right and continue on path and pass under next bridge (Colclough Lane)
- Continue up path and under another bridge and then downhill and through tunnel
- Cross next road (Mount Road) at crossing to path opposite and then cross Valentine Road to path opposite and continue towards Kidsgrove town centre
- At end of path cross over and (to avoid steps opposite) turn right and then turn left on to footpath at side of shops
- Follow path to end and turn left to main road (Liverpool Road)
- △ Cross over and turn right, with Tesco on your right, and go under rail bridge to traffic lights
- △ Turn left (Hardingswood) and after crossing canal bridge (41) turn left on to towpath

3 Harecastle Tunnel

- Follow towpath to Harecastle Tunnel North Portal and continue on path which becomes a track
- △ At next road (The Avenue) turn right and then first left (Boathorse Road)
- Turn right into **Bathpool Park** keeping the car park to your left
- Follow main path right through the park passing a reservoir and going under a rail bridge and then through a car park
- △ At road (Lowlands Road) turn left (you may prefer to use the footway) and pass large striking new building on right (Blue Planet)
- △ Turn right at roundabout and shortly after cross over to right hand shared cycle/footway (or you may prefer to cross over before the roundabout and walk your bike on the footway) and go through cycle barrier down path to canal bridge with Harecastle Tunnel South Portal to your right
- ... **Rejoining point for Trent & Mersey Canal short cut**
- Cross bridge and continue south on the towpath under four bridges back to Westport Lake
- ... **If you still have it in your legs a lap around Westport Lake is one more mile**

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

Ⓒ Indicates cycle storage is available.

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