**Galton Valley walk**

Canals, wildlife, industrial heritage or just walking in pleasant surroundings, Galton Valley has something to suit all. We’ve chosen a circular route featuring The Old Main Line and a pleasant woodland area.

1. **Location:** Galton Valley, Sandwell  
   **Start/Finish:** Galton Valley Heritage Centre  
   **Distance:** 2 miles/3 km (approx)  
   **Duration:** 45 mins (approx)  
   **Type:** Circular  
   **Conditions:** Hard surfaced/ steps in places/ some areas can be muddy  
   **Access point:** Brasshouse Lane, Smethwick  
   **Car parking:** Galton Valley Heritage Centre, Brasshouse Lane

2. **We recommend you start your walk at Galton Valley Canal Heritage Centre – a former public house. The Centre offers visitors the opportunity to travel back into the past and enjoy an introduction to the canals of the area.**

3. **Take a right turn out of the centre and walk along, following the brown sign for Smethwick New Pumping Station onto the towpath of The Old Main Line.**

4. **The pumping station, an example of Victorian engineering was originally opened in 1892 and used to pump water from the bottom level of the canal to the top in the days of heavy boat traffic.** You can arrange a visit at the Galton Valley Canal Heritage Centre.

5. **Just before the tunnel take the steps off to the left leading to a wooded area.**

6. **Follow this path as it doubles back between The Old Main Line and The New Main Line.** Steps at the end of the path rejoin the Old Main Line.

7. **Turn right and retrace your steps back to the heritage centre. Alternatively, walk down the steps and explore The New Main Line.**

8. **A stroll to the west will lead you to Galton Bridge, the largest single span bridge at the time of its creation. Look out for a variety of wild flowers, attracting birds and butterflies you wouldn’t expect to find here.**

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**Neptune walk**

The Neptune is a circular 4 mile walk along the quiet New Main Line, and Old Main Line Canals. It also makes an excellent cycle route, and finishes next to a pub.

1. **Location:** Neptune Health Park, Tipton, Sandwell  
   **Start/Finish:** Neptune Health Park  
   **Distance:** 4 miles/6.5km (approx)  
   **Duration:** 1 hour 20 mins (approx)  
   **Type:** Circular  
   **Conditions:** Hard surfaced/ flat/using existing towpaths  
   **Access point:** Owen Street, Tipton  
   **Car parking:** Neptune Health Park

2. **Walk round to the right of Neptune Health Centre, cross the bridge and face the canal. Turn right onto the towpath. Cross the first footbridge and, facing the canal, turn left onto The Old Main Line.**

3. **Follow the towpath downhill, along the scenic Factory Lock. Look out for the rope markings cut into Wood Street Bridge and the split bridge at one of the locks, designed to let the towing rope pass through and save unhitching the horse.** After passing a picnic area to the left, cross a small bridge and continue along the canal, looking out for the boat yard on the left.

4. **When you reach Dudley Port Junction, walk across both of the iron footbridges and proceed to your left along the Netherton Branch. From the iron footbridge you can see Sheepwash Nature Reserve, which is accessible from Park Lane East.**

5. **Follow the sloped access on the right up to Trivinkle Aqueduct and turn right. Continue along the towpath of The Old Main Line.**

6. **After the Tyton Green Bridge, climb the steps onto the road, turn left onto Beehive Walk and walk under Down Street Bridge.**

7. **Double back over the bridge and return to the Neptune car park.**
ON YOUR BIKE
The routes described form part of the Birmingham and Black Country Cycle Routes. Numerous points of interest can be found along their varying landscapes.

WALSALL CANAL
A462
A4098
J8
Hill Farm Bridge
A41
A46
1
Tame Bridge Parkway
J7
Wednesbury
M6
J8
Walsall Road
RUSHALL
NCN 5
A4037
A41
23(T)
TAME VALLEY CANAL
A34
RSPB Reserve
Tipton
RIDGEACRE
Great Bridge
Forge Mill Farm
Brickhouse Lane Bridge
NCN 81
J8
A4041
A41
33
TAME TUNNEL
DUDLEY PORT CIRCULAR
Distance: 8.8 miles/14 km (approx)
Duration: 1 hour 15 min (approx)
Access point: Owen Street, Tipton, Sandwell
Car Parking: Neptune Health Park, Tipton, access The New Main Line via Neptune Walk instructions.
Follow The Gower Branch, then turn right back onto The Old Main Line and double back, crossing Blakeley Hall Bridge. Alternatively follow The New Main Line into Birmingham City Centre.

If you are feeling particularly energetic, why not cycle more than one route? The map highlights access points and road accesses, but parking may be on road in places.

DUDLEY PORT CIRCULAR
Distance: 8.8 miles/14 km (approx)
Duration: 1 hour 15 min (approx)
Access point: Owen Street, Tipton, Sandwell
Car Parking: Neptune Health Park, Tipton, access The New Main Line via Neptune Walk instructions.
Follow The Gower Branch, then turn right back onto The Old Main Line and double back, crossing Blakeley Hall Bridge. Alternatively follow The New Main Line into Birmingham City Centre.

RUSHALL JUNCTION TO RIVER GREEN LOCKS
Distance: 7.5 miles/12 km (approx)
Duration: 1 hour 15 min (approx)
Access point: Ray Hall Lane, Grove Vale.
Following Cycle Route 5, access and cross the Tame Valley Canal and continue, turning left at Ocker Hill.
This route features an unusual aqueduct, one of the few examples of a canal crossing over a railway.

Please note: Routes detailed in this leaflet are a guide, and consultation of additional maps is advisable before beginning your trip. Route durations are based on an average speed of 3mph walking and 7mph cycling. Remember you are responsible for your own safety and children must be accompanied by an adult. Although towpaths are suitable for both cyclists and walkers, appropriate footwear is recommended for muddy areas. Cyclists are advised to take extra care on uneven or steep surfaces and locks. Dismount on narrow sections, at motorcycle barriers and under low bridges and tunnels, particularly in wet weather. Cyclists should obtain a free cycle permit and all visitors should observe the Waterway Code; for details please contact West Midlands Waterways on 01827 252000.

Sources of further information:
British Waterways Visitor Information Centre
Birmingham, Tel: 0121 234 4152, www.noretcape.com
Enquiries westmidlands@britishwaterways.co.uk
British Waterways, West Midlands Office Tel: 0121 7520000

For a free copy of Sandwells cycle network map: Tel: 0121 569 4889 or email transport@sandwell.gov.uk

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