

Droitwich & Worcester area guide

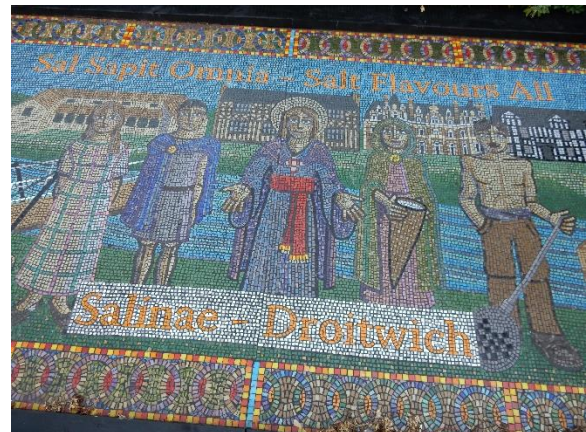
Postcode district: WR2, WR3 & WR9

Location

The Droitwich & Worcester districts lie within or include part of the following towns, counties and localities: Aboretum, Baldwin, Bedwardine, Bevere, Berry Hill Industrial Estate, Blakedown, Bowbrook, Broad Common, Broadheath, Broughton Green, Callow End, Chatley, Claines, Copcut, Crown East, Cutnall Green, Cutnall Green, Dodderhill, Doverdale, Droitwich, Droitwich Central, Droitwich East, Droitwich South East, Droitwich South West, Droitwich West, Dunhampstead, Earls Common, Elmbridge, Elmley Lovett, Fernhill Heath, Grimley, Hadley, Hadzor, Hallow, Hampton Lovett, Hanbury, Hawford, Himbleton, Hindlip, Huddington, Impney, Inkberrow, Ladywood, Long Headland, Lovett, Lower Broadheath, Lower Wick, Martin Hussingtree, Martley, Newland, Oddingley, Ombersley, Phepson, Powick, Primsland, Purshall Green, Ranbow Hill, Rashwood, Rishock, Rushwick, St Clement, St John, St Johns, Saleway, Salwarpe, Shell, Shernal Green, Sneads Green, Tibberton, Uphampton, Warndon, Westlands, Worcester, Worcestershire, Wychbold,

History

Droitwich Spa (often abbreviated to Droitwich) is a town in northern Worcestershire, England, on the River Salwarpe. The town was called Salina in Roman times, then later called Wyche, derived from the Anglo Saxon Hwicce kingdom, referred to as "Saltwich" according to Anglo Saxon charters, with the Droit (meaning "right") added when the town was given its charter on 1 August 1215 by King John. The "Spa" was added in the 19th century when John Corbett developed the town's spa facilities. The River Salwarpe running through Droitwich is likely derived from Sal meaning "salt" and weorp which means "to throw up" i.e. "the river which throws up salt" which overflows from the salt brines.



The town Droitwich is situated on massive deposits of salt, and salt has been extracted there since ancient times. The natural Droitwich brine contains 2½ lbs. of salt per gallon - ten times stronger than sea water and rivalled only by the Dead Sea.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Worcester was a major centre for glove making, employing nearly half the glovers in England at its peak (over 30,000 people). In 1815 the Worcester and Birmingham Canal opened, allowing Worcester goods to be transported to a larger conurbation. One of Worcester's most famous products, Lea & Perrins Worcestershire sauce is made and bottled in the Midland Road factory in Worcester, which has been the home of Lea & Perrins since 16 October 1897.

Present day

On the outskirts of Droitwich is the famous Chateau Impney, built in the style of a traditional French chateau, which is now a hotel, restaurant and conference centre. In Droitwich, the Raven Hotel is a wattle and daub hotel that holds a central position within the town.



The River Severn runs through the middle of Worcester, overlooked by the 12th-century Worcester Cathedral. The site of the final battle of the Civil War, Worcester was where Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army defeated King Charles II's Cavaliers, cementing the English Interregnum, the eleven-year period during which England and Wales became a republic. Worcester was the home of Royal Worcester Porcelain and, for much of his life, the composer Sir Edward Elgar.



Probably the most famous landmark in Worcester is its imposing cathedral. The current building, formally named The Cathedral Church of Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary, was begun in 1084 while its crypt dates from the 10th century. The chapter house is the only circular one in the country while the cathedral also has the distinction of having the tomb of King John. Limited parts of the city wall still remain.



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Amenities

Droitwich shopping is mainly focused in the traditional town centre around Victoria Square, leading to the St Andrew's Square shopping centre and down to the original High Street, with its local pubs and an eclectic mix of traditional shops. Farmers' markets are also held regularly in Victoria Square.

The Lido Park remains a pleasant and popular space, with Droitwich Cricket Ground on its edge as well as a bandstand with regular performances



The latest landmark is Worcestershire's new central library, 'The Hive', a striking seven tower gold roofed building sited on the north bank of the river on the former cattle market.

Worcester is home to the University of Worcester, which was awarded university status in 2005 by HM Privy Council. From 2005 to 2010 it was the fastest growing university in the UK, more than doubling its student population.

Average current values

	WR2	WR3	WR9	WR	National
1 Bedroom properties	£121,100	£123,100	£117,100	£119,000	£181,400
2 Bedroom properties	£171,800	£159,900	£159,900	£170,000	£197,600
3 Bedroom properties	£202,100	£210,600	£197,100	£212,700	£224,400
4 Bedroom properties	£310,600	£ 323,500	£313,300	£334,100	£389,900
5+ Bedroom properties	£378,700	£437,400	£477,100	£483,300	£684,400

Housing stock

	WR2	WR3	WR9	WR	National
Total Detached	3,884	2,417	5,928	49,366	6,525,948
% Detached	30.00%	26.05%	41.79%	37.04%	23.18%
Semi-Detached	5,229	3,374	3,883	40,126	7,984,262
% Semi-Detached	40.38%	36.36%	27.38%	30.11%	28.36%

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Terrace	3,278	2,463	2,698	29,741	8,758,894
% Terrace	25.32%	26.54%	19.02%	22.32%	31.11%
Flat	557	1,025	1,678	14,043	4,889,111
% Flat	4.30%	11.05%	11.81%	10.54%	17.36%

Home ownership

	WR2	WR3	WR9	WR	National
Owner Occupied	8,855	6,879	9,390	85,080	14,853,678
% Owner Occupied	73.01%	77.36%	71.11%	63.84%	63.57%
Socially Rented	1,424	701	2,390	18,237	4,118,461
% Socially Rented	11.74%	7.99%	18.10%	13.68%	17.63%

House prices last updated 1st October 2014. Housing stock notes: The data above illustrates the relative proportions of the differing types of property. Based on information collected in the 2011 census, the percentages provide an indication of how common particular types of housing are within the postcode district. It is important to note that as homes are demolished and built these percentages will fluctuate accordingly.