Point 10 - Refreshment opportunity

As you approach Seven Dwellings Bridge you will see a signpost and a path on your right leading downhill towards Sainsbury’s. Follow this path. You can catch a bus from outside the Witton Moor Health Centre opposite Sainsbury’s to return to the Bonded Warehouse.

If you stop for refreshments inside Sainsbury’s, continue to the Bonded Warehouse cross over the zebra crossing outside the supermarket entrance opposite Witton Moor Health Centre, turn left and continue along Kinkstone Way. Continue to walk straight ahead along Kinkstone Way through the housing estate until you come to a mini roundabout. Turn right onto Viscage Road and walk down past Corbett Hospital on your right hand side. At the traffic lights at the bottom of the road turn left past Holy Trinity Church Ambelcote (built in 1842). The church was constructed from freestone which gives it the distinctive old gold colour.

Point 11 - Holy Trinity Church, Ambelcote

As a slight detour, take a look inside the graveyard of the church and you will see the headstones of some famous glassmakers including Joseph Webb - glass manufacturer of Holloway End and Coalbrook Dale, Adolph Zinke - glass engraver, William Frithche - glass engraver. Both originally from Bohemia circa 1860.

Point 12 - Journey’s end, Bonded Warehouse

Retrace your steps and continue to walk towards Stourbridge Ring Road until you reach a pelican crossing. Cross and walk towards the Bonded Warehouse in Canal Street, back to where you started the walk.

Accompanying this leaflet is a short film showing some of the highlights from this walk. To view go to youtube.com/user/dudleymbc and follow the QR code.

Stourbridge Canal & Glass Quarter heritage trail

Visitors are requested to remain on designated footpaths and not to enter any safety fenced areas. The heritage trail provides good access to the main features of interest. Many of the paths are surfaced but may be muddy when wet. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Other publications

There are other publications on the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. For further historical and heritage information throughout this walk in more detail download a copy of the heritage trail at www.glassquarter.org.uk or www.discoverdudley.org.uk

Further visitor information

Dudley Council Plus
259 Castle Street, Dudley DY1 1LQ
Tel: 0300 555 2345
Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon

For further information on the Stourbridge Glass Quarter visit www.glassquarter.org.uk

There’s lots to see and do in the borough of Dudley. To find out more visit www.discoverdudley.org.uk

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of information included in this leaflet. Dudley Council and the places featured cannot guarantee the accuracy of this details included and therefore accept no responsibility. Visitors should check details with attractions before travelling.

Should you have any comments about this guide, please email tourism@dudley.gov.uk

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Many thanks to Ian Dury, Glass Heritage Specialist for assistance in the production of this leaflet.
Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley

the White House Glass Cone c.1780.

The biggest concentration of glasshouse cones once stood - the 'heart of the Crystal Mile'.

Point 7 - The 'heart of the Crystal Mile'
The biggest concentration of glasshouse cones once stood here.

As we approach the Glasshouse bridge, immediately behind the roadside wall on the right-hand side would have stood the White House Glass Cone c.1790.

The site of the Old White House Cone is being developed into a new state of the art glass museum to hold the Dudley Council glass collection. The White House Cone museum will be managed by the British Glass Foundation and will open to the public in late summer 2018. Visit www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Point 4 - Doulton Brook
You will see a new housing estate called 'Doulton Brook' which has transformed an industrial brownfield site into a beacon of regeneration for the local borough. During the excavation of the site they unearthed a quantity of sandstone grinding wheels, which can now be seen incorporated into the flower bed at the entrance of the estate. Retrace your steps and rejoin the canal towpath at the Coalbournbrook Bridge.

Point 5 - Site of the old Dial Glass Cone
In 1788 a glasshouse cone was rebuilt on the side of the canal known as the New Dial Glassworks. Since 1922 the site has been occupied by Plowden and Thompson who for many years have supplied mostly industrial glassware, with a speciality of making glass tubing and other known products such as Bullseye window glass and cat’s eyes for road safety. They now specialise in military products and use old craft skills to produce products for new 21st century cutting edge technology.

Their site is also the home of the Tudor Crystal. The factory shop is open Wednesday to Friday 10am to 5pm.

You will pass a row of canal cottages on the approach to Longboat Lane Bridge and continue to walk along the towpath.

At the Wordsley Canal Junction the canal widens considerably. Turn right here and follow through towards it onwards into the heart of the industrial Black Country.

The short trail ends at Glasshouse Bridge and you have the option to walk back to the Bonded Warehouse along the main A491 road towards Stourbridge (approximately 1.5 miles) or catch a local bus service into Stourbridge.

Point 6 (optional) Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley
Just a short walk from Glasshouse Bridge, walk up the ramp and bear left. You will see the church tower of the Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley. It is known as the Church of the Glassmakers, as many of the famous names of the glassmaking fraternity are buried here - Northwood, Stuarts, Carder, Richardson, Webb, to name but a few.

To continue the trail return to the canal towpath, passing beneath the Henderson Bridge with lock 14 just afterwards.

Point 8 - Climbing the Stourbridge Sixteen
Continuing the walk, just beyond the Red House Glass Cone, along the Stourbridge Sixteen locks canal and Dafford’s Bridge, you will be heading towards an attractive lock cottage. The canal has changed considerably in character because of its route uphill. If you stand over a small bridge and look back down the flight of locks you will see a spectacular view overlooking the Red House Glass Cone.

Crossing over the main road you will see the magnificent structure of the Red House Glass Cone, a Grade II listed building built circa 1790’s. Today the Red House Glass Cone has a gift shop, a variety of artists studios, glassblowing demonstrations at weekends and during school holidays. There is a programme of events and activities throughout the year including adult and children’s craft sessions. You can stop here for refreshments.

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/ or call 01384 812750.

Point 9 (optional) Historic brickworks office made of firebricks
If you choose to continue a little further along the canal, after 200 metres you will pass beneath a railway bridge. This was the railway which ran to Round Oak Steelworks and then to the freightliner depot in Dudley. After another 200 metres you will come to Brett Lane road bridge. Go under the road bridge and walk up the ramp to the roadside. Turn right and walk for 50 yards - the Harris and Pearson building is on the opposite side of the road. This building was constructed from bricks made from clays extracted from the local mines. The clay from this area was also used to make crucibles or pots for melting the raw materials for glass making.

Retrace your steps and rejoin the canal towpath. As you continue you will come across the old Silver End railway bridge on to Bowen’s Bridge where the new Lion Court Homes development is on the site of the former Delph Bottleworks. In 1893, two men were killed while working underground in the furnace and were engulfed by molten glass. The Delph Bottleworks was a major producer of a wide range of glass bottles during this period.

The mineral wealth beneath your feet
As you continue to walk along the towpath opposite the Lion Court homes development, on the left hand side you will see Chapel Street and the flats of Brierley Hill in the distance.