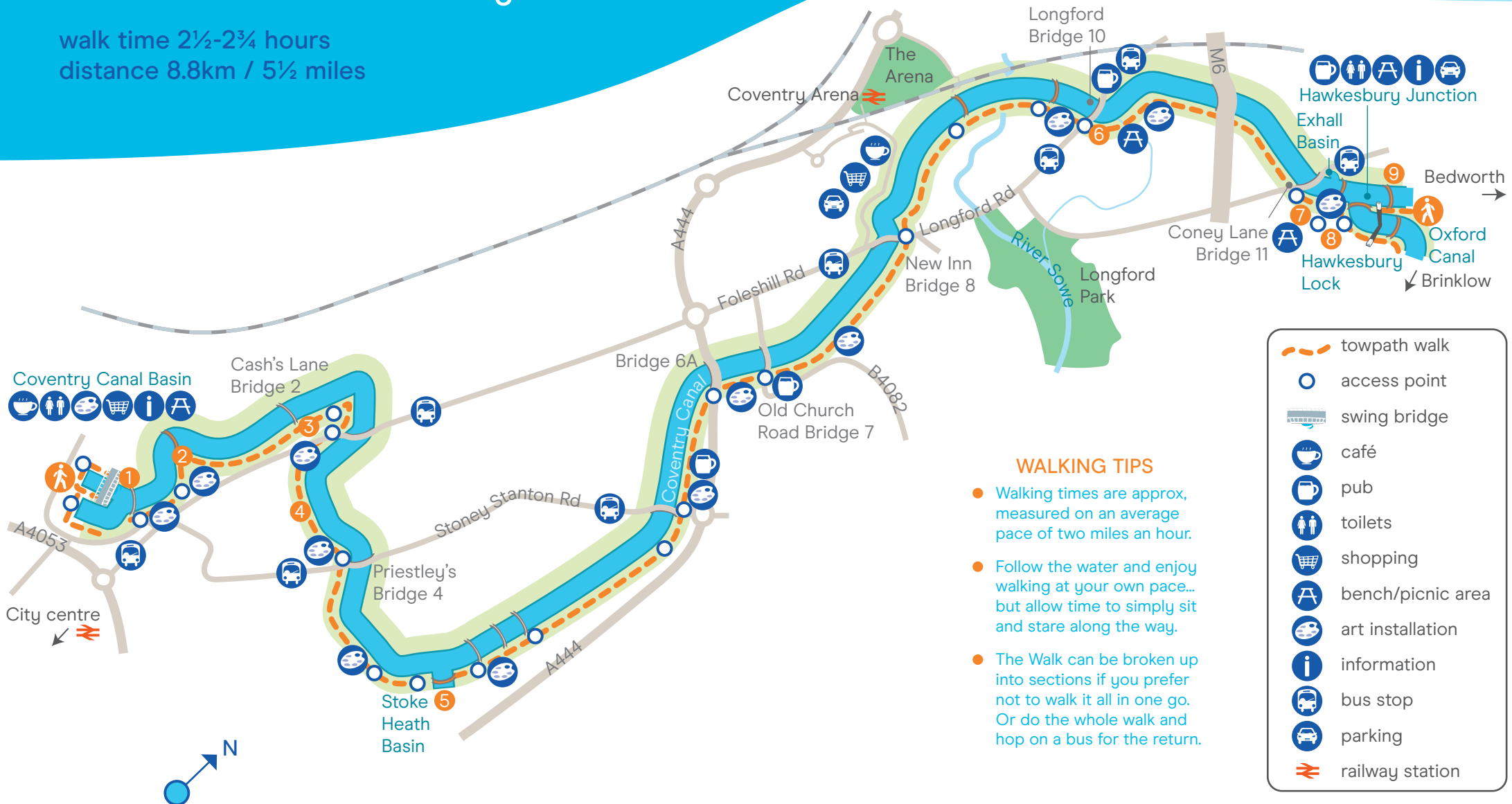


Coventry Wellbeing Walk

Canal Basin to Hawkesbury Junction

walk time 2½-2¾ hours
distance 8.8km / 5½ miles



The Walk - Step by Step

The Coventry Canal was built to improve coal supply into Coventry from Warwickshire's coalfields. In contrast to its busy past, each step today brings calm as you follow the water and steep yourself in stories from the heritage that surrounds this walk. Birds call you onwards beyond the faint noise of traffic. Dotted along the way, benches tempt you to linger. Hawkesbury Junction holds the beating life of canals - where waters meet and murmurs of the past are held firmly in every brick.



 Coventry Canal Basin marks the start of the Coventry Canal. Wharves, a crane and restored warehouses are a reminder of its busy heyday. The first artwork on the Coventry Canal Art Trail is a bronze statue celebrating Brindley in action, toiling over papers on his desk.

1 Just beyond the café, follow the road up to cross the bridge and turn left to join the towpath.

2 Daimler Powerhouse Creation Centre opened in 2021 as an arts and culture hub. Next door, on the site of Coventry's first power station which operated from 1895 to 1972, is Electric Wharf.

3 Just beyond Cash's Lane Bridge 2, look out for a row of three-storey terraced houses, 'Cash's Hundred Houses', on your left. Quaker brothers John and Joseph Cash ran a silk weaving company which built the now Grade II-listed houses for its weavers in 1857, creating a 'cottage factory' which could compete with other companies using custom-built factories.

4 Your surroundings become leafier and dotted with artworks as the canal winds through Coventry's outskirts.

5 Look out for moored boats as the towpath crosses over the entrance to Stoke Heath Basin.

6 This was the original junction between the Coventry and Oxford Canals. The canal companies couldn't decide how to charge tolls along this stretch, so they built the canals side by side from here to Hawkesbury. Walking onwards, lush hedgerows and birdsong become the treat of this walk.

7 Colourful boats moored at Exhall Basin come into view and benches offer the perfect spot to watch ducks, moorhens and coots, and of course any boat action.

8 Hawkesbury Junction is where the Coventry and Oxford Canals finally part ways. It is still one of the busiest canal junctions in the country. The cast-iron bridge over the H-shaped junction spans 50ft and was built in 1837 for £630. It offers the perfect vantage point for you to watch boats manoeuvre the tricky 90-degree turn or work through the shallow lock.

9 The Engine House pumped water to the canal from a local stream then later a deep well. The original 1725 steam engine, appropriately named 'Lady Godiva', is now on display in Dartmouth, birthplace of its engineer Thomas Newcomen.

 Amble back to the Basin, hop on a bus or explore further along either the Coventry or the Oxford.

CANAL: Coventry Canal

START: Coventry Basin
OS Grid ref: SP333796 Postcode: CV1 4LH

FINISH: Hawkesbury Junction
OS Grid ref: SP361845 Postcode: CV6 6DF

DISTANCE: 8.8km / 5½ miles

APPROX TIME: 2½-2¾ hours

PUB/CAFÉ: Playwrights Café in Basin, Signal Box by Navigation Bridge 6, The Royal by Old Church Road Bridge 7, Longford Engine by Longford Bridge 10, Greyhound Inn at Hawkesbury Junction

PARKING: Nearest car parks - Draper's Fields (postcode: CV1 4LY) & Hawkesbury Junction (postcode: CV6 6DF)

TRAIN: Nearest train stations - Coventry & Coventry Arena
National Rail Enquiries
Tel: 03457 484950 www.nationalrail.co.uk

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

