



RAIL Trails



Stratford Parkway to Wilmcote

This popular 2 ¼ mile linear trail starts at **Stratford-upon-Avon Parkway** station, and follows the canal towpath to the village of **Wilmcote** and **Mary Arden's Farm**.

The Parkway station is on the northern outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon, next to the **Bishopton Park & Ride**, and around a half hours walk from Shakespeare's birthplace and centre of the medieval market town where you'll find plenty of cafés, restaurants and shops.

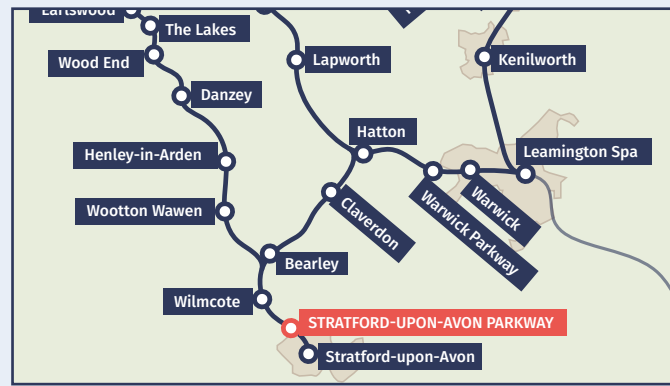
The **Stratford-upon-Avon Canal**, built between 1793 and 1816, runs for 25.5 miles and consists of two sections. It is part of the southern section that we follow here, noted for its split bridges (built with a gap to allow the tow ropes of the boat horses to pass through) and its barrel-roofed lock cottages.

There are limited options for refreshment on this trail, so be sure to stock up in Stratford or make a beeline for the **Mary Arden Inn** or **Wilmcote stores** in Wilmcote itself.

Further Information:



Visit www.shakespeares-england.co.uk for more information on where to visit and what to see locally.



Stratford-upon-Avon Parkway is on the mainline between Birmingham Snow Hill and Stratford-Upon-Avon with trains running hourly to Henley-in-Arden and all stations to Earlswood and Shirley. Trains also run two hourly to Leamington via Hatton and Warwick.

Stratford Parkway station has a ticket machine but otherwise limited facilities. Refreshments and other facilities are available in Stratford-upon-Avon itself.

Want More?

This is just one of a range of 36 self-guided walks from railway stations in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.



Discover the Heart of England by rail at: www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails



Design by: www.blackspiraldesign.co.uk



RAIL Trails



Discover The Heart of England by Rail



Stratford-upon-Avon Parkway

Image by Chris Higgins

2.5 Hours 2.25 Miles Easy

Start: **Stratford Parkway** Finish: **Wilmcote**

A gentle wander along the banks of the Stratford-upon-Avon canal as far as Wilmcote, Shakespeare's mother's family home.

www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails



A. Stratford-upon-Avon Canal

These days a tranquil meander of 25 miles between Birmingham and Stratford, The Stratford-upon-Avon Canal was originally a hive of activity, shipping stone, coal and other goods by narrow boat.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk



B. St Andrew's Church

A small nineteenth century church, nestled in the village of Wilmcote. Of particular historic interest having been the first church built by the Anglo-Catholic revival, Oxford movement in about 1840.

www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk



C. Mary Arden Inn

A welcome sight at the end of your walk! You'll find this inn right opposite Mary Arden's Farm. It is a peaceful retreat offering rooms and dining, with a charming terrace and beer garden.

www.mary-arden.co.uk



D. Mary Arden's Farm

The childhood home of Shakespeare's mother, this working Tudor farm keeps pace with the seasons, see rare breed animals, watch falconry displays, and explore nature trails.

www.shakespeare.org.uk

Did you know?



The **Stratford-upon-Avon Canal** was routed through Wilmcote because of its quarries and Wilmcote stone was used for paving the Houses of Parliament!

Also recommended...



E. Stratford Armouries

A museum of armour and armaments and the home of the Wellington Aviation Museum. Peruse collections of WWII bombers, artillery, a trebuchet, model soldiers, a WW1 Trench Scene and restaurant all spread over an 86-acre site.

www.stratfordarmouries.co.uk



F. Shakespeare Distillery

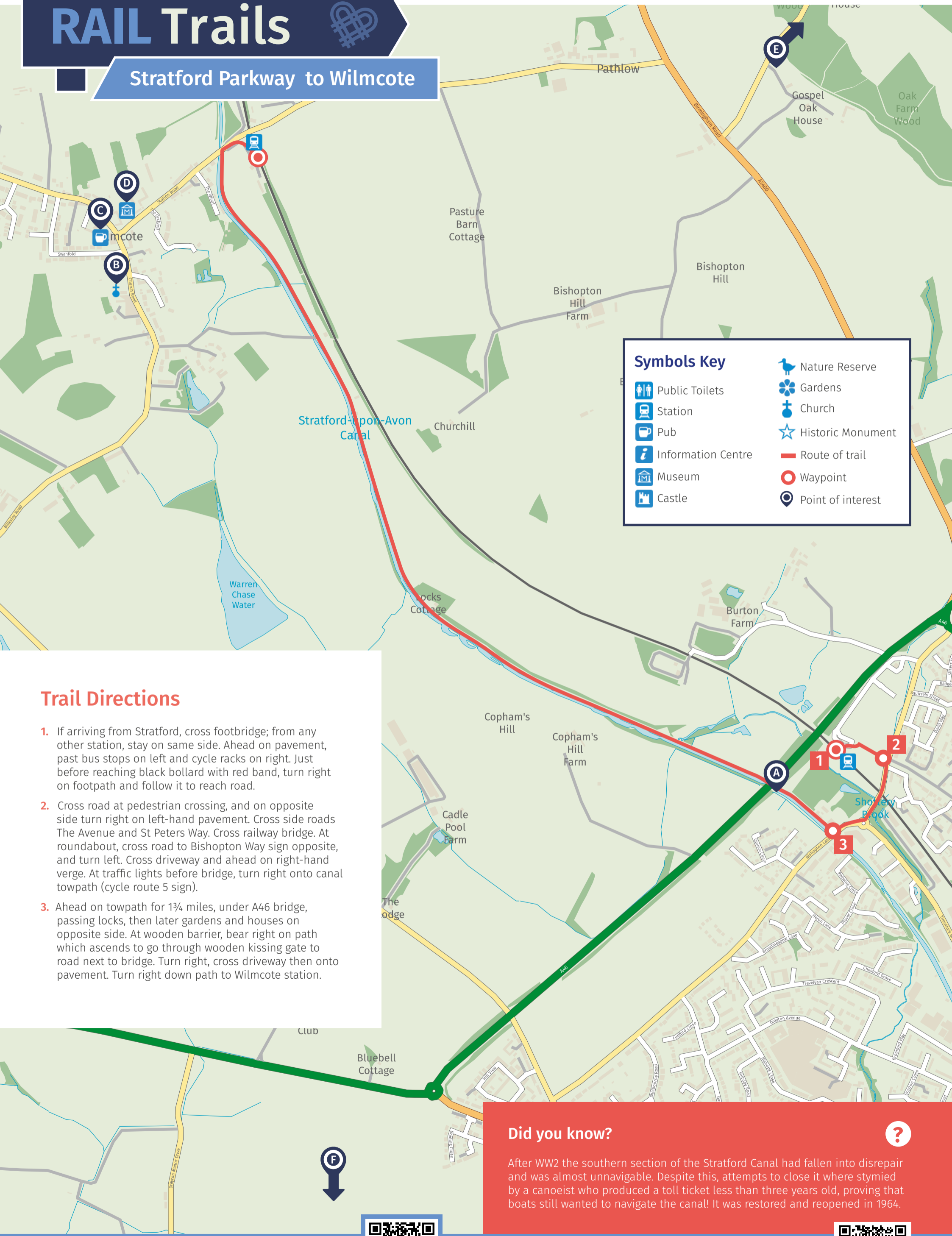
Established in 2015, this artisan spirit producer distils top notch gin, rum and other spirits, all inspired by the works of the bard himself. Swing by the visitor centre for tours, tastings and more!

www.shakespearedistillery.com

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Stratford Parkway to Wilmcote



Symbols Key	
	Public Toilets
	Station
	Pub
	Information Centre
	Museum
	Castle
	Nature Reserve
	Gardens
	Church
	Historic Monument
	Route of trail
	Waypoint
	Point of interest

Trail Directions

1. If arriving from Stratford, cross footbridge; from any other station, stay on same side. Ahead on pavement, past bus stops on left and cycle racks on right. Just before reaching black bollard with red band, turn right on footpath and follow it to reach road.
2. Cross road at pedestrian crossing, and on opposite side turn right on left-hand pavement. Cross side roads The Avenue and St Peters Way. Cross railway bridge. At roundabout, cross road to Bishopton Way sign opposite, and turn left. Cross driveway and ahead on right-hand verge. At traffic lights before bridge, turn right onto canal towpath (cycle route 5 sign).
3. Ahead on towpath for 1¾ miles, under A46 bridge, passing locks, then later gardens and houses on opposite side. At wooden barrier, bear right on path which ascends to go through wooden kissing gate to road next to bridge. Turn right, cross driveway then onto pavement. Turn right down path to Wilmcote station.

Did you know?

After WW2 the southern section of the Stratford Canal had fallen into disrepair and was almost unnavigable. Despite this, attempts to close it were stymied by a canoeist who produced a toll ticket less than three years old, proving that boats still wanted to navigate the canal! It was restored and reopened in 1964.

Want an online map?

Scan the QR code or visit explore.osmaps.com



Ready for another Trail?

Discover more at www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails

