

Market Drayton Away Day

Easy cycling with a few short steep hills (*total 15 miles*). All cyclists using the towpaths must obtain a special cycle permit (*free of charge*) from British Waterways & Tourist information centres, or download from www.waterscape.com/cycling/permit.html. Always follow the Waterways Code and respect other users of the canal.

START HERE:

Betton Mill Wharf (Woodies Café). In the canal's heyday this was a thriving centre for the export of cheese and milk.



- 1 Betton Mill Wharf.** Turn right and cycle a short distance along the canal towpath. Turn left under the canal aqueduct and turn right through parkland past Peatswood.
- 2** At the T-junction, turn left towards Almington. Cross **Coal Brook** and cycle up to Almington.
- 3** Turn right at **Almington** (signposted Hales and Chipnall), uphill to Hales.

Route instructions continue overleaf ►



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Hales is a traditional estate village with a grand hall, home farm and sandstone church.

- 4 Cycle past the church, continue straight on downhill into the Coal Brook Valley. There is a lake and marshland on your right. Look out for the flocks of Curlew. Continue up the steep hill to Chipnall.

- 5 At **Chipnall**, turn left at the telephone box, towards Liple (signposted Chipnall Lees)
- 6 At **Liple**, turn right (signposted Doley).
- 7 At the crossroads, go straight over (signposted Newport)
- 8 When you reach the T-junction, turn right (signposted Cheswardine). Cycle past the **Soudley Arms** and continue past a “Jubilee” milestone and into **Cheswardine**.

Cheswardine is a pretty village famed for its flower displays. Next to St Swithin’s Church are the remains of the moat of “Cheswardine Castle”. This was a medieval fortified manor house built by the Le Strange family.

- 9 In **Cheswardine**, turn right at the church (signposted Chipnall).
- 10 Turn left at the T-junction (at Cheswardine Hall) which is signposted Chipnall.
- 11 Just before **Chipnall**, turn left (signposted Market Drayton and Almington). There are lovely views over the valley to Hall in Hales.
- 12 Just past **Old Springs Farm**, take the left fork to **Tyrley Wharf** and locks (signposted Tyrley) and continue to **Market Drayton** along the towpath next to the Shropshire Union Canal. *Take care when passing moored boats (there may be mooring spikes concealed on the path).*

Tyrley Locks: This section of the Shropshire Union Canal has a flight of 5 locks which raise/lower the canal by a total of 33ft.



- 13 Continue over the aqueduct to Betton Mill Wharf.

