Rail Trails Worcestershire

WYRE VALLEY LINE > Circ Walk 05 | 8.7 kms / 5.4 Miles | > 2.5 Hrs | Climb

Start at DY10 1QZ or ///mats.souk.nerve

Kidderminster Circular Walk

0-500 ft

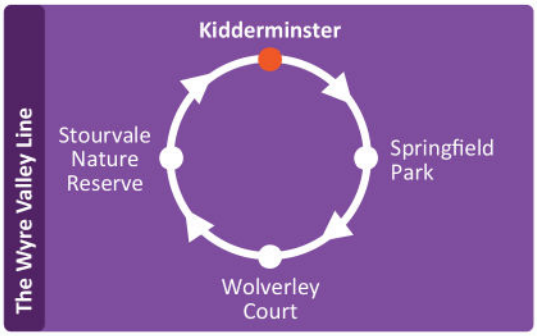
Easy



RAMBLERS Worcestershire

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Worcestershire Community Rail Partnership



Feedback to us ...
enquiries@wcrp.org.uk

Map Sheet 219

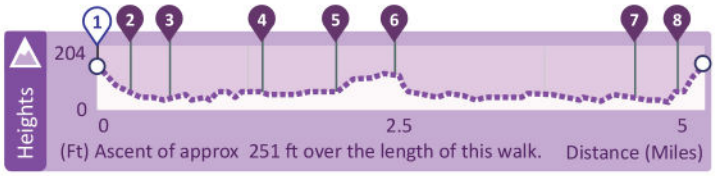


GPX for Apps
Scan or click me here.

Train Times
Scan or click me here.

Map Key

Road/track	Route keypoints	Click for live link
Bridleway	Public house	Information
Footpath	Ascent/Descent	Landscape feature
	Picnic site	Cafe
	Viewpoint	Parking
	Take care!	Church





A carpet worker in Kidderminster managing a machine around circa 1900.

Kidderminster carpets

Kidderminster, has a rich history intertwined with the carpet manufacturing industry, dating back to the early 18th century. The town's association with carpet weaving began in 1735 when Thomas Lombe established the first carpet factory, utilizing the expertise of Huguenot weavers who had fled religious persecution in France. This initial endeavor sparked a flourishing industry that would come to define Kidderminster for centuries.

By the 19th century, Kidderminster had become synonymous with high-quality carpets, earning a global reputation for innovation and craftsmanship. The introduction of the "Kidderminster weave," a reversible flat weave, became particularly famous and helped cement the town's status as a leading carpet producer. The Victorian era saw a boom in production, with numerous factories employing thousands of workers, making carpets that adorned homes and even palaces worldwide.

Despite facing challenges from global competition and changing economic landscapes in the 20th century, Kidderminster's carpet industry has left an indelible mark on the town.

Disclaimer You undertake this walk entirely at your own risk, the author takes no responsibility for injury or loss.

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Directions

1. Leave station passing Severn Valley Railway on L. At main road L and downhill to a large roundabout. Drop down steps and underpass to sunken area in the middle of the roundabout. Take first underpass on L to climb up steps and follow pavement around to the L into Green Street and pass Museum of Carpet.

2. At traffic lights R to continue on walkway with car park on L to road. Cross with care and continue straight passing College and Library to road. Cross to opposite pavement then L over bridge to Bus Station. Walk around bus station on the R-hand side. Continue between two large old mills to canal.

3. R on towpath. After passing underneath dual carriageway at lock cross to the other side of the canal. At Limekiln Bridge No 17 climb up L then cross bridge R to road. At road L and almost immediately follow a cycleway next to the canal. Where cycleway ends R then L to roundabout.

4. Cross to the other side of Stourvale Drive then L to path that heads off R into Springfield Park. Follow obvious path into wood and lake. At the lake follow path L to an isolated chimney. Just before reaching the chimney bear L to cross bridge over stream then immediately R alongside sportsground to where several paths join at a lamppost and ford. L on path towards woods and with ditch on L. Where this path divides take the L-hand fork to cross alongside of a large meadow. Pass ponds on L into wood. Continue straight ahead through wood then on obvious path by fence around school sports fields. Ignoring paths and tracks to L and R continue straight ahead to road.

6. Cross road with care to pavement on opposite side then L down to the canal and the Lock Inn. Here R and R again to pass under road on canal towpath. Follow the towpath all the way back into Kidderminster. From Limekiln Bridge No 17 retrace the outward route along the canal, but after passing under the dual carriageway exit the canal towpath L immediately before the large mill with a chimney.

7. With car park on L and next to the mill buildings continue straight ahead on walkway that passes between retail shops and over the river Stour. After crossing the bridge continue between shops then R to statue of Rowland Hill and Town Hall.

8. Take the road to the L of the statue then bear left at the next junction. Continue straight ahead and on the L-hand side of the road to a large roundabout. Drop down steps to underpass into sunken area in the middle of the roundabout. Take the underpass immediately opposite then up steps to follow the outward route back uphill to the station.

Kidderminster
Kidderminster is renowned for its rich industrial heritage. Situated on the River Stour and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, the town played a pivotal role during the Industrial Revolution, with its carpet industry becoming globally famous and renowned.

The Lock Inn
A notable landmark a mile north of the town is The Lock Inn, a charming pub nestled alongside the canal.

The canals in the West Midlands were crucial during the Industrial Revolution, transforming the region into an industrial powerhouse. They enabled the efficient transport of raw materials and finished goods, connecting factories with markets and key ports.

This network of waterways significantly reduced transport costs, spurred economic growth, and facilitated the rapid development of industries such as textiles, coal, and iron.



The Lock Inn north of Kidderminster

Key L = Turn Left | R = Turn Right | FP = Footpath

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Directions supplied by Lyndon Bracewell, Worcestershire Ramblers