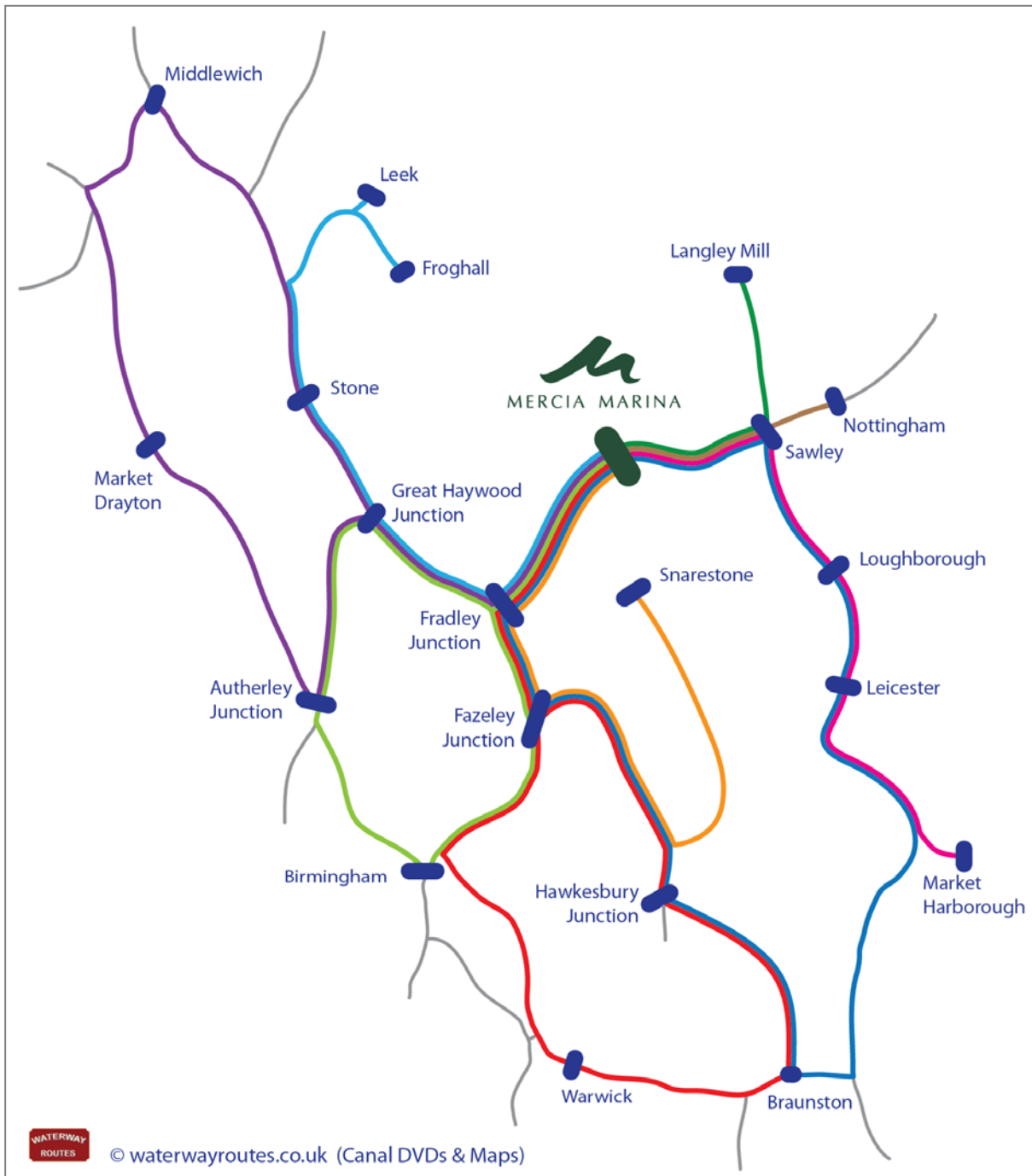


**10110502 Mercia Marina Cruising Routes v1.0 and supporting text**



## A Weekend

 **Fradley Junction** 30 Miles, 22 Locks, 16 Hours, 2 Days (for return journey)

A gentle cruise through the narrow locks to the west, or stop early at Alrewas.

 **Sawley** 24 Miles, 14 Locks, 11 Hours, 2 Days (for return journey)

A little more energetic with the broad locks to the east, or stop early at Shardlow.

## A Long Weekend

 **Great Heywood Junction** 55 Miles, 32 Locks, 27 Hours, 4 Days (for return journey)

Through the narrow locks of the Trent & Mersey Canal, turning to the North at Fradley Junction. Shugborough Hall and Tixall Wide are both within a mile of the junction.

 **Fazeley Junction** 52 Miles, 22 Locks, 24 Hours, 3 Days (for return journey)

Turning to the South at Fradley Junction this time to reach Fazeley Junction with Drayton Manor Park nearby.

 **Langley Mill** 51 Miles, 46 Locks, 27 Hours, 4 Days (for return journey)

Cruising through the broad locks to the east to the cross roads at Trent Junction, then north through the Erewash Canal to reach the Great Northern Basin at Langley Mill.

 **Nottingham** 44 Miles, 24 Locks, 20 Hours, 3 Days (for return journey)

Straight on at Trent Junction to the twisting River Trent leads to Nottingham and all the attractions of a modern city.

 **Loughborough** 46 Miles, 30 Locks, 21 Hours, 3 Days (for return journey)

Turning right at Trent Junction leads along the unspoilt River Soar to reach Loughborough Basin with still more eating, drinking and shopping opportunities.

## A Week

 **Stone** 75 Miles, 44 Locks, 38 Hours, 5 Days (for return journey)

With narrow locks all the way this leisurely week allows time for plenty of stops along the way, or even cruising a little further into the potteries.

 **Leicester** 77 Miles, 52 Locks, 36 Hours, 5 Days (for return journey)

Broad locks make this a little more demanding, but bringing greater satisfaction, to see the attractive River Soar and reach the attractions of a modern city.

 **Market Harborough** 124 Miles, 100 Locks, 4 Bridges, 2 Tunnels, 64 Hours, 8 Days (for return journey)

A busy week, best including both weekends, this rewarding journey passes the foot of the staircase locks at Foxton with the visitor centre and inclined plane. With the novelty of opening bridges too.

 **Black Country Ring** 105 Miles, 101 Locks, 1 Bridge, 4 Tunnels, 61 Hours, 8 Days (ring and return)

Another busy week, best including both weekends, provides the wonderful mix of countryside and city landscapes, with narrow locks all the way, and the only cruising ring which can be completed in a week.

## A Fortnight

 **Froghall and Leek** (132 Miles, 104 Locks, 6 Bridges, 4 Tunnels, 74 Hours, 10 Days (for return journey)

Into the potteries and, after Stoke on Trent, on of the most attractive canals in the country. Time to dawdle along, or head a little further north, through the Harecastle Tunnel.

 **Snarestone** (174 Miles, 48 Locks, 2 Opening Bridges, 2 Tunnels, 78 Hours, 10 Days (for return journey)

Narrow locks until the left turn at Moria Junction onto the Ashby Canal for several days of lock free cruising passing many small villages with tempting moorings.

 **East Midlands Ring** 150 Miles, 101 Locks, 3 Bridges, 4 Tunnels, 76 Hours, 10 Days (ring and return)

Probably best done clockwise with the river section and broad locks first, allowing more time to relax through the gentler narrow canals later. Includes the Foxton and Watford Staircase Locks.

 **Warwickshire Ring** 148 Miles, 116 Locks, 3 Bridges, 2 Tunnels, 81 Hours, 11 Days (ring and return)

Includes the mighty Hatton Flight of 21 Locks on the Grand Union Canal, and the narrow Coventry and Oxford Canals. There's plenty of time to detour into Birmingham too if you'd like the alternative route.

 **Four Counties Ring** 165 Miles, 126 Locks, 2 Tunnels, 90 Hours, 12 Days (ring and return)

Narrow locks all the way make this an attractive ring, which includes the famous Harecastle Tunnel and the delightful Staffs and Worcester Canal with its well spaced locks.