

Attractions on route

1 Ford Green Hall

An award-winning museum, Ford Green Hall offers visitors a fascinating insight into 17th century life. The timber-framed farmhouse, home to the Ford family for nearly 200 years, has rooms furnished with an outstanding collection of textiles, ceramics and furniture. Outside there is a period garden with herb beds which show how plants were used for magical, medicinal, domestic, culinary, cosmetic and textile purposes in the 1600s. The museum (entrance fee applies) has a tearoom and gift shop.

Whitfield Valley local Nature reserve

As you leave Ford Green Hall, you pass Ford Green Reed Bed, one of Stoke-on-Trent's two Sites of Special Scientific Interest and part of Whitfield Valley Nature Reserve, which covers a large area from Norton and Bradeley and is a fantastic habitat for wildlife.

2 Chatterley Valley

Chatterley Whitfield Colliery

The date coal was first mined in the Whitfield area is not known, but there are references to mining in the manor of Tunstall from the late 13th century onwards. A local tradition claims that the monks of Hulton Abbey came to nearby Ridgeway during the 14th and 15th centuries, to work coal from some of the eight seams half a mile east of Whitfield.

The site was first used as a coal merchant's yard from around 1750 onwards. It then operated as a colliery. By 1838 there was an engine house, coal wharf, carpenters' shop and brickworks on the site. The colliery closed in 1976 and operated as a mining museum, housing the National Coalmining Collection for some time.

The museum closed in 1991, but soon afterwards, English Heritage declared it a Scheduled Ancient Monument to protect it from demolition. Recent regeneration of the site includes making the buildings and structures safe and refurbishing them to keep their unique heritage but creating commercial and non-commercial units for the future.

Chatterley Whitfield Heritage Country Park

A heritage country park created on the derelict Chatterley Whitfield colliery site. The 50 hectare site has been transformed, including restoring Ford Green Brook into an ecologically friendly open stream and complements other landscaping works to make ideal wildlife habitats and creating or enhancing woodland, grassland, heath and wetland areas in the park. The country park opened in October 2010 and into a complete heritage country park.

3 National Cycle Route 55 to Biddulph Grange

Biddulph Grange, National Trust gardens, with shop and cafe. This amazing Victorian garden was created by James Bateman for his collection of plants from around the world.

Biddulph Grange Country Park

This 30 hectare site, originally part of the larger Biddulph Grange Estate, offers a get away from it all feel with peaceful woodland, meadows, a large lake and ponds to explore on foot. Cafe, visitors centre and picnic facilities are available.



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Remember always follow the Highway Code

Check over your right shoulder regularly. Do not cycle on the pavement, unless it is signed for cyclists. Be considerate when passing other users, such as pedestrians and horse riders, especially if approaching them from behind. They may not know you are there. Always allow plenty of room and do not pass too quickly.



This is one of a series of circular leisure rides. The Leisurely Cycle Rides leaflet gives an overview of all the routes you can choose from and also lists the dates you could join other cyclists for a guided ride around the routes. Each route map can be downloaded from cyclestoke.co.uk or you can request a copy by telephone on 01782 238692 or email cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk



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Safety Advice

Ride considerately on greenways and towpaths by giving priority to pedestrians and warning them of your approach. On towpaths follow the "waterways code" ride in single file away from the canal edge and take care at potential hazard points such as low bridges, bridges with low side barriers, blind bends, moorings and cobbled sections. Also take care when crossing roads and using the "on road" sections and at the locations shown on the map by the red caution symbol.



Before cycling on a towpath you must get a cycle permit and check that cycling is allowed on the section you wish to use. Check with the local waterway office on 0845 671 5530 or visit waterescape.com to get free permits and more information.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this leaflet, the author cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information contained herein and accepts no responsibility for any error or omission. Stoke-on-Trent City Council shall not be liable for any death, personal injury or damage to property arising from the use of the route indicated in this guide except to the extent that liability cannot be excluded by law. Users of all routes shown in this map do so entirely at their own risk. We cannot guarantee that all routes and pathways will always be passable.

Your views If you have any comments or suggestions about the route email cyclestoke@stoke.gov.uk or telephone 01782 238692

cyclestoke.co.uk

Ford Green to Biddulph Grange

Circular Cycle Ride 4

FREE

Miles: 14 (total)
Time: 3 hours (+ picnic stop)
Level: Moderate

Ford Green to Biddulph Grange About the route

A route out into the Staffordshire Moorlands. Although the route is not circular, you finish at the same start point by retracing your route and complete 14 miles. Biddulph Grange Country Park is a pleasant spot to enjoy a picnic before your return journey, so you might want to pack your sandwiches.

Start and finish at Ford Green Hall, the beautiful black and white timber framed farmhouse museum adjacent to the National Cycle Route 55. The route rolls through some fantastic countryside including Whitfield Valley Nature Reserve. The route takes in the new landscaped works at Chatterley Whitfield Heritage Country Park. It then continues on to the Biddulph Valley Way, part of Staffordshire Moorlands, where you ride into the National Cycle Route 55, where you ride into the route and make a short road journey to Biddulph Grange Country Park. Overall, this is a spectacular scenic ride.





Ford Green to Biddulph Grange

For a longer ride combine this with route 6 in the series, see the Leisurely Cycle Rides leaflet for more ideas.



Miles: 14 (total)
Time: 3 hours (+ picnic stop)
Level: Moderate



1 Ford Green

- With **Ford Green Hall** on your left, leave Ford Green car park by path next to lake and **Whitfield Valley Local Nature Reserve**
- At junction with main path (National Cycle Route 55) turn right and follow main path through open space towards the former **Chatterley Whitfield Colliery** spoil mound
- Continue up valley, pass football pitches (on left) and housing (on left)

2 Chatterley Valley

- Cross bridge into **Chatterley Whitfield Heritage Country Park** and continue to next bridge (large green bridge with metal animal features)
- Cross over bridge and then turn sharp right continuing along National Cycle Route 55 with Chatterley Whitfield Colliery buildings - scheduled ancient monuments - and business centre on your right

3 National Cycle Route 55 to Biddulph Grange

- Continue along National Cycle Route 55 and go over big blue bridge (over Biddulph Road) and along path
- Go down ramp at end to road (Bull Lane, Brindley Ford)
- Cross the road, lift your bike over the timber step-over and push bike up ramp by steps on other side (when returning dismount at the top of the steps/ramp)
- After 100 yards dismount and push bike over concrete area (gaps in concrete makes cycling hazardous!)
- Continue and turn right over stream and then immediately left (straight on along path)
- Continue to road (Brown Lees Road) and cross over
- Go under next road (Newpool Road)
- Continue over next 2 roads (Wharf Road and Halls Road)
- Pass Mow Lane and continue to Marsh Green Road

This next section has two options

... Either

- Continue to where path crosses the next lane (Bailey's Bank), turn right to leave the cycle path and go down to main road (Congleton Road, A527)
- Turn right, continue on the road and take 2nd left (Grange Road), (you may prefer to walk your bike on the footway rather than cycling on the A527)

— Or

- You could follow the signpost for Biddulph Grange using Marsh Green Road, this requires more on-road cycling**
- Turn right off the path on to Marsh Green Road and go down to the main road (Congleton Road, A527)
 - Turn left, pass the church (on right) and turn right at next road (Grange Road)

- Pass entrance to **Biddulph Grange - National Trust**
- Take next right into **Biddulph Grange Country Park** and visitor centre
- Enjoy your picnic and take the same route to return to Ford Green hall

Take extra care here

Please turn over for information about safety.

Indicates cycle storage is available.

... Alternative route



Based on a simplified map. For help on using short cuts, extensions or combining routes, please use the more detailed Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme Cycling Map and Guide 2011