

Inland Waterways of Great Britain

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Caution

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this supplement. It contains selected information and thus is not definitive and does not include all known information on the subject in hand; this is particularly relevant to the plans, which should not be used for navigation. The author and Imray Laurie Norie and Wilson Ltd believe that its selection is a useful aid to prudent navigation, but the safety of a vessel depends ultimately on the judgement of the navigator, who should assess all information, published or unpublished, available to him.

This supplement contains amendments and corrections sent in by cruising yachtsmen and women. The updating of cruising guides is an ongoing process and the publisher is always glad to receive information, sketch charts or photographs for incorporation in future supplements or new editions.

Note where lights have been modified in this text do please remember to alter them on the appropriate plan.

Author's Caution

It must be emphasised that none of the charts, plans or sketch plans shown in this guide should be used for navigation, nor should they be in any way considered as substitutes for the official charts and other nautical reference materials which every vessel is obliged by international law to have on board.

Page 30 Tunnels

Left-hand column. Add:

Falkirk *	Edinburgh Union Canal	696
Rough Castle	Edinburgh Union Canal	365
Sellers	Huddersfield Narrow Canal	355
Asda	Huddersfield Narrow Canal	166
Scout *	Huddersfield Narrow Canal	220
A449	Droitwich Barge Canal	150
Edinburgh Way	Rochdale Canal	121
Tuel Lane	Rochdale Canal	114
Bates	Huddersfield Narrow Canal	100

Left-hand column.

Harecastle should read 2926 not 2919yds

Tardebigge should read 580 not 613yds

Chirk should read 459 not 433 yds

Right-hand column. Delete:

Falkirk *	Edinburgh Union Canal	696
Scout *	Huddersfield Narrow Canal	220

Page 40 Canalphone

Telephone number for stoppages discontinued.

Page 116 Droitwich Barge Canal and Droitwich Junction Canal

In 1973 the Droitwich Canals Trust Ltd was established and, with active support from local councils, restoration started. A feasibility study was carried out in 1994 which showed that restoration was possible from an engineering perspective and it would offer economic benefits to the area. The restoration was completed in 2011, with the official reopening ceremony taking place on 1 July.

The section of canal through the town was slightly rerouted with part of the River Salwarpe being canalised between the Barge Lock, at the end of Vines Park, and Lock 7 of the Junction Canal. Vines Park makes a charming centrepiece to the canals with lots of information and exhibits about salt production, including a brine well and an old Wych barge. Netherwich Basin, where salt used to be loaded into barges, has now been fitted out as a location to moor a boat, either permanently or for visitors. The Barge Canal was planned by Brindley and still winds in a gentle, sleepy fashion. New reedbeds were created next to the canal to compensate for the reeds that were cleared from the main waterway. At the River Severn end three new locks have been built and the most expensive part of the restoration was the construction of a navigable tunnel under the A449.

On the Junction Canal an existing culvert under the M5 has been made navigable but this has restricted headroom, 6ft 5in (a short 2m), and it is very narrow. Although it's quite short you need to ensure nothing is coming the other way before entering. Locks 4-7 are all newly built, with Lock 4 and Lock 5 as a staircase, and the three locks at Hanbury have been restored.

The reopening of the Droitwich canals offers boaters the chance to explore a new circuit, about 22 miles long, called the Mid-Worcester Ring. Starting in Droitwich you head west along the Barge Canal to Hawford, join the River Severn as far as Worcester and return via the Worcester and Birmingham Canal to Hanbury Junction and back to Droitwich on the Junction Canal. The Droitwich canals are a delightful diversion off the Worcester and Birmingham Canal, not to be missed by anyone cruising this area.

Authority Droitwich Canals Trust, Hampton Road Wharf, 1 Hampton Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9PA. The Trust leases the canal from the Wychavon District Council, Worcester 01905 774225. Bye-laws are enforced by the Trust.

Droitwich Barge Canal *Maximum vessel dimensions*

From and to	Distance	Length	Beam	Draught	Headroom	Locks
Droitwich to the River Severn at Hawford	5.8 miles (9.3km)	72' (21.9m)	14' 6" (4.4m)	3' 6" (1.1m)	7' (2.0m)	9

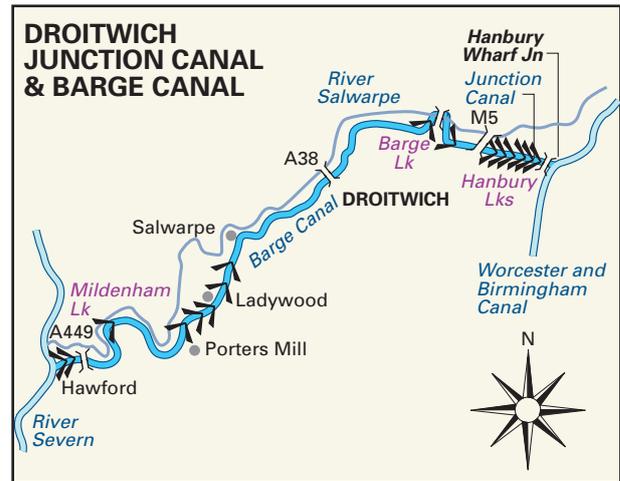
Bridges Several, including swing bridges. The first bridge up the canal from Hawford is exactly as built by Brindley and has not been touched since construction.

Towpath There is a towpath all along the canal. This has been upgraded for multi-purpose use.

Tunnel A449 150m with a towpath.

Maps and guides OS150 *Worcester and the Malverns, Droitwich Canals Navigation and Visitor Guide* by Margaret Rowley and Robin Smithett.

Societies Droitwich Canals Trust, Hampton Road Wharf, 1 Hampton Road, Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 9PA www.worcs.com/dct/



Droitwich Barge Canal *Distance table*

	Miles
Droitwich, Barge Lock, junction with River Salwarpe to:	
Vines Park	0.3
Siding Lane Wharf	1.0
Salwarpe Bridge	2.3
Ladywood Locks Nos. 1-4	3.0
Porter's Mill Lock No.5	3.5
Mildenham Mill Lock No.6	4.5
Hawford Lock No.7	5.5
Hawford Lock No.8	5.8
Junction with River Severn	

Droitwich Junction Canal *Maximum vessel dimensions*

From and to	Distance	Length	Beam	Draught	Headroom	Locks
Droitwich to Hanbury Junction	1.5 miles (2.4km)	72' (21.9m)	7' (2.1m)	3' (0.9m)	6' 5" (2.0m)	7

Droitwich Junction Canal

Bridges Six.

Towpath The towpath runs the length of the canal with a slight diversion along the Salt Way road to cross the M5.

Tunnel Under the M5. This is a short tunnel using an existing motorway culvert. Headroom is restricted to 6ft 5in and it is very narrow.

Summit level 147ft, Hanbury junction with the Worcester and Birmingham Canal.

Droitwich Junction Canal *Distance table*

	Miles
Canalised River Salwarpe to:	
Hanbury Junction, Worcester and Birmingham Canal	1.5