




Dog Friendly Pub Walk

Glasshouse to Brierley Hill Bridge

 walk time 20-30 minutes
distance 1km / 0.6 miles



WALKING TIPS

-  Walking times are approx, measured on an average pace of two miles an hour.
-  Follow the water and enjoy walking at your own pace... but allow time to simply sit and stare along the way.
-  Walk one way and hop on a bus for your return, or turn around and walk back to discover a different view.

-  towpath
-  access point
-  pub
-  parking
-  bus stop
-  bus station
-  railway station

The Walk - Step by Step

Stourbridge hails over 400 years of glassmaking heritage. At the height of its powers it bellowed with celebrity around the world for the quality of its glass. The Stourbridge Canal was built to transport coal from Dudley's coal mines to fuel the bottle kilns in Stourbridge, and fragile finished glassware could be carried to market along calm canal water rather than by packhorses stumbling along bumpy roads. This amble treats you with sounds of water and the occasional loud honk of a goose. Expect hedgerows of bird chatter and history singing from every twist of architecture, and the cone-shaped skyline is always the solid beauty.



Leave the clutter of the busy High Street behind and step down onto the towpath under Glasshouse Bridge (mind your head as the bridge is low).

- 1 Across the canal the soaring 100ft tall Red House Glass Cone wants to grab your attention. The Cone is one of only four surviving cones in Britain, and only five in the whole of Europe. It is Grade II*-listed and offers an irresistible peek into the past. It's now a museum, so visitors can stand right on the spot where furnaces once burned, and imagine coal and sand being unloaded from canal boats and precious cargoes of finished glass being loaded back on.
- 2 Just beyond Dadford's Bridge, look to your right across lock 12 to Dadford's Shed. The timber warehouse is named after the canal's engineer Thomas Dadford and was built in 1884 as a transshipment shed for the seed company, Webbs. It was used to transfer goods from road to canal and is now part of a colourful boatyard.
- 3 Linger on the bench or bridge over lock 11 and take the chance to watch any boat action. There are usually several traditional working boats moored outside the shed, and there may be narrowboats passing through the locks. You'll notice a gap in the cast-iron railings on the Grade II-listed footbridge. It was built in two halves leaving a small gap to fit a rope through, so working boatmen could pull the boat into the lock without having to untie the rope from the boat horse.

Traditional boatmen and their families used to be housed in the terraced cottages to the left between locks 11 and 10, while their boats were being worked on at the Shed. There was also a smithy and stable for their horses on Dock Road.

- 4 There's a slight incline (don't worry, it'll soon flatten out again) as the towpath strolls past the pretty scene of a lock cottage by locks 9 and 10. The locks are crossed by another brick and cast-iron split footbridge. The cottage, locks and bridge are all Grade II-listed. The locks were originally joined together as a 'staircase' but are now two separate locks, though very close. Just behind the cottage is a reservoir called Jake's Pond which supplies water for this part of the lock flight. A typical single lock uses thousands of gallons of water every time it's filled or emptied so it's important to keep levels topped up.

Look closely at the stonework around the locks. The deep grooves would have been gouged by the ropes of boat horses pulling heavy boats in and out of the locks.

Before you continue up the lock flight, it's worth taking a minute to turn around to look back at the dramatic scene below you with the Red House Glass Cone peeping from behind Dadford's Shed and open countryside in the distance.

- 5 Keep your eyes peeled just above lock 9, where the canal opens out into a wide tree-lined area. It's a haven for wildlife so look and listen for moorhen, coot, hedgerow birds and perhaps even a hungry heron.
 - 6 The next couple of locks are separated by Swan Lane Bridge, and the canal widens again just above lock 7, lock 6 and again beyond lock 5 creating more lush green wildlife havens.
- END** Come off the towpath just beyond Brierley Hill Road Bridge to hop on a bus for your return – or simply turn around and amble back along the towpath to relive the joys of this route from a different viewpoint.

CANAL: Stourbridge

START: Glasshouse Bridge
OS Grid ref: SO894864 Postcode: DY8 4AZ

FINISH: Brierley Hill Road Bridge
OS Grid ref: SO900869 Postcode: DY5 3TY

DISTANCE: 1km / 0.6 miles
(double if walk back to start)

APPROX TIME: 20-30 minutes

PUB: Samson & Lion pub canalside between locks 4 & 5

PARKING: Car park at Red House Glass Cone (if visiting), or roadside. Postcode: DY8 4AZ

TRAIN: Nearest train stations -
Stourbridge Town & Stourbridge Junction
National Rail Enquiries
Tel: 03457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

BUS: Traveline
Tel: 0871 2002233 www.traveline.info

