

Caring for the Trent & Mersey Canal

We're the charity working to protect and bring to life this 250-year-old network of canals and rivers spanning England and Wales. Not so long ago many canals were abandoned, and some lost forever. Today, with your support, wildlife is recovering, history is alive, boats are plentiful and spending time in this environment is contributing to our health and happiness.

Our mission is to keep this extraordinary network of canals and rivers alive, teeming with wildlife, transforming places they run through and enriching all of our lives. Your support today could help us care for Staffordshire's canals and many more places, for today and generations to come.

DONATE



Please support
our work &
donate today

SCAN ME



The task of protecting the finest examples of working industrial heritage including Harecastle Tunnel, and the wildlife that calls it home, is growing all the time. As a charity we need you by our side more than ever. Please support our work today.

Registered with



FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR



Canal &
River Trust

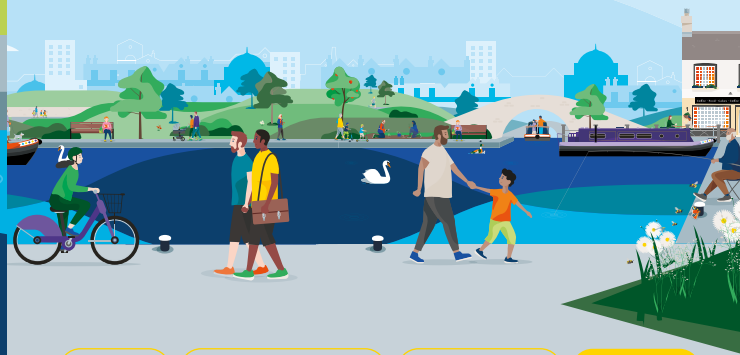
Making life better by water

Keeping history alive

The explosion in demand for coal and other raw materials in the Potteries revealed serious limitations of Brindley's original narrow tunnel and a second, larger tunnel was commissioned. Telford's tunnel took three years to complete and cost £113,000 (equivalent to £10.5m today).

In the early days the two tunnels were used in conjunction with each tunnel taking boat traffic in opposite directions, drastically reducing journey times.

Discover lots of fun things to do
with the family by and on the water.
Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers



Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

canalrivertrust.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1146792

March 2024



Canal &
River Trust


Welcome to Harecastle Tunnel

A canal and tunnel born for pottery.














We're the charity making life
better by water

Visit us at:
Southern Entrance;
Chatterley Road,
Stoke-on-Trent ST6 4PX

 Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit

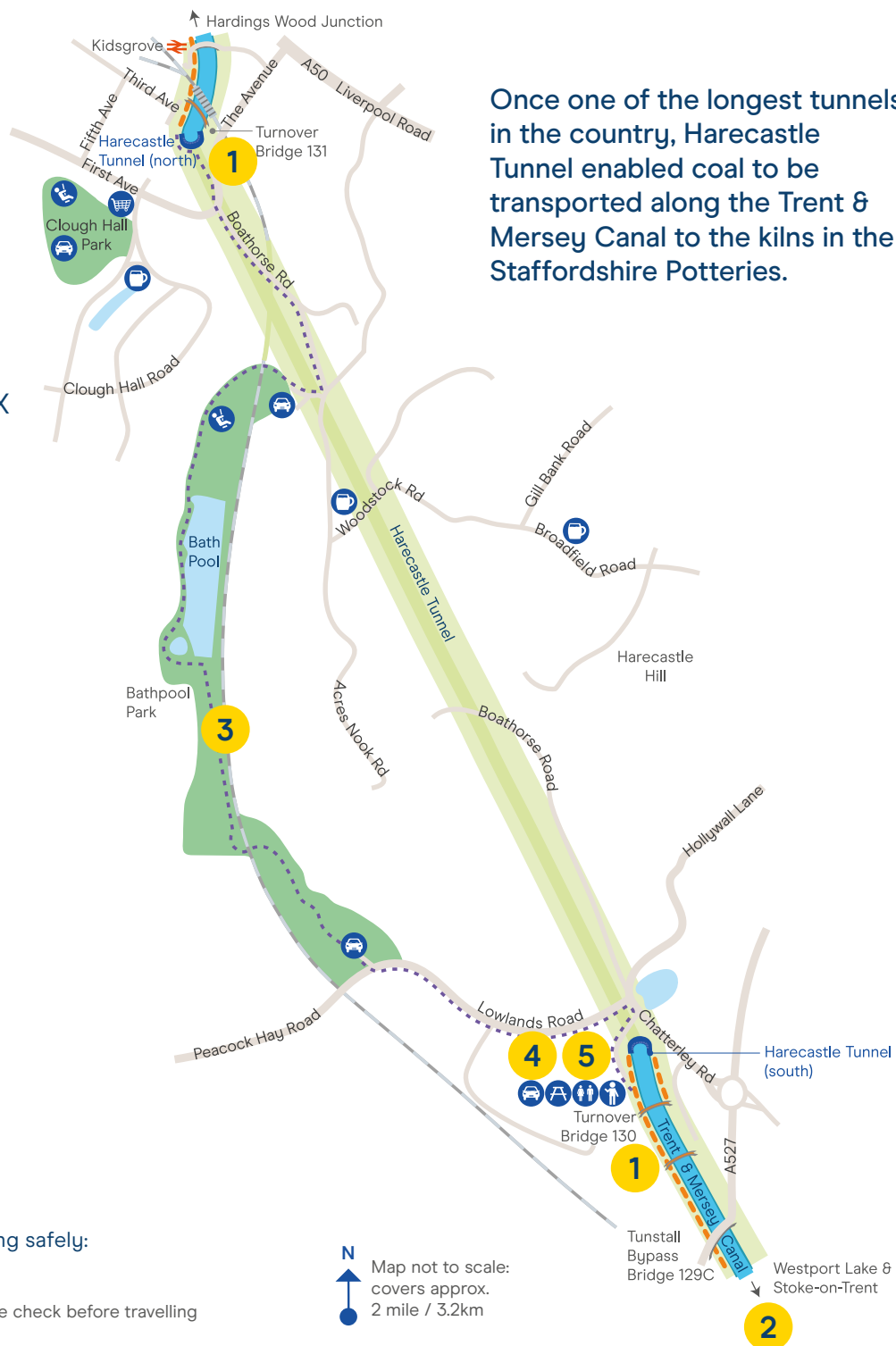
Find your way around

-  towpath
-  walk route
-  tunnel
-  pub
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  bench/picnic area
-  play area
-  Canal & River Trust
Welcome Hub
-  parking
-  railway station

Stay SAFE
Stay Away From the Edge!

For more information on visiting safely:
canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety

Details correct at time of print, please check before travelling



Once one of the longest tunnels
in the country, Harecastle
Tunnel enabled coal to be
transported along the Trent &
Mersey Canal to the kilns in the
Staffordshire Potteries.

5 things to do at Harecastle Tunnel

- 1 Stroll** along the towpath to turnover bridge, built so horses could pass from one side of the canal to the other without being unhitched
- 2 Visit** Westport Lake, it's an important overwintering site for water birds.
- 3 Enjoy** a 45-minute scenic walk and explore the green route linking the Harecastle Tunnel portals.
- 4 Have** a picnic at the benches just before the tunnel and watch narrowboats coming and going.
- 5 Pause** for a chat with our friendly volunteers, they'll tell you more about the canal.

Did you know?

Harecastle Tunnel is actually two separate but parallel tunnels. The first was built by James Brindley in 1777, the second was designed by Thomas Telford and opened fifty years later in 1827.

