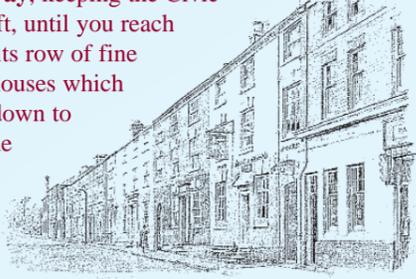


1 Leave the Riverside Car Park and turn left up **Martins Way**, keeping the Civic Centre on your left, until you reach **New Street** with its row of fine Listed Georgian houses which once had a view down to the shipping on the river.



2 Turn right and continue to the junction of the **High Street**. The curved corner building is typical of Stourport's architecture.



York Street (opposite) is on a 'terrace' overlooking the canal basins.



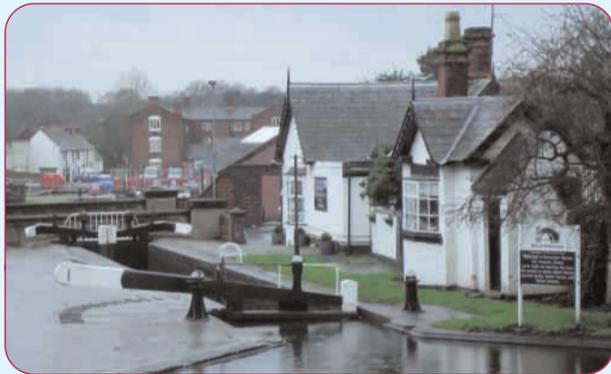
3 Turn left and walk up the **High Street** – look across at a fine row of buildings with some original shops and upper storey dwellings dating from c.1800

(the shop fronts are of a later date). Cross at the pedestrian crossing, walk back and enter the gated entrance of the Methodist Church, tucked away off the main street. The **Wesleyan Methodist Church** was built in 1788 and extended in 1812. John Wesley preached in Stourport in 1787, 1788 and 1790.

4 Turning left, walk through the garden in front of the Church towards **Parkes Passage**. At the gate turn right towards York Street, passing the **Wesleyan School rooms** on the left, erected by T.J.Baldwin for the Methodist Church in 1875.

5 On leaving **Parkes Passage** turn left into **York Street** which was named after Aaron York, boat builder, wharfinger and friend of John Wesley. In 1776 he was given permission to wheel bricks for house building over the Company's wharf on payment of 6d for the privilege.

6 The small Canal Office by the lock dates from 1853, and the cottage, now a café, was built the following year.



7 At the end of York Street, **Lion Hill** is to your left – note the attractive Georgian terrace number 10 to 14, the window heads are cast iron instead of the more usual stone. Turn left and follow the towpath alongside the canal. Walk under Lower Mitton Bridge No.5, then turn right upwards towards the road.

8 **The Black Star** appears on a map of 1802. The oldest part pre-dated Stourport and stood beside the old road. The central part was a chapel for the watermen. The Volunteers Band practised here, before the formation of the celebrated Stourport Town Band. Looking right to the top of the High Street, **The Swan Hotel** was originally a coaching inn and is named on the map of 1802 as the Swan Inn.

9 Turn left and cross the main road junction to **Mitton Street** and Gilgal to the former hamlet of **Lower Mitton** skirted by the canal. Before turning right into Severn Road notice the only timber framed house remaining from c.1600. The other old buildings of the hamlet had 'new' Georgian facades. Then turn right into **Severn Lane**, a pre-Stourport route leading to the Old Ferry House.



12 Turn left into **Mart Lane**, which takes its name from the markets which were held here before 1833, when a market hall was built on Bridge Street. The cottages on the left were built by the Canal Company. On the right, the warehouse (now a chandlery) of the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company. Note the Victorian letterbox. Vinegar was loaded here from the Brewery in Cheapside.



13 **The Clock Warehouse and Basins**, at the very heart of the town, still remain largely intact from the golden age of the canals in the late 1700's - early 1800's.

The Clock Warehouse, the focal point of the basins, was originally just a warehouse, but the famous clock was provided by public subscription in 1812. Recent restoration of the Basins has returned them to their original Georgian splendour.

Continue downwards towards the river keeping the Tontine on your right.



14 **The Tontine** (a tontine was a shareholder system, an early form of life insurance devised by an Italian, Lorenzo Tonti, in the mid 17th Century). A prestigious commercial hotel built by the Canal Company for merchants, higher grades of employee and passengers, occupied by 1773 soon after the port opened. It had separate lodgings for merchants and a fine ballroom. The porch is a Victorian addition. At this point turn left along **Severnside** to...



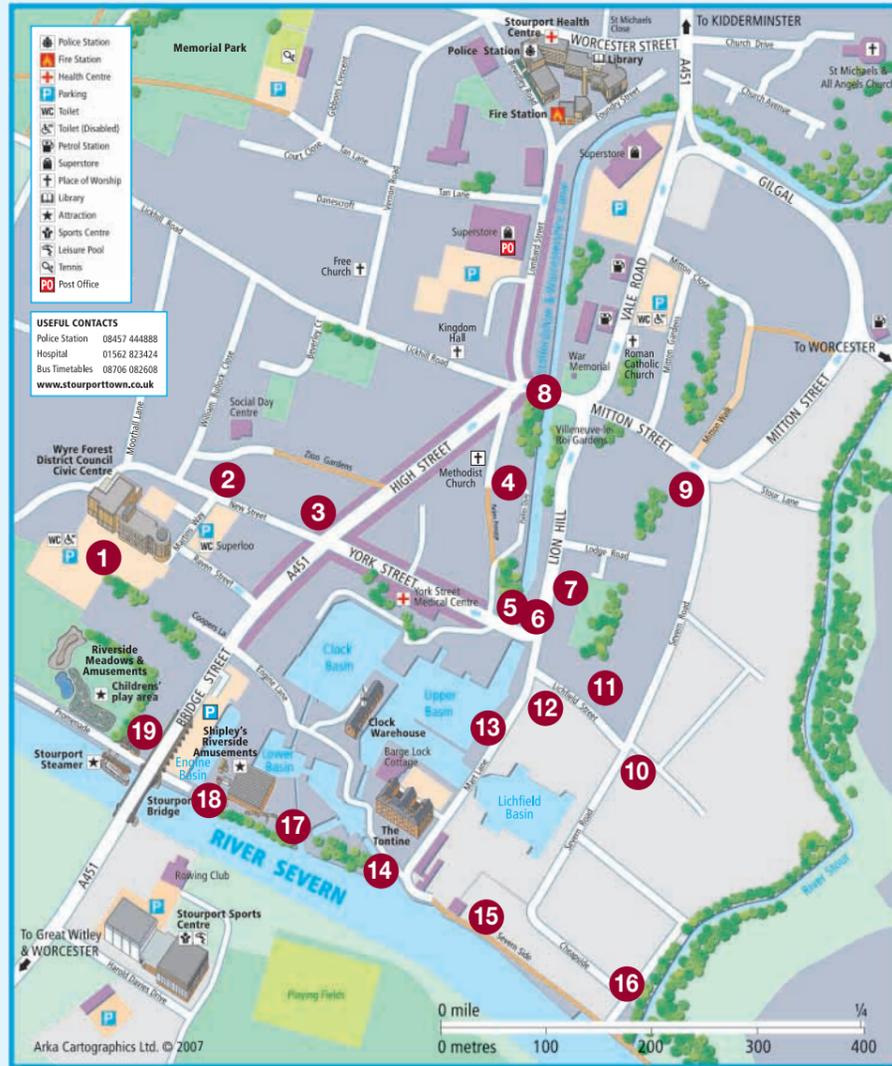
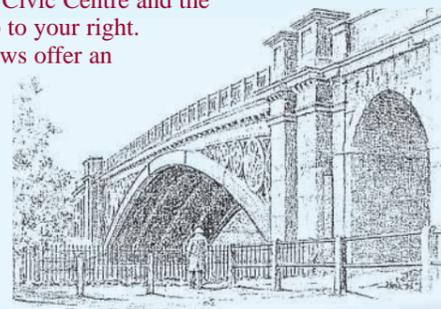
15 **The Angel**, probably mid 18th Century or earlier, an Inn serving river traffic. It appears to have been enlarged later in the century as the new town of Stourport developed – see the added upper storey.

16 **Vinegar Brewery** (founded in 1798) the oldest in the country and the only business in operation since the early days of Stourport. The Brewery was originally connected with the families of Hicken Bold and James Swann. The Company became Holbrooks Ltd in 1900 and later Sarson's. It finished production in 1998.

17 Now turn back and walk in front of the Tontine garden following the paths laid out across the grass, over the lock gate towards the large signpost indicating Wolverhampton / Worcester. Continue on along the path beside the amusement park.

18 **River Basin**, known as 'Engine' Basin because the Engine House immediately behind it used to pump water from river level up to the upper basins to keep water supplied for the locks to operate. It was also used for safe mooring off the river; the level could be raised to float trows onto the land at the side (now a car park) for repair.

19 **Bridge over the River Severn**. The third Bridge on this site, opened in 1870. The last toll was collected in 1893. The path brings you out on the riverside meadows and you will see the Civic Centre and the riverside car park up to your right. The riverside meadows offer an excellent spot to enjoy a picnic or continue your stroll along the river bank.



10 **Lichfield House** (opposite the entrance to Lichfield Street). During the Victorian period this was the family home of the Bond Worth family who owned the adjacent carpet works. Latterly it was the main office for the company until its closure in the 1990's, and demolition of the surrounding factory in 2005.



11 Turn right into **Lichfield Street** with its listed Georgian houses which originally looked out over a large basin constructed c.1806 – 1810. A smaller Basin was reinstated here in 2006. The level of Lichfield Street was raised when Wallfield Bridge (at the far end of the street) was rebuilt; the houses once had steps up to their front doors. Notice the iron balconies and 'blind windows' which are part of the original design.

