

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal - Guidance for Cyclists

Bridge Length - Heading Northwards from South (Cwmbran to Brecon)	Approx. Length (metres)	Condition Grade	Comments
End of Navigation (5 Locks) to Bridge 45	500	A	Not owned by British Waterways. Section includes crossing a road over Cymbran Tunnel
Bridge 45 to Bridge 47	800	B	Not owned by British Waterways
Bridge 47 to Bridge 52 (Pontymoile)	3000	A	Refreshment in the form of public houses is available between Bridges 48 and 52
Bridge 52 to Bridge 67	6000	B	Look out for the former cottage used to collect tolls from passing boats
Bridge 67 to Bridge 74 (Goytre Wharf)	3000	C	Goytre Wharf was built in 1810 to burn lime in the making of bricks
Bridge 74 to Bridge 84	4000	B	Literacy sculpture trail, marina, canoe and day boat hire
Bridge 84 to Bridge 89	2000	A	Bridge 84 offers superb views of the Sugar Loaf and Skirrid Mountains surrounding Abergavenny
Bridge 89 to Bridge 95	2000	B	Village of Llanellen is 1/2 mile east of Bridge 91. Author Alexander Cordell lived here. At Bridge 94 look out for the grooves worn in the stones by countless towing ropes from when the canal was busy with horse drawn boats.
Bridge 95 to Bridge 96 (Govilon)	3000	A	This section forms part of the Blaenavon World Heritage Site
Bridge 96 to Bridge 101	2000	B	Humphrey's Bridge no 100 is the lowest on the canal
Bridge 101 to Bridge 102 (Gilwern)	1000	A	Look out for the remains of the old tramroad at the point where the canal crosses the River Clydach
Bridge 102 to Bridge 103	1000	B	The oldest boating company along the canal is based here at bridge 103
Bridge 103 to Bridge 104	1000	A	Picturesque canalside location
Bridge 104 to Bridge 110	3000	B	Picturesque views of the Brecon Beacons at Sand Bridge (105)
Bridge 110 to Bridge 114 (Llangattock)	2000	C	During the 19th century Llangattock Wharf was another hive of activity with tramroads bringing limestone from the longest cave system in Britain
Bridge 114 to Bridge 121	3000	B	A short distance from the caves restored lime kilms can be found at bridge 115
Bridge 121 to Bridge 130	4000	C	Beautiful views at bridge 25 extend across Glan Usk Park
Bridge 130 to Bridge 132 (Llangynidr Lower Lock)	1000	B	Bridge 131 is an ancient narrow structure running over the River Usk
Bridge 132 to Bridge 134 (Coombes Lock)	500	A	At bridge 133 the aqueduct is an important water feeder to the canal
Bridge 134 to Bridge 163 (Brynich Lock)	13000	B	Section includes crossing a road over the Ashford Tunnel.
Bridge 163 to Bridge 166 (Brecon)	3000	A	Enjoy panoramic views of the Brecon Beacons before reaching bridge 164. The terminus of the canal is at Brecon, the largest town with the Brecon Beacon National Park.

Condition Grades

A

***A consistently even, sealed surface such as tarmac
Suitable for road cycles and novice riders
Occasional puddles form after heavy rainfall***

B

***Unsealed surface such as crushed stone
Occasional uneven surface and irregularities

Unsuitable for road cycles - use off road bikes only
Novices should take extra care
Occasional puddles form after light rainfall
Muddy in places***

C

***Unsealed surface such as grass
Consistently uneven with frequent surface irregularities
Unsuitable for road cycles and novice riders
Off-road bikes only
Experienced cyclists should take extra care
Frequent puddles form after light rainfall
Very muddy in places***

Note : this guidance is based on a condition survey undertaken in November 2009. The prevailing towpath conditions can change rapidly during times of heavy rainfall.

ENJOY YOUR CYCLING SAFELY

helmets should always be worn

bell or horn should be used on approach to all structures and blind bends

bell or horn should be used when approaching pedestrians and anglers

give way to pedestrians

proceed at 'dead slow' pace when passing by other cyclists

some bridges have very low headroom - dismounting is advisable

hedge-cutting takes place annually so be aware of hedge cuttings

contact the office for up to date towpath information

For more information on cycling safety please see the waterways code available at www.waterscape.com