

The Route

Where: Close to junction of Leicester Causeway and Stoney Stanton Road to Hawkesbury Lock

National Route Number: 52

Distance: 4 miles each way

Terrain: flat and traffic-free

Public transport: Coventry railway station

Route leaflet: Coventry Cycle Map and Guide free from local TIC

OS maps: Explorer 221 or Landranger 140

Tourist information: Coventry TIC - 024 7683 2303

Towns to search for on Sustrans website mapping: Longford, Edgwick

Coventry Canal towpath



Coventry is home to the Museum of British Road Transport, and its historic cycling exhibits are well worth a visit. Coventry Canal towpath forms a hidden green corridor through the city which is useful for commuting and ideal for family cycling, or for anyone wanting to escape the city without the bother of leaving it first. Admire award-winning artworks ranged along the Coventry Art Trail, including a ceramic snake made with crockery donated by local people.

Not all of the attractions are obvious. Try finding the hornwort and branched bur reed! All sorts of amphibians and reptiles dip in and out of its waters and bats live in its tunnels. The observant may spot kingfishers, white-clawed crayfish, dragonflies and herons.....even the odd otter or water vole.

Cyclists may join the route at a point just west of the junction of Leicester

Causeway and Stoney Stanton Road (the B4109), about a mile north-east of the City Centre. From here, the ride runs northwards to the wonderful Conservation Area at Hawkesbury where the Coventry and Oxford Canals meet; an excellent place to stop, eat, drink and watch the water-world go by.

You'll find more access points at Swan Lane, Stoney Stanton Road (near Phoenix Way), Old Church Road and Longford Road (the B4113, near its junction with Windmill Road). A canal cycling permit may be downloaded from www.waterscape.com/cycling/permit.html or obtained from British Waterways on 01923 201120.

National Route 52 will continue north to Nuneaton and the National Forest in Leicestershire, though the next section of route through Bedworth has yet to be built.