

UNDERPASS

DROITWICH SPA

Art Trail



Discover 7 stunning pieces of beautiful art

• Fun facts • Create your own underpass artwork

ENJOY THE DROITWICH SPA UNDERPASS *Trail*

We have transformed seven boring, dull underpasses into stunning outdoor pieces of art to be enjoyed by everyone.

Each piece of art was created based on feedback and inspiration from the local community. They celebrate the environment and community of the town and locally important figures, as well as some of the passions of its residents.

In this guide you will find out more about the artists who created the artwork and the story behind each piece.

There are also some fun facts, quiz questions and activities for all ages you can do along the way.

The trail was funded by Wychavon District Council, Droitwich Spa Town Council, Safer Streets funding from the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

A huge thank you to everyone who responded to the community consultation and took part in the design development workshops, as well as those on the project steering group. This included Droitwich Arts Network, Westlands Residents Group, Droitwich Action for Future Youth, Droitwich Spa Youth Council, Droitwich Spa High School, Platform Housing Group, Droitwich Standard, local councillors and West Mercia Police.

We are also grateful to Worcestershire County Council for their support and work to upgrade the lighting of the underpasses.

We hope you enjoy exploring these beautiful pieces of art as much as we enjoyed creating them.

Best wishes,

Droitwich Spa Underpass Art Project Group



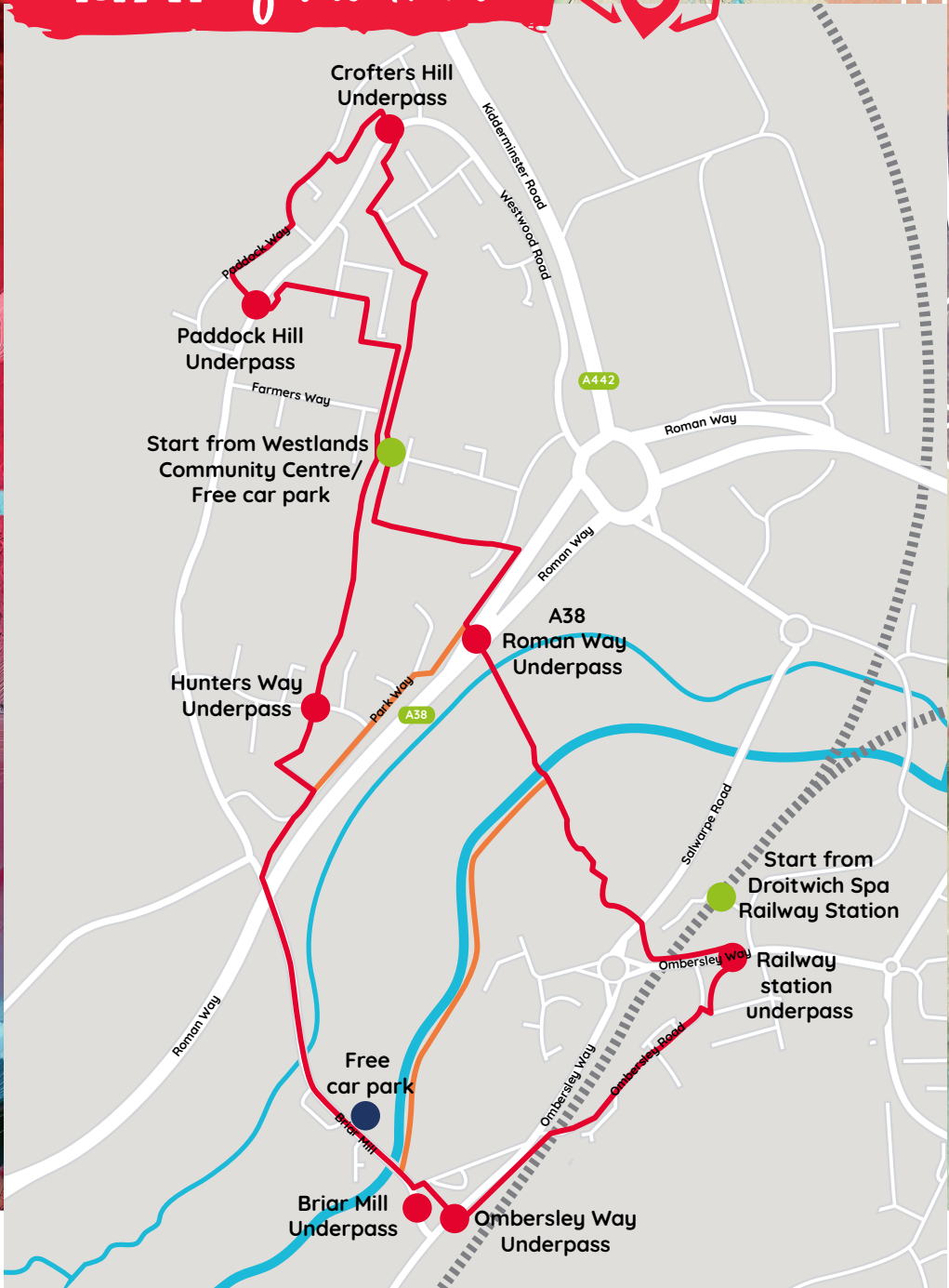
Funded by
UK Government

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**



**WYCHAVON
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
good services, good value

MAP of the Trail





HOW TO EXPLORE *the Trail*

The best way to explore the trail is by walking, cycling or wheeling. If you find walking difficult, then you can also enjoy the trail by car, although on-street parking isn't easily accessible in every location so please park considerately and plan ahead.

If you are exploring the trail on foot or by wheels then on the opposite page is a map of a suggested circular route you can take, starting from either Droitwich Spa Railway Station or the car park by Westlands Community Centre.

PLANNING *your route*

If you do not fancy using our suggested route then you can plan your own.

We recommend you use the **What 3 Words** app and **Google Maps** to navigate your way around and design your own route.

1. Visit www.what3words.com. You can also download the app by searching for What 3 Words in the App or Google Play stores.
2. Type in the unique set of words shown below each underpass in the column opposite. Remember to include the full stops.
3. Then click navigate. You can then choose Google Maps or another of the suggested apps to create a route by car, foot or wheels.

THE *Underpasses*

 [what3words](https://www.what3words.com)



CROFTERS HILL

[spent.glory.hotels](https://www.spent.glory.hotels)



BRIAR MILL

[sooner.feeds.police](https://www.sooner.feeds.police)



PADDOCK HILL

[nurses.dishes.entitles](https://www.nurses.dishes.entitles)



HUNTERS WAY

[polite.estimate.relocated](https://www.polite.estimate.relocated)



OMBERSLEY WAY

[humble.behind.sober](https://www.humble.behind.sober)



PLAYING FIELDS (ROMAN WAY)

[tapes.speech.places](https://www.tapes.speech.places)



DROITWICH SPA RAILWAY STATION

[dated.bunch.seats](https://www.dated.bunch.seats)

CROFTERS HILL



About THE ARTIST

Graffiti art specialist **Andrew Mills** – otherwise known as ‘**Title**’ – has produced work for a number of leading brands including Nike and Microsoft. During the Covid-19 pandemic he created a mural in Tamworth in tribute to Captain Tom, who raised millions for NHS charities, to mark his 100th birthday.

About THE ARTWORK

Title worked with young people from local youth group **DAFFY** to review the responses to a residents’ survey and come up with a design. The group were keen to celebrate the community of the Westlands and for the design to be bright, colourful and positive. Nature was a popular theme from the survey and aspects of this can be seen throughout the design.

CAN YOU SPOT?



How many musical notes are on both walls?

Answer at the bottom of the page.



Answer: there are 12 musical notes.

BRIAR MILL



About THE ARTIST

Curtis Hylton and Andy 'Dice' Davies were involved in creating this artwork. Find out more about them on the Ombersley Way underpass page.

About THE ARTWORK

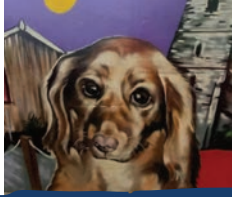
The pair worked with pupils from St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School on this design. It was again inspired heavily by the nature theme that came through from the community consultation, as well as pupils' love of the sea and marine life.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAVE?

The design features a shipwreck. If you could only save three things from a shipwreck from the list below, what would they be and why?

- A mosquito net
- A can of petrol
- A water container
- A shaving mirror
- A sextant
- Emergency rations
- A sea chart
- A rope
- A floating seat or cushion
- A fishing rod
- Shark repellent
- A bottle of rum
- A VHF radio
- Some chocolate bars
- A waterproof sheet

Thanks to Droitwich Spa High School for the inspiration for this challenge.



PADDOCK HILL

About **THE ARTIST**

Andrew 'Title' Mills was also responsible for producing this amazing piece of artwork. Read more about Title on the Crofters Hill underpass page.

About **THE ARTWORK**

After reviewing feedback from the community consultation, the group from The Cabin at Droitwich Spa High School was keen the design should celebrate the community, Droitwich's history and provide positive inspiration. An Alice in Wonderland theme was chosen as a creative and inspiring way to bring together different stories from the town. The design features famous people from Droitwich Spa's past, as well as local landmarks. There is also a crown as a tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II as the artwork was produced in the year of her Platinum Jubilee.

DID YOU SPOT?



Famous comedian, writer and actor Rik Mayall can be seen playing the role of the Mad Hatter. Rik was born and grew up in Droitwich Spa. His best known work includes *The Young Ones*, *Blackadder* and *Bottom*. Rik passed away in 2014.

The dog in the design isn't just any dog. She is called Bella and is the therapy dog from the Cabin at Droitwich Spa High School. The Cabin is used by the whole community for a variety of reasons including adult education programmes.

The head on one of the playing cards is that of John Corbett, who built a great fortune building Europe's largest salt business during the 1800s, earning him the nickname locally of *The Salt King*. He built the Chateau Impney, which can also be seen in the artwork, for his French wife. John was a philanthropist, who reinvested some of his profits into improving conditions and wages for his workers. He represented Droitwich Spa in Parliament as a Liberal from 1874 to 1892.

HUNTERS WAY

About THE ARTIST

A Worcester based female duo who go by the name of **Chroma Chameleons** and are committed to bringing colour and pattern to the streets. Their previous work includes giving a facelift to Worcester's old Co-op building and they are also responsible for the loan shark mural on Westlands Community Centre.



About THE ARTWORK

The artists worked with pupils from Westlands First School, who asked for a swimming/water theme as they use the underpass to walk to nearby Droitwich Leisure Centre for their weekly swimming lessons. They also drew inspiration from the art deco posters used by railway companies to advertise trips to the coast during the 1930s.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

The artists deliberately didn't put faces on their characters. Why do you think that was?
Answer at the bottom of the page.



ROMAN WAY (A38)

About THE ARTIST

Illustrator, street artist and arts workshop aficionado **Toddjerm** is the creative genius behind this artwork. His previous work has included pieces for streaming giant Netflix and communications company Virgin.



About THE ARTWORK

This is the biggest of all the designs stretching 30 metres on each side of the underpass. Community workshops were held locally to come up with inspiration for the design. The design celebrates the strength of the Westlands community as well as celebrating the 'sport for all' theme, with the King George V Playing Fields and Droitwich Spa Leisure Centre nearby.

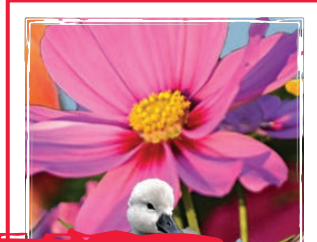
CAN YOU SPOT?



How many different sports are being played in the artwork?
Answer at the bottom of the page.



Answer: There are 15 with 12 on one side and three on the other.



OMBERSLEY WAY

About THE ARTIST

This design was a joint project between **Curtis Hylton** and **Andy 'Dice' Davies**.

Andy has painted for the Sky Arts Studio, The Holst Museum and Arsenal Football Club and supported young people from DAFFY to create a separate mural at Westlands Community Centre.

Curtis is a much sought-after artist whose work explores environmental issues. He has painted across the UK and internationally.

About THE ARTWORK

The pair worked with young people from Westacre Middle School on the design. It reflects the importance of nature to local people which came through strongly in the residents survey. Pupils also wanted a cool, space inspired theme for part of the design, which is reflected in the alien creatures landing and discovering all the wonders of Droitwich Spa.

DO YOU KNOW?



What species of rare bird is featured on part of the wall?

Answer at the bottom of the page.



Answer: The Golden Oriole. The same size as a blackbird, the Golden Oriole is a secretive creature that stays high up in trees and has a distinctive fluting whistle. It was included in the design after one was spotted locally in May 2021.

DROITWICH SPA RAILWAY STATION



About THE ARTIST

7th Pencil has over 12 years experience creating public art projects. Former clients include Heineken and Bloomsbury, publisher of the Harry Potter books.

About THE ARTWORK

Droitwich Spa High School students helped inform this design. Mirror images of women past and present lead the artwork, with their thoughts, memories and inspiration flowing through the piece.

One wall speaks to the natural and contemporary elements of the town, joined by the flow of the longwave signal. The other wall features a woman nostalgically recalling the town's history, with the flow referencing the subsidence following brine extraction as well as the uneven journey of time. The molecules of salt from her head lead via the salt worker statue to the historic brine pump, and the railway station.

CAN YOU SPOT?

The water and fountains which are a reference to Droitwich Spa Lido.

The Pamela May 2 community boat is a link to Droitwich Spa's canals which were re-opened in 2011.



DID YOU KNOW?

The longwave radio signal is a reference to Droitwich Transmitting Station, situated on the edge of the town. Installed in 1934, the site is home to the BBC's most powerful long wave transmitter. During the Second World War the transmitter was used to send coded messages, read during normal programmes, to the French Resistance.

The nearby railway station was built on land donated by Salt King John Corbett, who features on the Paddock Hill underpass, and opened in 1899.

WHO IS THAT WOMAN?



The contemplative woman is a representation of Mother Earth and highlights the importance of us looking after our green spaces and ourselves by experiencing and enjoying them.

Droitwich Spa has some beautiful award-winning parks including Lido Park, Vines Park and St Peters Field, which are represented by the trees, flowers and wildlife in the design.

NOW IT'S *your turn...*

Use this page to create your own underpass art. What will you design? Share your designs with us on social media @DroitwichUnderpassArt

