



Lydney's harbour area was always strategically important and in the early 19th century the building of a tramroad and harbour to serve the coal trade of the Forest of Dean began to transform Lydney's economy, which later benefited from the growth of the ironworks into a tinplate factory and from railway building.

Lydney had a market from 1268 and the Market Cross which this walk takes you past, still marks where the original markets were held. After the late 16th century most of the land was formed into a large estate by the Winters, who were later succeeded in possession by the Bathurst family in 1723. The estate was unusually rich in non-agricultural resources, including fisheries, mineral deposits, and extensive woodland. Its owners also profited from the establishment of ironworks at the start of the 17th century and the reclamation of saltmarsh in the early 18th.



The forest was then used by the late Anglo Saxon, Norman and Tudor kings as their personal hunting ground. The area was kept stocked with deer and wild boar and survived into the modern period as one of the principal Crown forests in England, the largest after the New Forest. Its timber was particularly fine and was regarded as the best source for building ships including the ships that opposed the Spanish Armada,

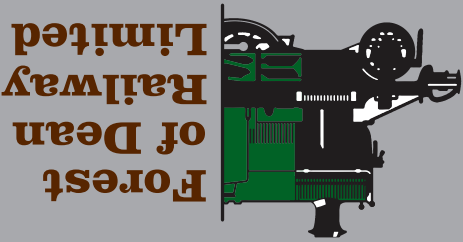
the Lydney Park Estate gardens and can still be visited. healing, the sea, hunting and dogs. The temple is located next to temple complex dedicated to the god Nodens who was associated with the end of the Roman period, around the year 370, a major Roman river crossing at Newnham on Severn and the port at Lydney. Towards under Penyard near Ross-on-Wye, and a road was built from there to a natural resources which included iron ore, limestone, ochre and charcoal. The area was governed from the Roman town of Ariconium at Weston



Lydney is a bustling Forest of Dean town on the beautiful Severn Estuary, with a fascinating history spanning back to Roman times. This walk has been developed to start to bring some of that history back to life.

The Romans were attracted to the area in around 50 AD by its

01594 845840 Open selected days
Norhard Station, Forest Road, Lydney, GL15 4ET
Steam and Heritage Railway with 5 stations so you can get off to explore the local area and get a chance to experience the relaxing pace of a typical country branch line.



01594 844841 Open everyday from 10am
The Old Park, Lydney, GL15 6BU
An arts and crafts visitor centre, with over 15 small artisan businesses, gift shop, wholefood and gluten free cafe, and local farm shop and deli.

TAURUS CRAFTS



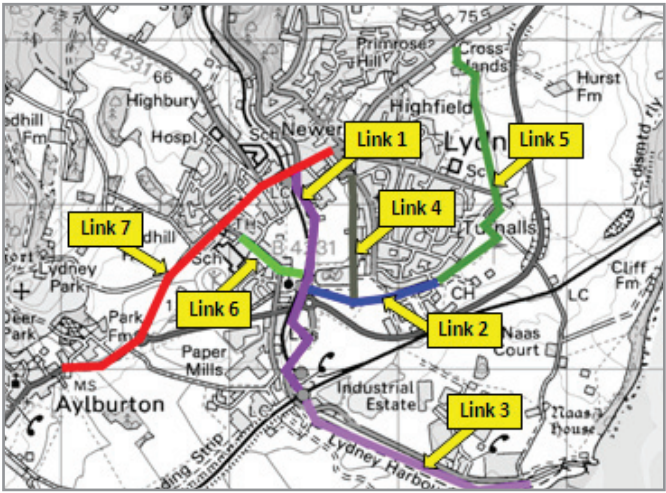
Other places to visit in and around Lydney.
Contact the businesses direct for opening times/availability opening times here are only to be used as a guide

PLACES TO VISIT

FOLLOW THE LINK LYDNEY SIGNS ON THIS WALK



A network of cycle and footpaths are being developed in Lydney to make it easier and safer to navigate the town and surrounding area. The paths will be phased in over a number of years, and although there maybe changes to the exact routes taken, the map below shows the planned routes in the network.



The images used in this leaflet are used with the kind permission of: Dave Street, Richard Trigg, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism Association, Herbert Howells Trust and Lydney Town Council

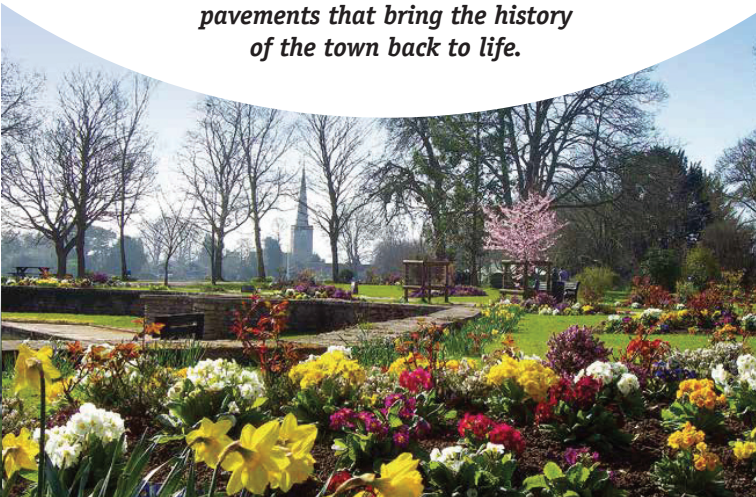
Print edition 16

Lydney Town
Heritage
Walk

Lydney Town
Heritage
Walk



1.8 miles on good paths and pavements that bring the history of the town back to life.



01594 841416 Open Monday-Saturday
Hill Street, Lydney, GL15 5HW
Picture framing and gift shop.

INSPIRATIONS

07511 835551 Open from Spring to Autumn
A lovely cafe in the Park serving home-made cakes, good coffee and snacks.
Tables inside and out if the weather is good.

THE COFFEE HOUSE IN BATHURST PARK

A selection of interesting shops and cafes off Newerne Street in the centre of Lydney.

Newerne Street, Lydney, GL15 5RF

REGENTS WALK

An excellent 38m open air pool with snack shop, an extensive area for picnics, sunbathing etc & toilets. The pool is fully supervised by qualified lifeguards.

01594 842625 Open during summer 12-6pm
High Street, Lydney, GL15 5DY

LYDNEY OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

KEY INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

Bathurst Park is open during daylight hours throughout the year.



Public toilets can be found at
Albert Street Car Park
Bathurst Park Pavilion



Disabled Access Toilet and Changing Place can be found at
The Coffee House in Bathurst Park Pavilion



Tourist Information can be found at
www.wyedeantourism.co.uk



Tourist Information Centres can be found at
Coleford and Monmouth



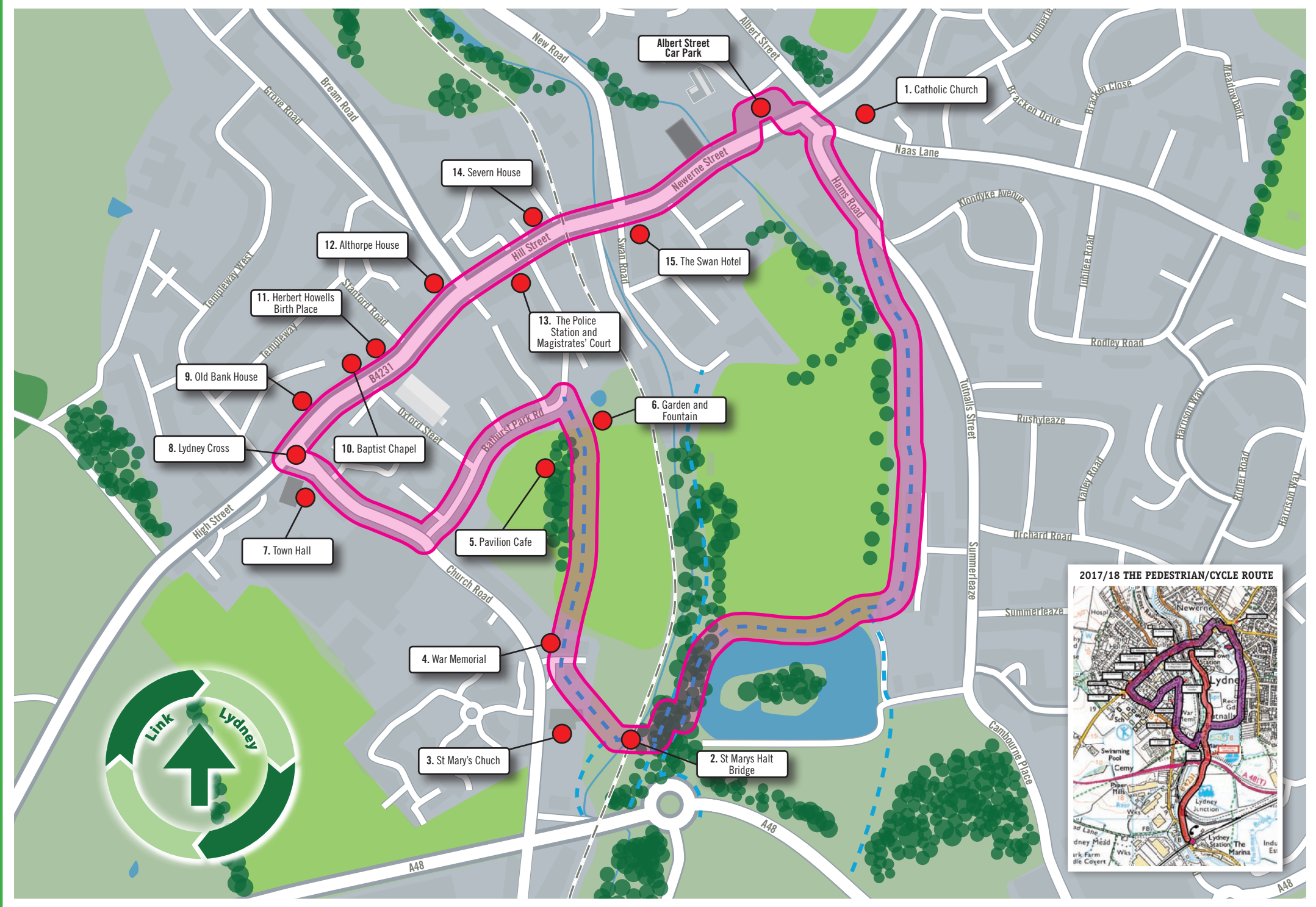
Public Transport

Lydney has a train station located on the Gloucestershire-Newport line
www.nationalrail.co.uk



Lydney bus station has a range of bus services available
www.travelinesw.com





Lydney Town Heritage Walk

1.8 miles on good paths and pavements.

Start - Albert Street car park, GL15 5LU (parking charges apply)



Cross over the zebra crossing by the toilet block and ahead through alley way to emerge into Newerne Street. Go over the pedestrian crossing and bear left to follow pavement round into Hams Road.

If you look up Highfield Hill the (1) Catholic Church is in view.

Continue along the pavement to pass the bus station (carefully crossing the busy entrance) and bear right to follow path behind properties keeping River Lyd & recreation ground on your right.

On 3rd April 1946, the first Viscount Bledisloe and his friend John Watts gave 29 acres for playing fields 'for the healthful recreation of the public of Lydney' and the Lydney Recreation Trust was formed to manage the land. In 1949 the Cricket Club and Football Club started to play on the land and in 1950 the Trust increased its acreage from 29 to 45 acres; diverted part of the River Lyd and turned a marshy section of land into a lake. Six tennis courts (four hard, two grass) were also created and other parts of the Trust's land were improved. However, the land was prone to flooding and in 1954 a drainage scheme and comprehensive pumping equipment were installed.



Follow the path as it bears right and continue with the lake on your left and the river on your right.

The Lake is now used for angling and there are a fine range of birds which visit the lake.

Turn right over a brick parapet bridge to ascend through a wooded area to reach a narrow waterway called the Cut.

The Cut is part of the old Pidcock's canal built around 1778 to connect the iron forges north of Lydney. It was eventually extended to join up to Lydney Docks in around 1830, but became disused in the 1840s with the introduction of the railway. It is now a water supply to a local paper works.

Turn left to St Mary's Halt bridge and the Dean Forest Railway tracks (2).

This bridge was supplied to the Severn & Wye Valley railway in 1893 by George Smith (Sun Foundry) Glasgow. The Halt was created & opened by the Dean Forest Railway in 1991. The bridge is now a listed grade II structure which is due for refurbishment.

EITHER Cross bridge and go through St Mary's Churchyard to Church Road

OR ALTERNATIVELY Pass bridge to reach by-pass and turn right to cross the level crossing and take the first right into Church Road. Continue on to reach St Mary's Church.



St Mary's Church (3) has a tower, aisled nave and chancel that date from the 13th century. The east and south aisle window contain early English stained glass, whilst in contrast the north aisle window is a modern depiction of the Franz Joseph glacier in New Zealand. Presented in 1941 by Lord Bledisloe to commemorate his tour of duty as Governor of New Zealand.

Passing the church on your right you come to Lydney War Memorial (4). Pass under the Alms houses arch into Avenue André Clément which passes through the middle of Bathurst Park.

Bathurst Park features a pavilion with café (5), toilets & disabled access Changing Place, bowling green, children's play area, multi-purpose grass playing pitches, band stand & ornamental pond & gardens (6). The Park was given to the town by Charles Bathurst in 1892 to mark his son's coming of age, who later became Viscount Bledisloe. The Park is now managed by the Bathurst Park Recreation Trust.

Leave the Park through the park gates and turn left along Bathurst Park Road which becomes Whitecross Road. At the end turn right along Church Road to view Lydney Cross & Town Hall.

Lydney Town Hall (7) was built in 1888-9, and designed in Jacobean style by W. H. Seth Smith as a concert and dance hall with sprung wooden dance floor. It was a Voluntary Aid Detachment Hospital during the First World War and on 31 August 1962, the Beatles performed here.



Frederick William Harvey (1888-1957) had offices at Bank House in his later years and wrote poetry here including the famous, 'Lydney to Coleford by Rail'. He was a friend of Herbert Howells & Ivor Gurney, the later set his poem 'In Flanders' to music.

In a further 100 yards you reach the Baptist chapel (10).

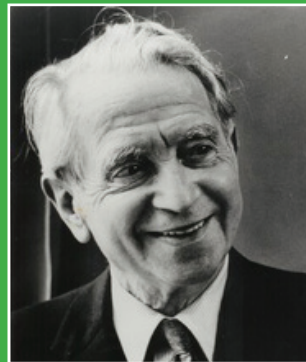
Originally in 1819 local Baptists met in the house of John Trotter and in 1836, when the group had 30 members, a chapel was built on land bought by Trotter. By 1851 the chapel had average morning congregations of 140 and evening congregations of 180.



The Grade II listed cross (8) marks the old Lydney market place and dates from the 14th century.

Turn right along the High Street and cross the pedestrian crossing. Continue right and in 50 yards you will pass Old Bank House (9).

Frederick William Harvey (1888-1957) had offices at Bank House in his later years and wrote poetry here including the famous, 'Lydney to Coleford by Rail'. He was a friend of Herbert Howells & Ivor Gurney, the later set his poem 'In Flanders' to music.



composition at the Royal College of Music, a position he was to hold for nearly sixty years. Following the death of his nine year old son in 1935, Howells went on to compose his masterpiece 'Hymnus Paradisi' for soloists, chorus and orchestra. Howells succeeded Holst as Director of Music at St Paul's Girls' School (1936-62) and was King Edward VII Professor of Music in the University of London (1950-64). He stood in for Robin Orr as Organist of St John's College, Cambridge from 1941-1945. He was appointed CBE in 1953 and a Companion of Honour in 1972. Herbert Howells died in London on 23 February 1983.

In a further 130 yards at the junction with Bream Road is Althorpe House (12).

Built in the early 19th-century it was the home of the coal proprietor David Davies and later became the headquarters of Watts Group of Lydney, who a 100 years later still have their headquarters here.

Cross the Bream Road with care to continue down Hill Street for 100 yards. On the opposite side of the road at the junction with Bathurst Park Road will be seen the former Police Station and Magistrates' Court (13).



Continue down Hill Street & just before the Dean Forest Railway level crossing note the building on your left (14).

Formerly called Severn House, it was the Severn and Wye Railway Company Headquarters built next to the railway in 1829. The level crossing now carries the Dean Forest Railway which runs from Lydney Junction near the mainline station, through Lydney via Norchard & Whitecroft to Parkend. Norchard is the main ticket office, shop, museum & café ¾ mile north of Lydney along Forest Road.



Beyond the level crossing you will find the Swan Hotel opposite the Swan Road junction (15).

Dating from before 1777 it was one of 14 public houses in Lydney at that time.

In a further 140 yards immediately before the bridge over the River Lyd turn left for 25 yards then turn right to cross the river and down steps to the Albert Street car park.