

## RIVER TRENT Holme Pierrepont to Clifton Weir Moderate Trail

### Route Summary

This is a very easy trip to undertake. The Trent is broad and slow-flowing, and the river through the city is thankfully very user-friendly, and there is plenty to see.

**Nearest Town** – Nottingham

**O.S. Sheets** – (1:50 000) Nottingham & Loughborough Sheet 129

### Start and Finish

Holme Pierrepont Car Park  
Nottingham  
Nottinghamshire  
NG12 2LU

National Water Sports Centre car park, use the un-surfaced car park just before White Water course. When driving in, the lake can be glimpsed on the right, and just before the white water course is an un-surfaced car park on the left side, with easy access to the river down a slipway. Please check on the [National Waters Sports Centre](#) website for any major events which may be running.

**Type of Water** - Urban and rural river

**Distance** – 12 miles but as it is an out and back trail you can turn whenever you choose to.

### Licence Information

A license to paddle the river is included in the [Canoe England membership](#) fee. Otherwise licences can be obtained from [Canal & River Trust](#) or [Waterscape](#) (Take your Canoe England membership card with you as it is your licence as well)

### Local Facilities

At Holme Pierrepont there is parking and toilet facilities as well as two cafés. They are not always open but you may catch a day when they are.



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## Description

This trail can be undertaken by embarking in the city centre near to Wilford Bridge, but as parking is not always to be found (mainly due to the nearby football grounds), using the [National Watersports Centre](#) is recommended, which will always give parking, unless a major canoeing competition is on. The trip can therefore be as far upriver as one wishes to go, merely turning around when wanting to drift back to the start point.

All canoeists should really be familiar with the Holme Pierrepont set-up, even if not competition paddlers. An artificial canoe slalom course has been built using water taken off the Trent, and then returned lower down, and the course has been re-built and improved in recent years. Just away from the river is the rectangular sprint regatta course lake, and the buildings of the National Watersports Centre (NWSC), which is clearly signposted on brown signs from all directions.

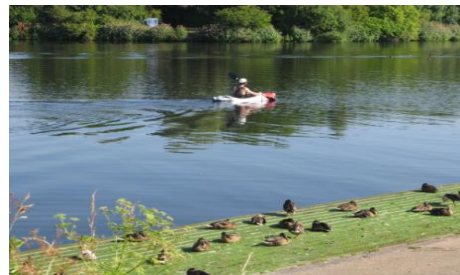
It is about a mile and a half upstream to Trent Bridge, and it can be busy, especially at weekends, but also at other times. There is both a Sea Cadet centre on the right bank, and a sailing club on the left. The Trent from [Nottingham](#) down is also a major commercial conduit, and carries traffic down to the Humber, so keep a look-out for large craft. After a large culvert on the right bank is the canal depot, a large dock you can paddle into.



The first bridge is Ladybay Bridge, and on the left bank are both a rowing club and Nottingham Kayak Club, which means being in the presence of long racing kayaks, which can move very fast.

You can now see both the Nottingham Forest Football ground and Trent Bridge Cricket Ground on the left side Notts County is on the right bank- the reason for little car parking on some weekends!

On the right bank, the [Nottingham Canal](#) leaves, bound for a major canal junction to the west of the city, with connecting routes to the West Midlands, Merseyside, and London, a relic of the times when this was a very major water-borne route centre. On the left, behind you, are the remains of the former (now closed) Grantham canal. The Nottingham end was severed by new road building, and the canal was closed in 1936. There are currently plans (as in many parts of England), for a re-opening, but both the Grantham and Nottingham ends would require totally new routes. There are two tiny sections of canal still open along the route.



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After Trent Bridge itself, a very busy arterial road for Nottingham, the river opens out into a very pleasant stretch, with a stepped embankment all along the north (right) side, giving access on to the water, and a tree-lined riverside road. There can be many fishermen on this bank as well, as access is so easy.

The river winds around a long right-hand bend to a footbridge in a mile, and then a long left-hand bend to Clifton Bridge, carrying the western ring road for the city. After another mile and half, with the scenery becoming even greener, a sharp bend to the right takes the paddler to the turn-a-round point of Clifton weir and lock.

After heading the current for the 6 miles upstream, the canoeist can drift back at leisure.

### **Recommended Next Trail**

If you have enjoyed this trail why not try out one of the many trails available.

### **Useful Information**

It is worth having a walk around Holme Pierrepont to see everything, and there are two cafes on site, a picnic site, a campsite, [accommodation](#), a country park, and at least one canoe retailer. If coming from the south, on the M1, the signs are picked up approaching Nottingham before [Trent Bridge](#).

### **[River Level Advice](#)**

One day in Nottingham is never enough ... see why [here](#)

### **Safety Information**

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great workout and spend time with family and friends.. However, it can also be a dangerous journey, if safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules and comply with navigation rules- keep to the right of on-coming boats. Please be careful at points along the trail where there are sharp bends on the waterway and keep a look out at these points for oncoming traffic.

### **Wear appropriate clothing**

Always wear shoes. Rocks, rough terrain and river beds present serious hazards to boaters without the proper attire. Nearly 90per cent of all boating injuries are attributed to lack of proper footwear. Other canoe safe clothing includes hats, additional dry clothing towels, and layered items which can easily be removed.

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### Be sure to

- Know the weather forecast before you set out canoeing.
  - Familiarise yourself with the local area, it's sensitive places and protected areas.
  - Leave the environment as you found it. Please read [You, Your Canoe and the environment](#)
  - Take your litter home with you.
  - Follow the navigation rules for the waterway you are on.
  - Keep noise to a minimum.
  - Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing. (No Seal Launching)
  - Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
  - Canoe a safe distance away from wildlife.
  - Check your equipment.
  - Observe the navigation rules for this waterway.
  - Check to see if there are any events on the waterways when you wish to travel.
- Use the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need.

### Checklist:

1. Boat
2. Paddle
3. Buoyancy Aid
4. Bailer/sponge
5. Small First Aid Kit
6. Penknife
7. Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag....Please note that in some areas due to the location mobile telephone reception might be nonexistent)
8. Fresh drinking water
9. Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
10. Light waterproof jacket
11. Footwear
12. Licence

ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

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## Specific Environmental Information

Please ensure you don't remove or damage any plants or animals from the waterway as they may be protected or harmful if transferred to other catchments.

Canoeists and kayakers take very seriously environmental concerns and already follow existing voluntary environmental codes of conduct, including Canoe England's own guidance notes outlined in the "You your canoe and the environment" publication.

By following the simple steps below you can ensure your presence is not detrimental to the freshwater environment, minimize and avoid accidentally disturbing wildlife and their habitats.

- Find out about the area before you go, noting its sensitive places, species and breeding seasons.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take your litter home with you.
- When clearing litter left by others, handle it with care.
- Leave the environment as you find it
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not "seal" launch or drag boats to avoid wearing away natural banks. Float your canoe for launching, lift out when landing and carry it to and from the water.
- Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing.
- Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.
- On rivers, avoid paddling over gravel banks in low water conditions – they may contain fish spawn.
- Constantly assess wildlife. If you see signs of disturbance move away quietly.

Be the eyes and ears on the water. Report pollution, wildlife problems, damage, incidents etc to the relevant authorities.

Canal & River Trust - Emergencies- Telephone 0800 47 999 47

RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress – Telephone 0990 55 59 99 (24 hours)

Environment Agency - Telephone 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)

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