







#### 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 4.30pm.

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 northeast and 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, Webbs, 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 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.1780.



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 summer 2019. Visit [www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk)

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/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/) or call 01384 812750.



#### Point 8 - Climbing the Stourbridge Sixteen



Continuing the walk, just beyond the Red House Glass Cone, along the Stourbridge Sixteen locks canal and Dadford'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.



Eventually you will pass Swan Lane Bridge as you approach the Samson & Lion Public House, which is adjacent to lock 5 and lock 4. Here you will see the rope marks along the coping stones of the wall (left) where the horse drawn narrowboats once worked the towpath.

Continue to walk straight ahead crossing underneath Brierley Hill Road Bridge and you will come to a sign for Buckpool Nature Reserve on your left. A colliery stood here in the 1800's which claimed the death by fire-damp (suffocation and explosion) of several men.



A few hundred metres beyond here there is a canal junction. Continue to walk straight ahead and eventually turn right over Top Lock Bridge between lock 1 and lock 2. You will now find yourself on the opposite side of the canal as you cross over the bridge.

In the distance you will see the view of a very tall white industrial chimney and just around the corner you will come to Leys Bridge. Follow the canal towpath eventually passing underneath Farmer's Bridge and continue along the towpath. Continue to walk along the towpath underneath Brierley Bridge and then Bull Street Bridge.



#### 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 Brettell 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 underneath 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 housing development, on the left hand side you will see Chapel Street and the flats of Brierley Hill in the distance.

