

Central Birmingham – An Urban Trail

(Re-walked 8th February 2018)

Distance: About 5½ miles

Map: A to Z of Birmingham could be useful.

Starting Point: Jewellery Quarter Station

From station turn right into Vyse St. Then right into Pittsford St.

After 100 yds cross road to take path through Warstone Cemetery. (*Note catacombs on right in walls of former quarry*). Follow main path heading for dark brick building. Turn left into Warstone Lane (*note actual Warstone i.e. Glacial Erratic*).

Follow road up hill, crossing to left of clock tower (*Still Warstone Lane*). Cross to right hand pavement (*note jewellers' workshops*). Where road bends left, go right into Hill St. and then after a few steps continue on to Caroline St. At end of road cross St. Pauls Square (*Gothic church with boxed pews to left worth a visit*).

Continue down into Ludgate Hill (*canal bridge with firehose access – red doors*). Continue ahead to take footbridge over Great Charles St. Queensway. Turn right and right again to Church St. Cross to St. Phillips Cathedral (*Burne Jones glass etc.*) Go past west door of Cathedral to Needless Alley, leading into New Cannon Passage. Turn right to Cannon St. (*Look up and note Victorian architecture*). Cross New St. into Burlington Arcade.

Go down steps and cross tramlines in Stephenson St. Turn left to follow footway past station (*note "green wall" on left*). Do a U turn (*admire shiny front of station*). Turn back to go left in front of station. Enter New Street Station – keeping to the right to admire domed concourse.

Head towards exit on right, go up incline, then around to the left, take exit back into Stephenson St. Cross road and tramlines and turn left to reach Ethel St. Walk up Ethel St. Turn left into New St. and climb steps to Victoria Square. Turn half left to Chamberlain Square.

Follow signs to Centenary Square (*Hall of Memory and B'ham Central Library*).

Turn left in front of Symphony Hall and cross Broad St. into Bridge St.

At bottom of Bridge St., cross Holliday St., turn right then head up steps into Holliday Passage. (*Don't go under aquaduct carrying Worcester Canal, but admire it*).

Turn left into Holliday Passage to reach the back of The Mail Box. Follow high level walkway, right and right again, to cross canal. Follow canal past Gas St. Basin, (*Note Worcester Bar*). Pass under Broad St. and follow tow path around to Sea Life Centre. Turn right over second bridge, and back along opposite side of canal, picking up the Fazeley Canal (*i.e. you have turned right at the "Canal roundabout" - formerly a railway ventilation shaft*). Continue ahead along tow path.

(*If starving by now, leave canal just before Summer Row road bridge, cross Sandpits Parade and turn right up Summer Row to The Shakespeare – otherwise continue along tow path*).

If you did stop for lunch:

As you leave The Shakespeare turn right and then right into Fleet St. (*past Coffin Works*).

Cross Fleet St. then cross canal on modern bridge. Turn right to re-join tow path.

Continue along canal past many locks and under low bridges. Eventually a low bridge widens out into a vastly spacious bridge (*This is directly underneath Snow Hill Station*).

Turn around and go up the metal steps to the road bridge. Turn left in Livery St., cross Lionel St. and continue for over 100m before turning left into the back entrance of Snow Hill Station.