

Canoeists' guide to the River Sever

Mobile Adventure



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**



Canoeing on the River Sever

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Introduction

This guide is intended to provide useful information for canoeists using the River Severn. It contains a detailed itinerary for a trip down the river, together with other information to help you plan and enjoy your canoeing trip.

It has been produced by the Midlands Region of the Environment Agency. We have a duty under Section 16 of the Water Resource Act 1991 to promote the use of inland and coastal waters, and land associated with such waters for recreational purposes.

We would like to thank Roger and Sue Drummond for their contribution to this guide and DJ Pannett for the information on fish weirs and Dr J Whitehead for advice prepared for the British Canoe Union (BCU) on Leptospirosis.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within the guide is accurate. No liability can be accepted for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions. In particular, readers should be aware that details such as land ownership, campsites and landing places can change from year to year.

The River Severn

The Severn, Britain's longest river, rises on the slopes of Plynlimon in the Cambrian Mountains. It drops quickly through the Hafren Forest to Llanidloes and follows a generally north-easterly course through the quietly undulating hills of Powys until it meets the River Vyrnwy, where together they create a huge flood plain on the borders of England and Wales. The river then flows eastwards through the narrow Ironbridge Gorge, deepening and widening in Worcestershire, and becoming tidal in Gloucestershire, before finally emptying into the sea in the Bristol Channel.

Throughout much of its length the Severn remains a natural waterway, wild and unspoilt in its upper reaches. Dippers, Little Ringed Plovers, Herons, Swans, Dragonflies, Damselflies and Otters are examples of wildlife dependent on the river. It contains nearly every native species of freshwater fish in the British Isles, including Salmon, Trout, Eels, and coarse fish, together with rare Twite and Allis Shad.

It is the unspoilt state of the Severn that gives the canoeist some of the best journeying river to be found in Britain. The few towns along its course do not intrude and lack of riverside properties in the upper sections gives a 'wildness' feeling which is not easy to achieve in central England today.

Below Gloucester the Severn is tidal. Canoeing beyond Gloucester is possible, but not recommended and falls beyond the scope of this guide.

The Severn Bore

The Severn Bore is a naturally occurring tide wave. This natural phenomenon occurs in the lower reaches of a few rivers throughout the world with large tidal ranges.



The Severn Bore

The Severn Estuary has the second highest tidal range in the world and the difference between the lowest and highest tide in any one day can be more than 14.5 metres. The Severn Bore has been known to reach two metres in height and its average speed is 16km per hour. High or Spring tides occur on several days in each lunar cycle throughout the year. It usually appears during high Spring tides; winter floods and the resulting rise in water level can affect its size. The size of a bore can also be affected by opposing winds or high freshwater levels which reduce its height and delay its time of arrival, whereas a following wind can increase its height and advance the time it arrives. There is no true Severn Bore upstream of Gloucester because of weirs on the twin-armed channel near the city.

Fish weirs

Special features of the River Severn are the sites and islands of ancient fish weirs created by large estates, medieval manors and monastic establishments to trap fish. Designed to catch migrating fish including Eels and Salmon, they were constructed of a wattle fence, supported by timber braces and piles, running across the river to form one or more v-shaped funnels pointing down stream.

At various times in history fish weirs were closed, and eventually trapping fish by this method became illegal. In many cases the navigable barge gutter has silted up and disappeared but several of these islands remain in Shropshire.

Navigation

Once one of the great navigable rivers, the Severn is now used mainly by recreational boaters. The days of barges and trows are all gone and the modern Severn is travelled by canoes, kayaks, and small powerboats and in the lower reaches, by cruisers of all sizes.

At times of flood the Severn can rise rapidly, particularly in the upper reaches and can reach a level of over five metres above its normal summer height. It is not uncommon for the river to rise higher than its banks and spread out over the surrounding floodplain several times in the course of a normal winter. Flash floods can occur in the summer.

Although navigation brought trade and wealth to the inland towns along its course, it was never totally reliable, being dependent upon the level of water, which was often too low in summer and flooded in winter. A tow path, which ran alongside the river, was used for hauling boats upstream, firstly by gangs of men and later by horses. Trade varied throughout the centuries eventually falling into decline perhaps with the advent of the railways.

Access

The public right of navigation existing on the Severn gives everyone the right to navigate from Pool Quay, near Welshpool, to Stourport. From Pool Quay to Stourport the river is generally hazard free, with the exception of Shrewsbury Weir and the rapids at Jackfield and Eymore. From Stourport to Gloucester, British Waterways are the navigation authority and a licence is required. The right of navigation, however, does not give the canoeist the right to cross privately owned land or launch a boat without landowner permission.

Locks and weirs on the River Severn

Locks

The locks on the River Severn were built to enable navigation of the river by the many trading craft of yesteryear, carrying narrow boats, barges towed by steam tugs as well as Severn trows. The locks were, by necessity, built large and this means that canoes are discouraged from using the locks and should be lifted out and carried around.



Tewkesbury Weir

The following guidelines will be helpful if it is not possible to lift the canoe (portage) around the locks.

Prior notice of arrival and numbers to be advised to the lock keeper.

- powered craft to be given precedence
- lock keepers' directions and instructions must be followed without question
- lock keeper should be advised if large groups are using the river.

Telephone numbers are included at the end of the guide.

Weirs

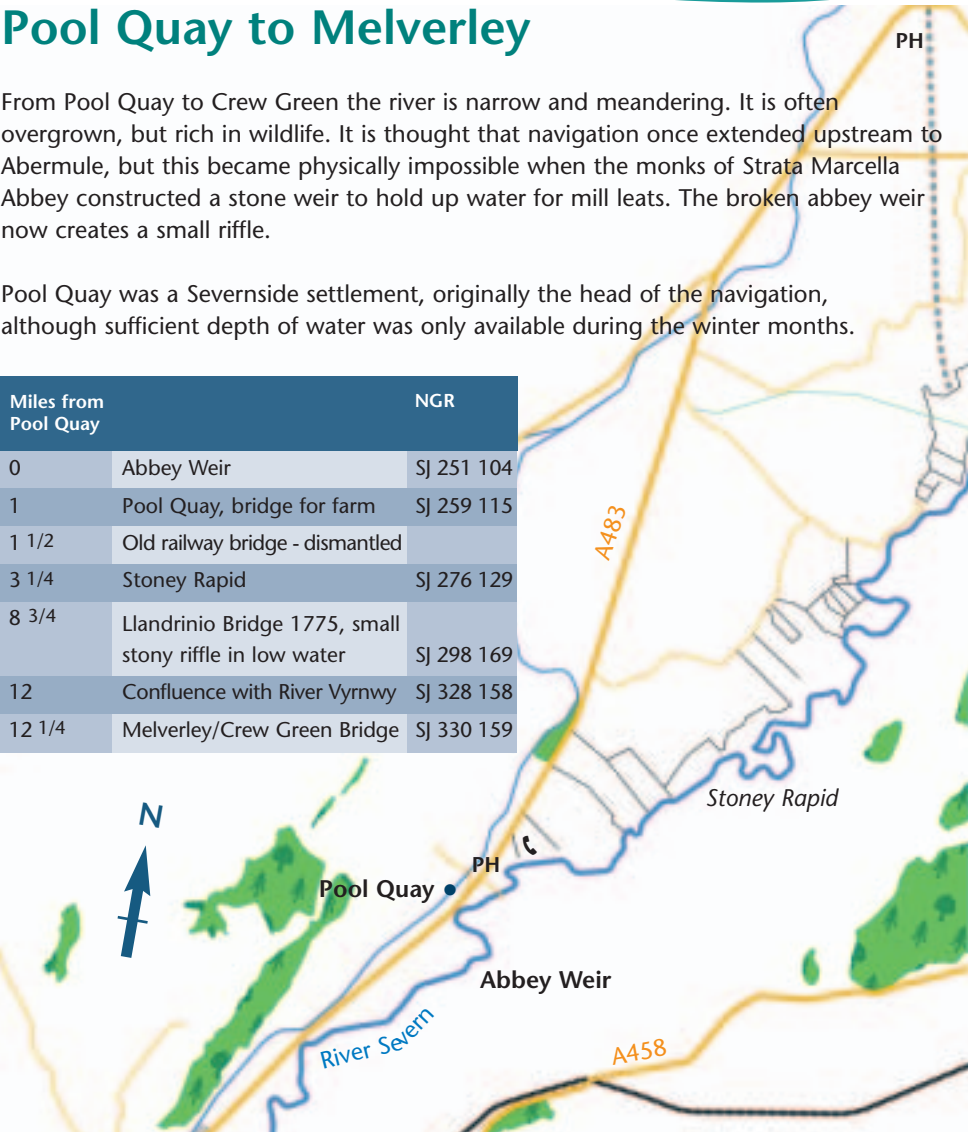
Each lock has an accompanying weir. The 'shooting' of the weir is not allowed and is prohibited under the British Waterways byelaws.

Pool Quay to Melverley

From Pool Quay to Crew Green the river is narrow and meandering. It is often overgrown, but rich in wildlife. It is thought that navigation once extended upstream to Abermule, but this became physically impossible when the monks of Strata Marcella Abbey constructed a stone weir to hold up water for mill leats. The broken abbey weir now creates a small riffle.

Pool Quay was a Severnside settlement, originally the head of the navigation, although sufficient depth of water was only available during the winter months.

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
0	Abbey Weir	SJ 251 104
1	Pool Quay, bridge for farm	SJ 259 115
1 1/2	Old railway bridge - dismantled	
3 1/4	Stoney Rapid	SJ 276 129
8 3/4	Llandrinio Bridge 1775, small stony riffle in low water	SJ 298 169
12	Confluence with River Vyrnwy	SJ 328 158
12 1/4	Molverley/Crew Green Bridge	SJ 330 159



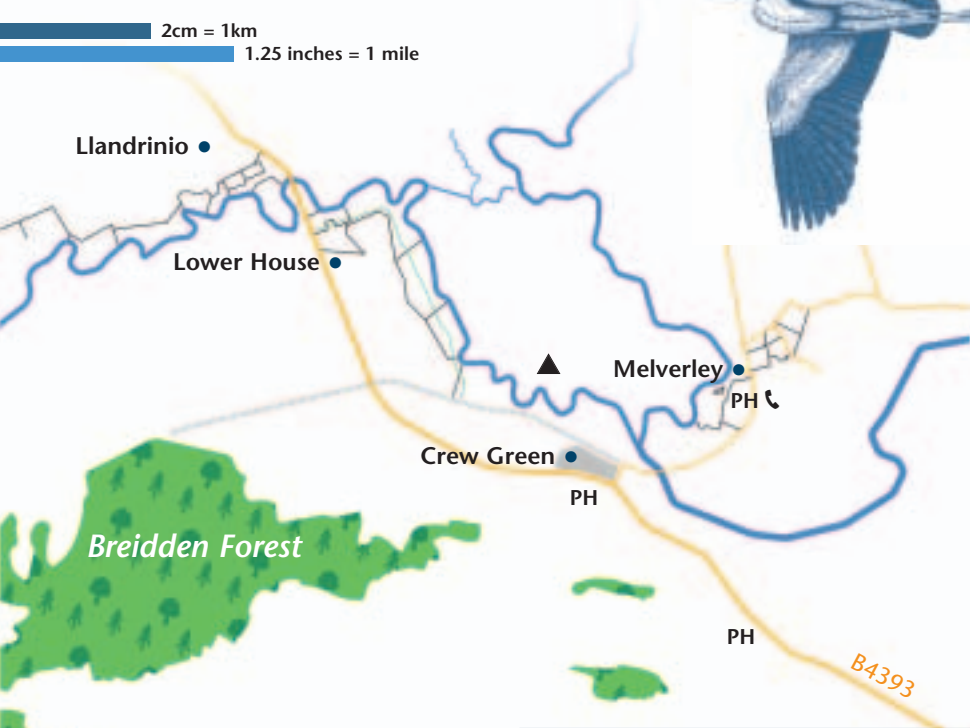
Narrow and meandering upper reaches of the River Severn



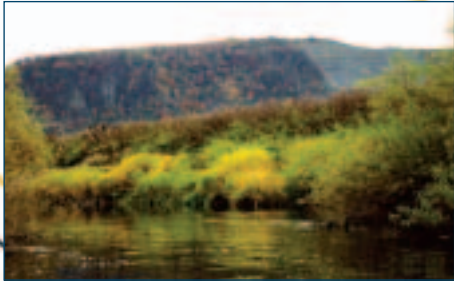
Pool Quay launching point

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* The only Heron species of the region. The Heron is a colony nester with some heronries centuries old. The Heron can be found on many of our rivers and streams hunting fish, frogs & eels. The colloquial name for the Heron is a *Frank*.

2cm = 1km
1.25 inches = 1 mile



- ☎ - Telephone
- PH - Public house
- ▲ - Camping
- WC - Toilet
- C - Official canoe access



Breidden Hill and Rodney Pillar

The Breidden Hills dominate the landscape for miles. The most northerly is the quarry-scarred Breidden Hill, noted for the Rodney Pillar, an 18th Century monument to Admiral Rodney (1719 – 92), who used Montgomeryshire timber for Royal Navy ships.

At the Vyrnwy / Severn confluence, the Severn passes into England and for a time becomes the border between England and Wales.

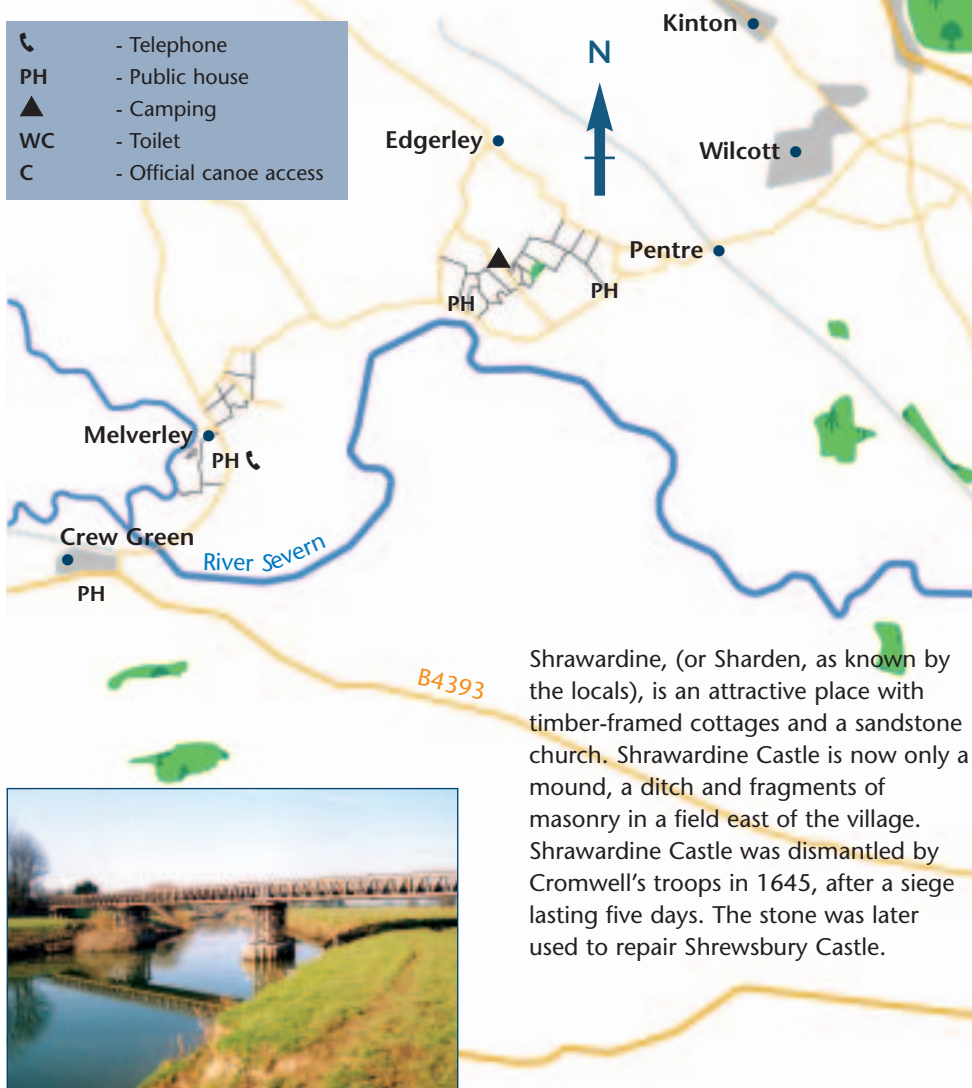


Melverley to A5 Bridge

It is possible to paddle into the Vyrnwy up to the village of Melverley where there is an interesting church. The 1401 chapel was destroyed by Owain Glyndwr but almost immediately replaced with a new church completed by 1406. With the Severn close-by and the Vyrnwy alongside, the church is vulnerable to flooding and is sometimes cut off.

The disused railway bridge was converted to single track road bridge in 1962. Over this next stretch numerous clay humps become visible at normal level.

☎	- Telephone
PH	- Public house
▲	- Camping
WC	- Toilet
C	- Official canoe access



Shrwardine, (or Sharden, as known by the locals), is an attractive place with timber-framed cottages and a sandstone church. Shrwardine Castle is now only a mound, a ditch and fragments of masonry in a field east of the village. Shrwardine Castle was dismantled by Cromwell's troops in 1645, after a siege lasting five days. The stone was later used to repair Shrewsbury Castle.



Disused railway bridge

Montford, is a quiet hamlet with a square towered sandstone church which dates to 1737-8. Once part of Powis Castle the church has a dominant position on high ground.

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
12 1/4	Melverley/Crew Green Bridge	SJ 330 159
14 3/4	The Royal Hill	SJ 351 173
17 1/4	Alberbury Priory - Right	
18 1/4	Shrawardine Islands	SJ 392 152
19 3/4	Montford Islands	SJ 422 144
22 1/4	A5 Bridge - 1992 - Road	SJ 429 151



St Peter's Church, Melverley



A5 Bridge to Shrewsbury Weir

Montford Bridge has spanned this point of the Severn since the early Middle Ages, but the present one was built in 1792 by Thomas Telford. This ancient river crossing was once the traditional meeting place for negotiations between English and Welsh leaders in times of conflict. In 1283, Daffydd ap Gruffudd, the last true Prince of Wales, was brought here in chains by his own countrymen and handed over to the English. He was tried for treason at a Parliament called by Edward I and held at Acton Burnell, south of Shrewsbury. Daffydd was convicted and subsequently dragged through the streets of Shrewsbury, tied to a horse’s tail, before being hanged, drawn and quartered.



Montford Bridge

It was the River Severn that determined Shrewsbury’s position, development and character. The natural moat created an excellent defence for the Saxon town, the one gap in the river is the site for the castle. By the 14th century, despite border conflicts, Shrewsbury was one of the wealthiest towns in England, with a busy inland port and a variety of trades.

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
22	Montford Bridge - 1972 - Road	SJ 431 153
23	Island - right pass either side	
23	Bromley Forge, confluence with River Perry	SJ 440 166
233/4	Brickley Coppice	SJ 443 164
25	The Isle - Isle Grange	SJ 456 158
31	Shelton water works	SJ 467 137
32	Shropshire & West Midlands Showground	
34	Frankwell, Shrewsbury	SJ 492 129
36	Shrewsbury Weir	SJ 501 130

Shrewsbury Weir

Inspection recommended at all levels – can be dangerous! Large stopper in medium to high water. Portage left and re-enter at canoe launching point. Avoid fish pass on right bank at all times as it is an offence to disturb fish.

Shrewsbury Weir to Riverside Inn

The village of Uffington was once connected to Monkmoor by ferry. Behind Uffington is the flat-topped Haughmond Hill with its Forestry Commission plantations.

The Shrewsbury to Birmingham Railway Bridge passes over the site of the old Haughmond Abbey fish weir. This is a good example of an extended fish weir, and was the last in operation in Shropshire. Water can be shallow here, so you need to pick your way through stones. This is also the site where Preston Boats rope-ferry used to operate.

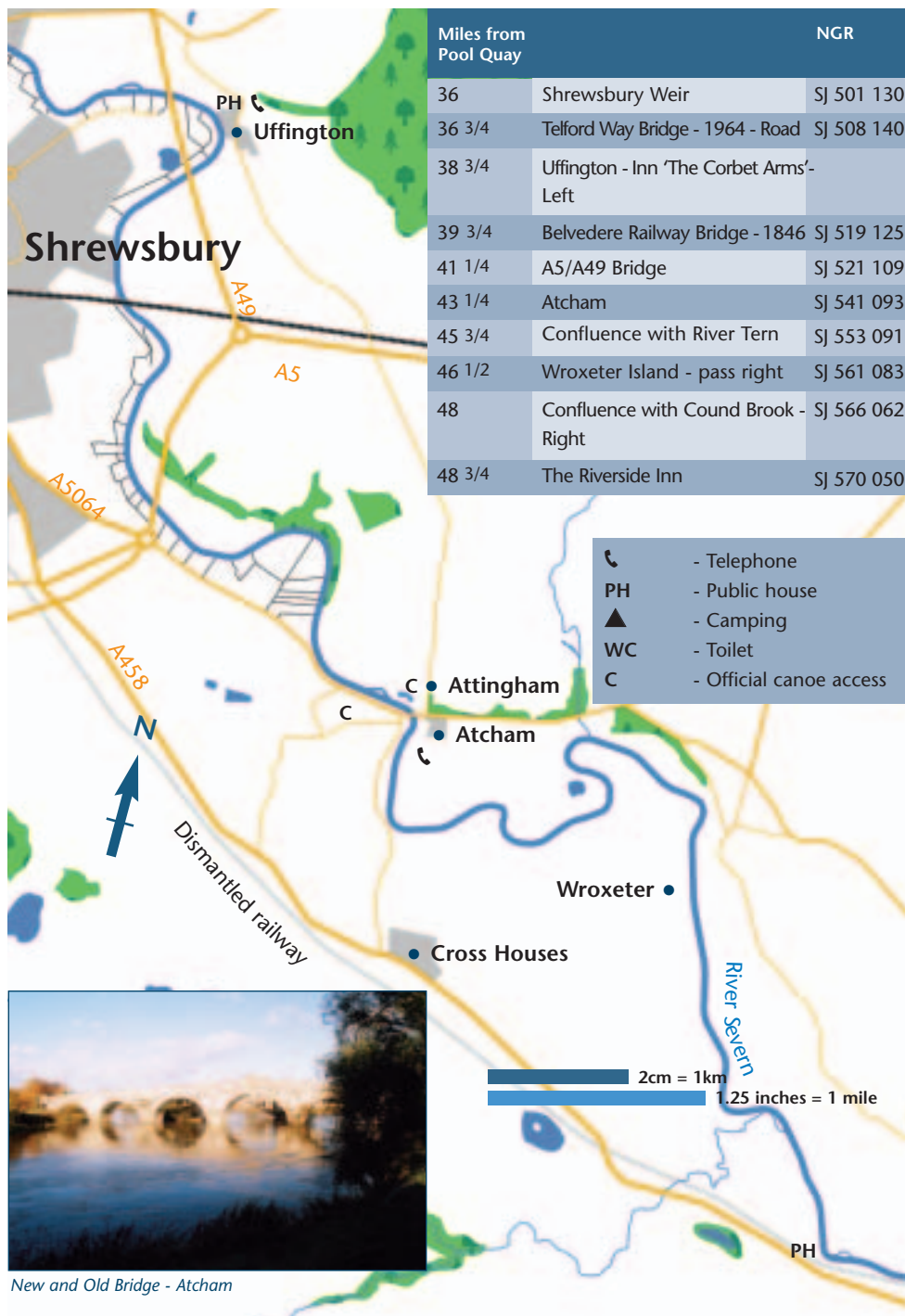


Shrewsbury Weir

Note the two bridges next to each other at Atcham. John Gwynn, the Shrewsbury architect who also designed English Bridge, built the old bridge in 1776. The current road bridge was built in the 1920s.

At the Tern / Severn confluence the remains of a lock wall are visible. The River Tern runs through the grounds of Attingham Hall and Deer Park, now owned by the National Trust. Attingham Hall was designed by George Stuart in 1783 – 5 for Noel Hill, the first Lord Berwick.

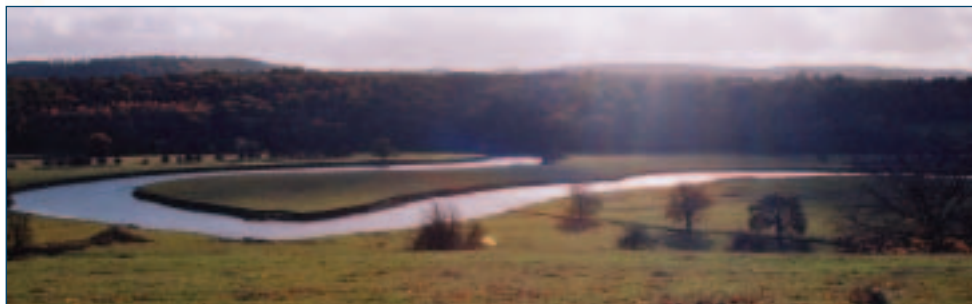
The Severn over the next hundred yards becomes wider and shallower. St Eata's Church, standing on the banks of the Severn, was built in the 11th century. It is the only church in Britain dedicated to the Celtic St Eata, who was consecrated by the Bishop of Lindisfarne in AD678.



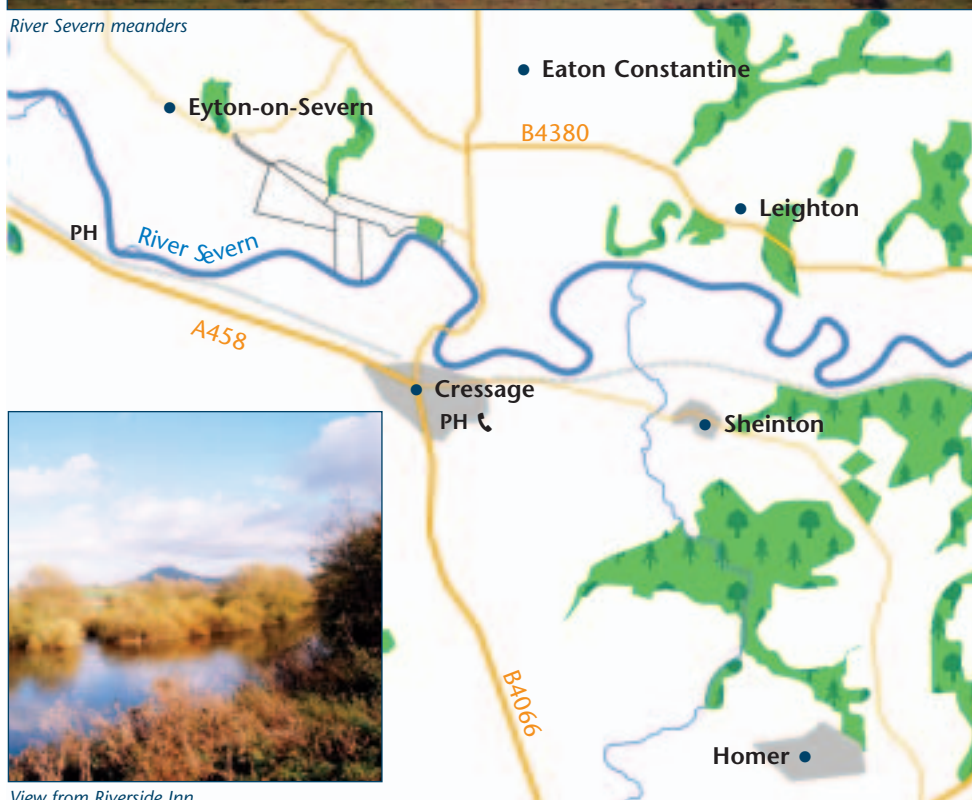
Riverside Inn to Ironbridge

The river flows through a plain and meanders over a sandy bed with views of the Wrekin and Leighton Hall.

At Cressage, it has been claimed that the Pope's emissary, St Augustine, preached to the Welsh bishop under the Cressage Oak (originally Christ's Oak, from which the village name derives) which stood for centuries on the site now occupied by the war memorial.



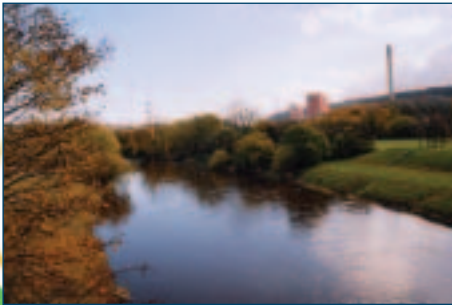
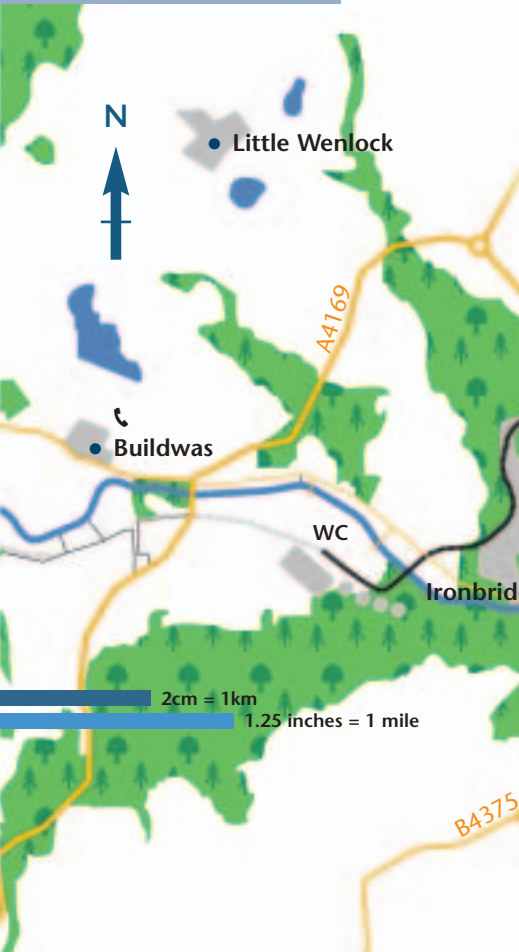
River Sever meanders



View from Riverside Inn

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
48 3/4	The Riverside Inn	SJ 570 050
51	Cressage Bridge - 1913 - Road	SJ 594 045
56	Buildwas Bridge - rebuilt 1993 - Road	SJ 644 045
58 1/4	Ironbridge - 1779 - Foot	SJ 673 035

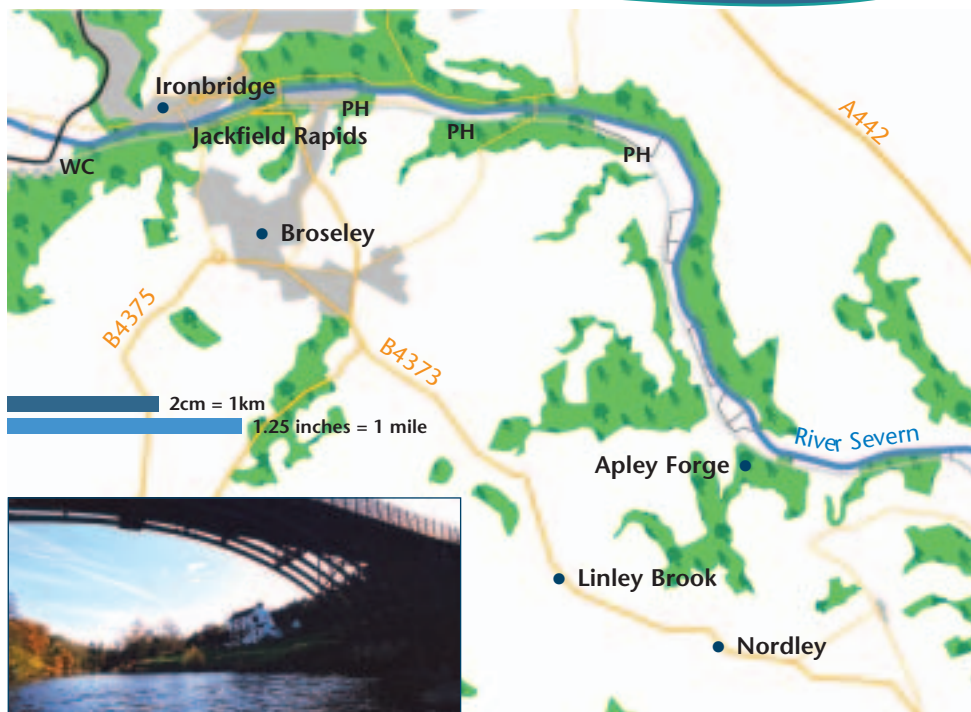
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Buildwas Power Station

Buildwas Village is on the left and the ruins of Buildwas Abbey on the right. The Abbey is now an English Heritage property and was founded in 1135 as a daughter house of Furness Abbey in Cumbria. The Abbey owned many of the surrounding farms and had its own ironworks. The power station is situated on the right bank. The Albert Edward Railway Bridge, built by John Fowler in 1863, today carries coal trains fuelling the power station. The Dale End Riverside Park is just after the Ironbridge Rowing Club.



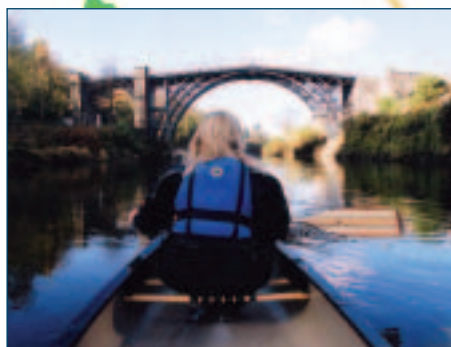


Coalport Bridge and the Woodbridge Inn

Ironbridge to Hampton Loade

It was at Coalbrookdale in 1709 that Abraham Darby discovered that coke could be used instead of charcoal for smelting iron. This small discovery sparked a revolution that changed the world. Iron could now be made cheaply in large quantities, instead of being dependent on the slow charcoal production process. For a time, the Ironbridge Gorge was the world's foremost industrial centre.

It was Darby's grandson who constructed the world's first bridge made from iron. Cast in 1779, it still spans the Sever at



Ironbridge

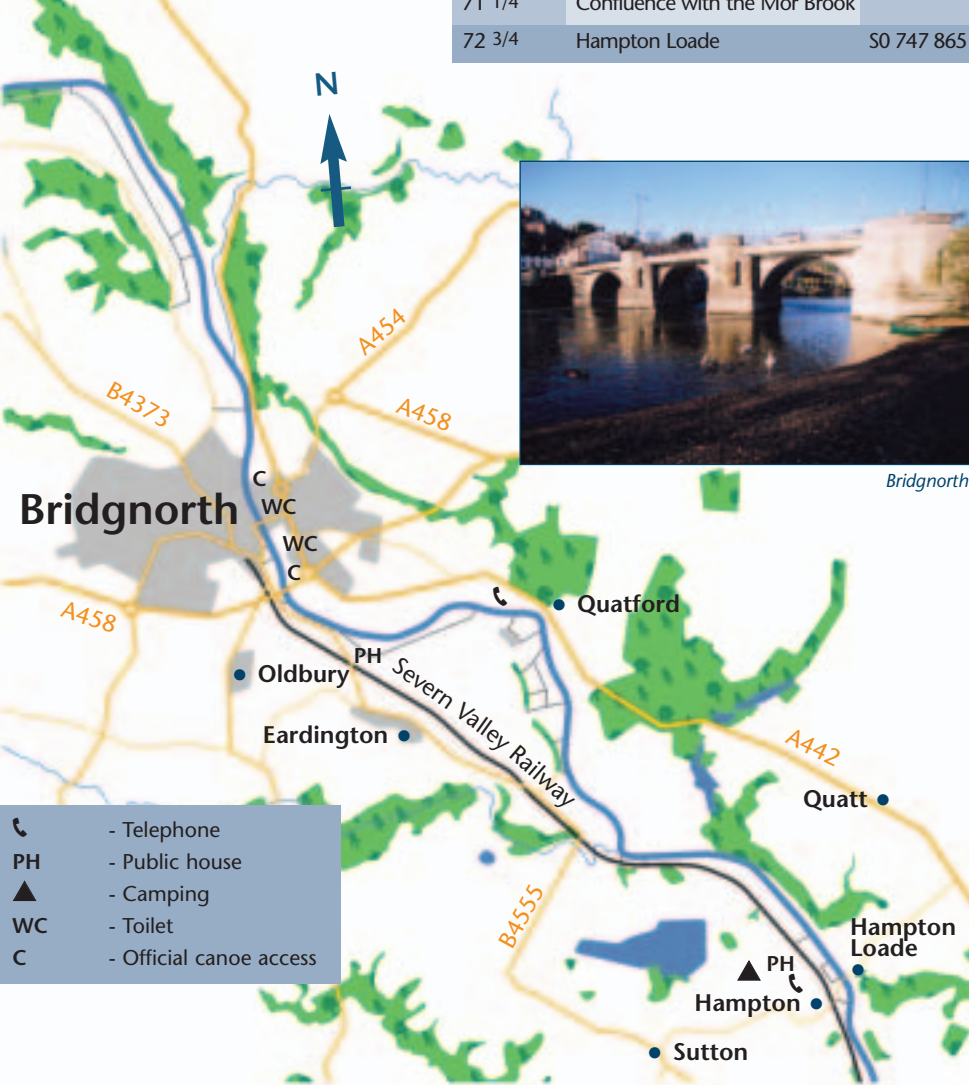
Ironbridge. The industrial scars have healed and the gorge is green once more. The industrial relics have been transformed into a collection of museums, and Ironbridge is now a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site.

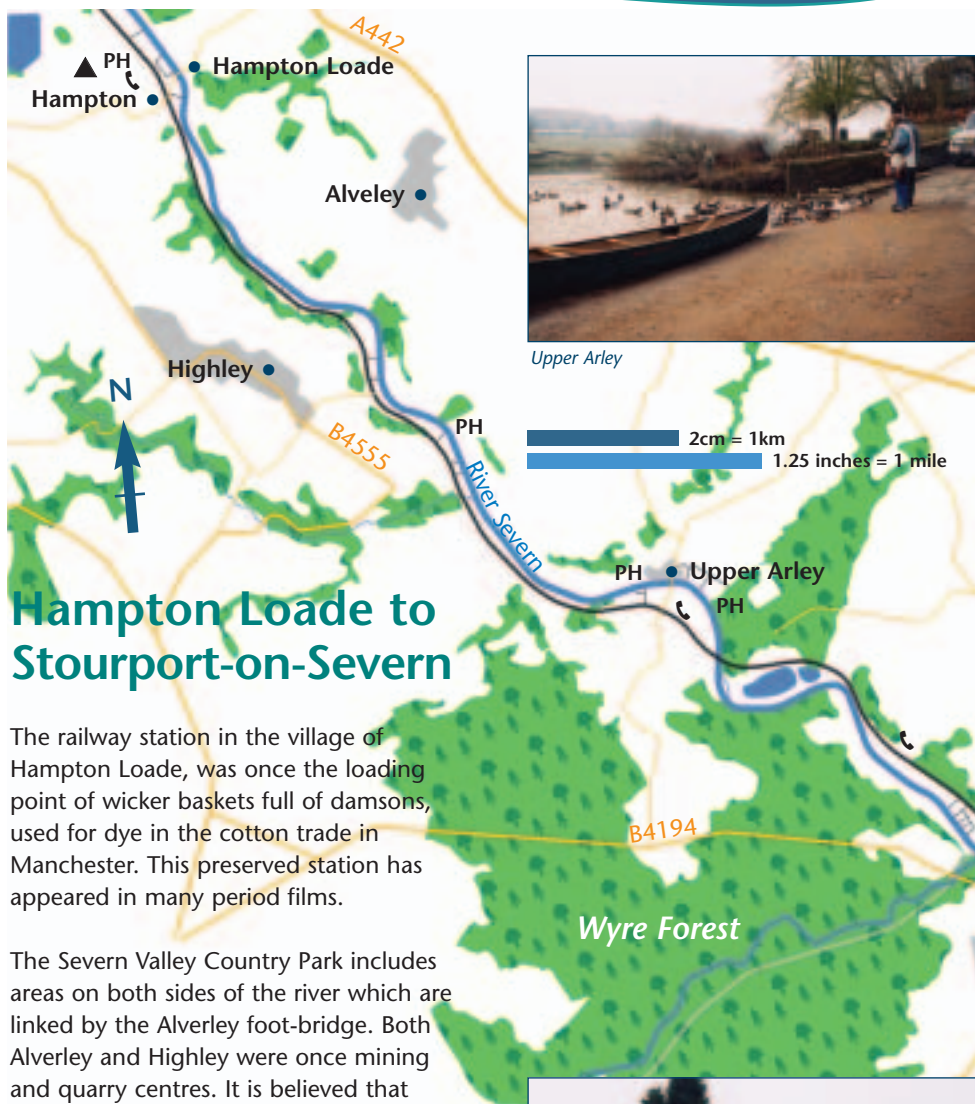
From the busy Ironbridge Gorge the river enters into quiet and peaceful Apley Forge. This stretch of the river is surrounded by woodland where Kingfishers are

regularly seen. The white suspension bridge was built in 1900 to link Apley Park with Linley Station on the Severn Valley Railway.

In 912 King Alfred’s daughter, Ethelfled, built Bridgnorth as a fortified township above the Severn. Bridgnorth grew in importance and was a strategic port and crossing place.

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
58 1/4	Ironbridge	SJ 673 038
58 3/4	New Jackfield Bridge - 1994 - Road	SJ 681 032
60 1/4	Coalport	SJ 701 020
63 1/4	Apley Park Bridge - Private	SJ 706 983
67 1/4	Bridgnorth	S0 719 930
69 1/2	Quatford	
71 1/4	Confluence with the Mor Brook	
72 3/4	Hampton Loade	S0 747 865





Hampton Loade to Stourport-on-Severn

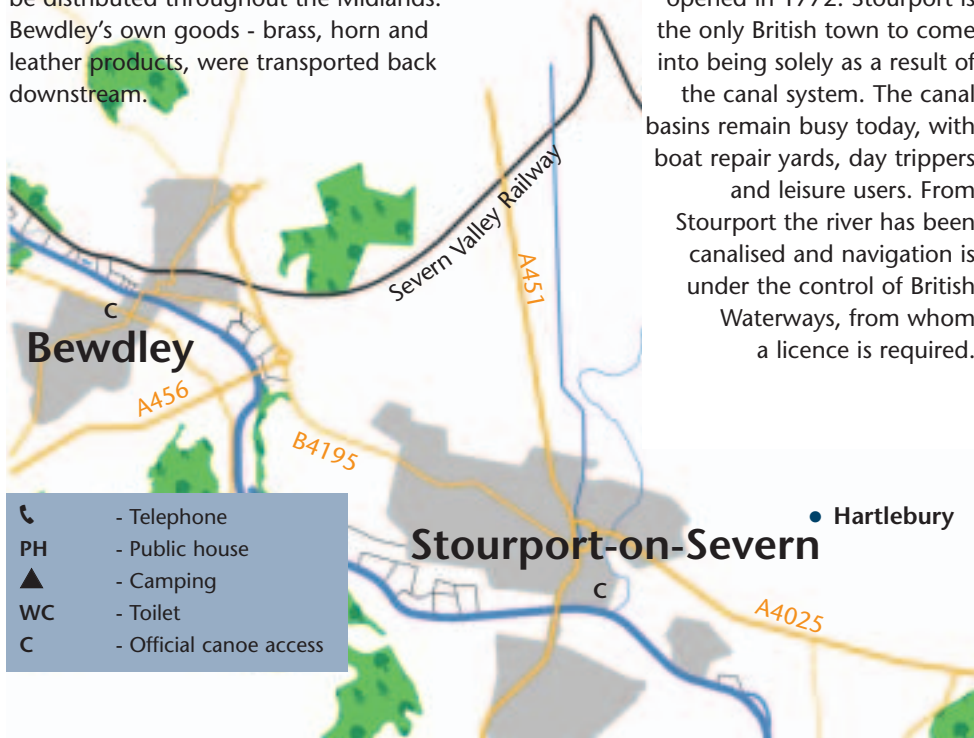
The railway station in the village of Hampton Loade, was once the loading point of wicker baskets full of damsons, used for dye in the cotton trade in Manchester. This preserved station has appeared in many period films.

The Severn Valley Country Park includes areas on both sides of the river which are linked by the Alverley foot-bridge. Both Alverley and Highley were once mining and quarry centres. It is believed that some of the stone used for Worcester Cathedral came from Highley and was transported by river.

Upper Arley was known to the Saxons as Ernley – ‘the clearing where eagles live’ – although the eagles were likely to be buzzards, which can still be seen today. The 1971 footbridge replaced the ferry service which was first recorded back in 1323.

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
72 3/4	Hampton Loade	S0 747 865
74 1/2	Alveley Bridge - 1936 - Foot	S0 748 839
75 1/4	Highley - site of old ferry	
77 3/4	Arley	S0 765 901
78 1/2	Victoria Bridge - carries Severn Valley Railway	
79 1/4	Eymore Rapid	S0 772 785
81 1/2	Bewdley Bridge	S0 787 754
85 1/2	Stourport-on-Severn	S0 808 710

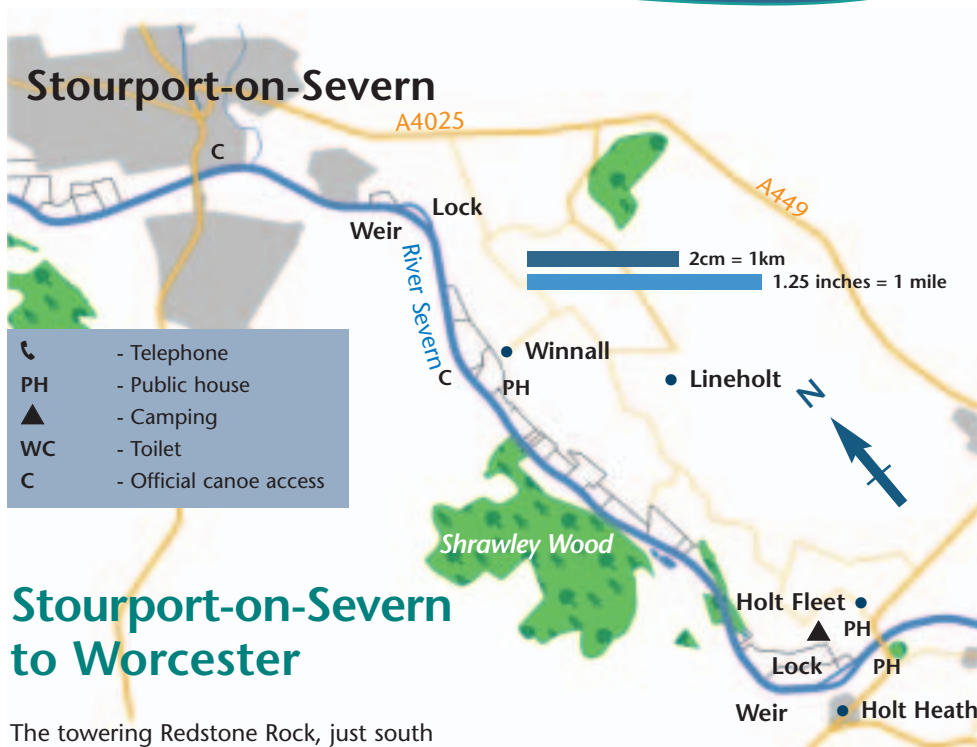
Bewdley was always a place of trade. It became one of four principal ports on the river, along with Worcester, Gloucester and Bridgnorth. Goods which travelled upstream from Bristol were loaded onto pack-ponies and wagons to be distributed throughout the Midlands. Bewdley's own goods - brass, horn and leather products, were transported back downstream.



Kingfisher

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Despite its colour the Kingfisher is not easy to see. It occurs on clear flowing rivers and streams. It feeds on small fish, which are dispatched by banging on the perch before devouring. A bird to brighten up the gloomiest days.

Stourport-on-Severn exists due to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, which opened in 1772. Stourport is the only British town to come into being solely as a result of the canal system. The canal basins remain busy today, with boat repair yards, day trippers and leisure users. From Stourport the river has been canalised and navigation is under the control of British Waterways, from whom a licence is required.



Stourport-on-Severn to Worcester

The towering Redstone Rock, just south of the River Stour confluence was once inhabited by cave dwelling hermits, who probably also manned the ferry at Redstone Crossing, which was first recorded in the 13th century.

The first and highest lock on the river is Lincombe Lock. (see section on use of locks)

Horse racing in Worcester started in the 18th century, but tends to be seasonal due to regular flooding of the riverside position. The footbridge shortly after the race course is Sabrina Bridge, the name given to the Severn by the Romans.

The Worcester and Birmingham Canal joins the Severn at Diglis. The canal basin opened in 1815 and links Diglis directly with Gas Street Basin in Birmingham, the heart of Britain's canal system.



Canoeing on the Severn



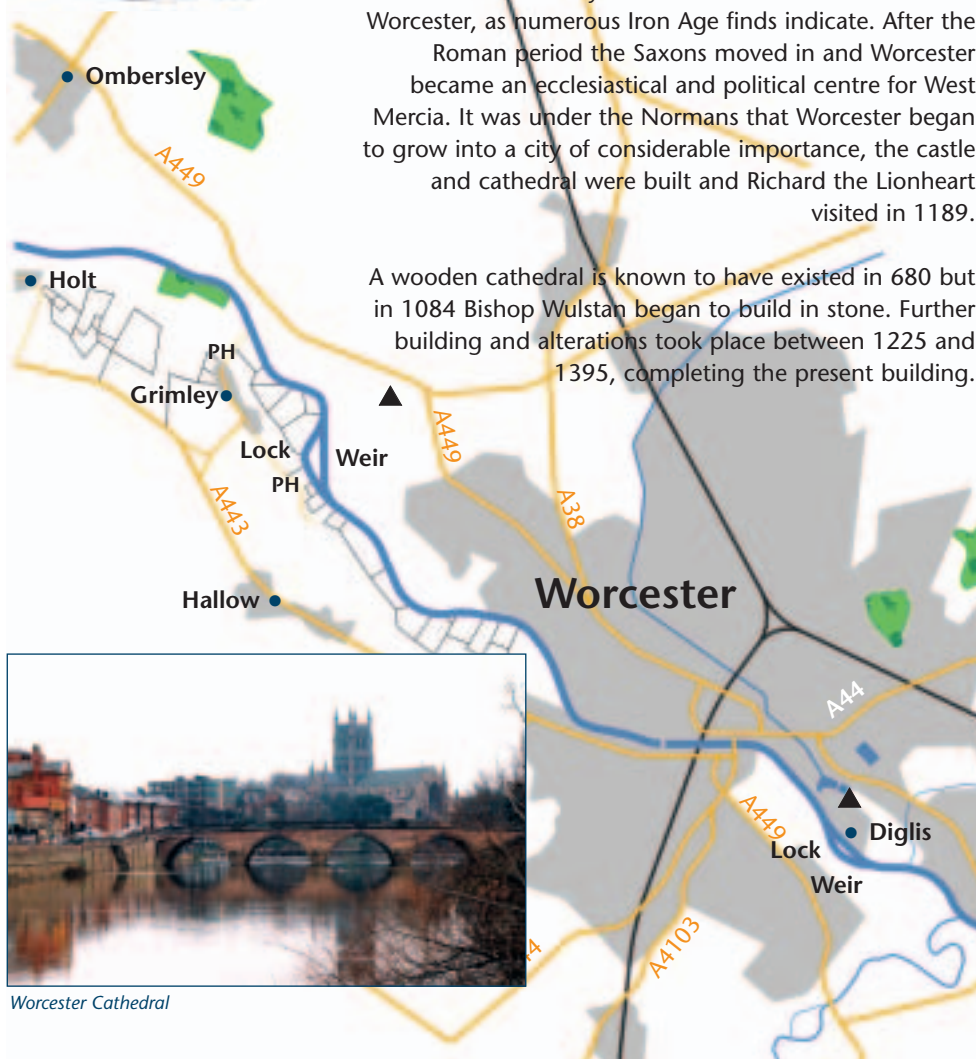
Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal meets the Severn



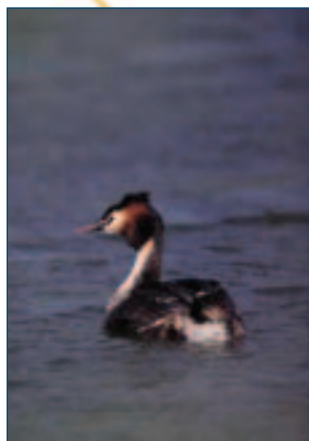
Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
85 1/2	Stourport-on-Severn	S0 808 710
87	Lincomb Lock	S0 821 693
88	Inn - The Hampstall - Left	
91 1/4	Holt Lock	S0 821 633
94 3/4	Bevere Lock	S0 836 593
98 1/4	Worcester	S0 846 546

For over 2000 years there has been a settlement at Worcester, as numerous Iron Age finds indicate. After the Roman period the Saxons moved in and Worcester became an ecclesiastical and political centre for West Mercia. It was under the Normans that Worcester began to grow into a city of considerable importance, the castle and cathedral were built and Richard the Lionheart visited in 1189.

A wooden cathedral is known to have existed in 680 but in 1084 Bishop Wulstan began to build in stone. Further building and alterations took place between 1225 and 1395, completing the present building.



Worcester Cathedral



Great Crested Grebe

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

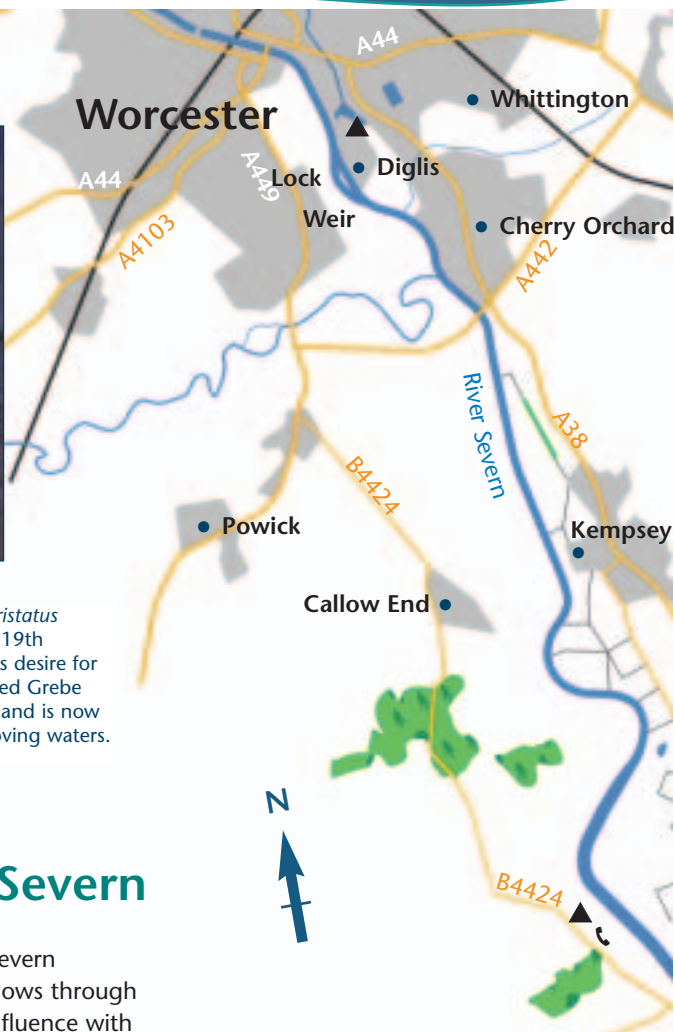
Almost extinct at the turn of the 19th century due to the fashion trade's desire for its head plumes. The Great Crested Grebe has made a remarkable recovery and is now a familiar sight on our slower moving waters.

Worcester to Upton-upon-Severn

From Worcester, the River Severn becomes much wider and flows through gentle countryside. The confluence with the River Teme is one of the sites on which the Battle of Worcester was fought in 1651 and the English Civil War began nearby, at Powick Bridge in 1642.

Kempsey is one of the county's oldest villages, the site of both Iron Age and Roman settlements. St Mary's Church is built on an unexpectedly grand scale.

The Malvern Hills can be viewed from the river, along with some impressive buildings.



Severn Bank is situated in Cliff Wood, an imposing 19th century mansion with Gothic windows and crenellated walls. For 700 years the timber-framed Severn End House was the home to the Lechmere Family, it was built in the 17th century and restored in 1896.

Like many other Severnside habitations, Upton-upon-Severn became a thriving port. As early as 1289, the Bishop of Hereford was landing his wine supplies here from Bristol.



Diglis Lock



Diglis Weir

2cm = 1km
1.25 inches = 1 mile

Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
98 1/4	Worcester	S0 808 710
100	Confluence with the River Teme	S0 850 521
109 1/4	Upton-upon-Severn	S0 851 408





Upton-upon-Severn Marina

Upton-upon-Severn to Ashleworth Quay

Holdfast was famous for sweet peas, which were grown by Hilda Hemus, and were sent to the London markets on the now closed railway. Just past the M50 bridge is Pull Court Mansion, which for centuries was home to the Dowdeswell family. Now it is Bredon School, a boys' boarding school.

There is evidence of Roman and Saxon occupation in Tewkesbury, but it was only after the Normans arrived that the great abbey was founded. The Battle of Tewkesbury in 1471 was a major event in national history, bringing to an end the second phase of the Wars of the Roses, and re-establishing Edward IV on the throne.



Ashleworth Quay

At Wainlode Cliff, an almost sheer cliff rises abruptly from the waters edge. A number of boats have been sunk at the base of the cliff in an attempt to prevent further erosion.

The original village of Ashleworth was by the quay, and a few 15th century buildings still survive, but later the village developed a short distance away from the river.

Please note that the river is tidal as far as Tewkesbury and in the case of exceptionally high tides there can be an impact as far as Upton-upon-Severn. Please consult Arrowsmith Tide Table for the Bristol Channel.

Ashleworth Quay to Gloucester

The beautiful stone house, Ashleworth Court, dates from 1460. The National Trust owns the nearby working tithe barn. The house and barn were built for St Augustine’s Abbey, at Bristol.

Sandhurst Nature Reserve is a Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust site consisting of disused brick pits and osier beds. It has a mixture of wet woodlands, open water and has a rich variety of wildlife. Brick pits are a familiar feature along the Severn between Stourport and Gloucester. These pits were excavated in the 19th century and worked until 1924, as the local clay was ideal for brick making.

When you reach Upper Parting the river splits into two channels. Gloucester is situated very close to a site where the Roman army built a fort around in AD50. This fort guarded the lowest safe crossing on the River Severn. When the army moved on, urban life began. During the reign of Edward the Confessor and his successor William the Conqueror, Gloucester was a regular meeting place for the King and Council.

Gloucester owed much of its early success to its location on the river, although it was not until 1580 that a Royal Charter granted it the status of a port.



Ashleworth Court and tithe barn

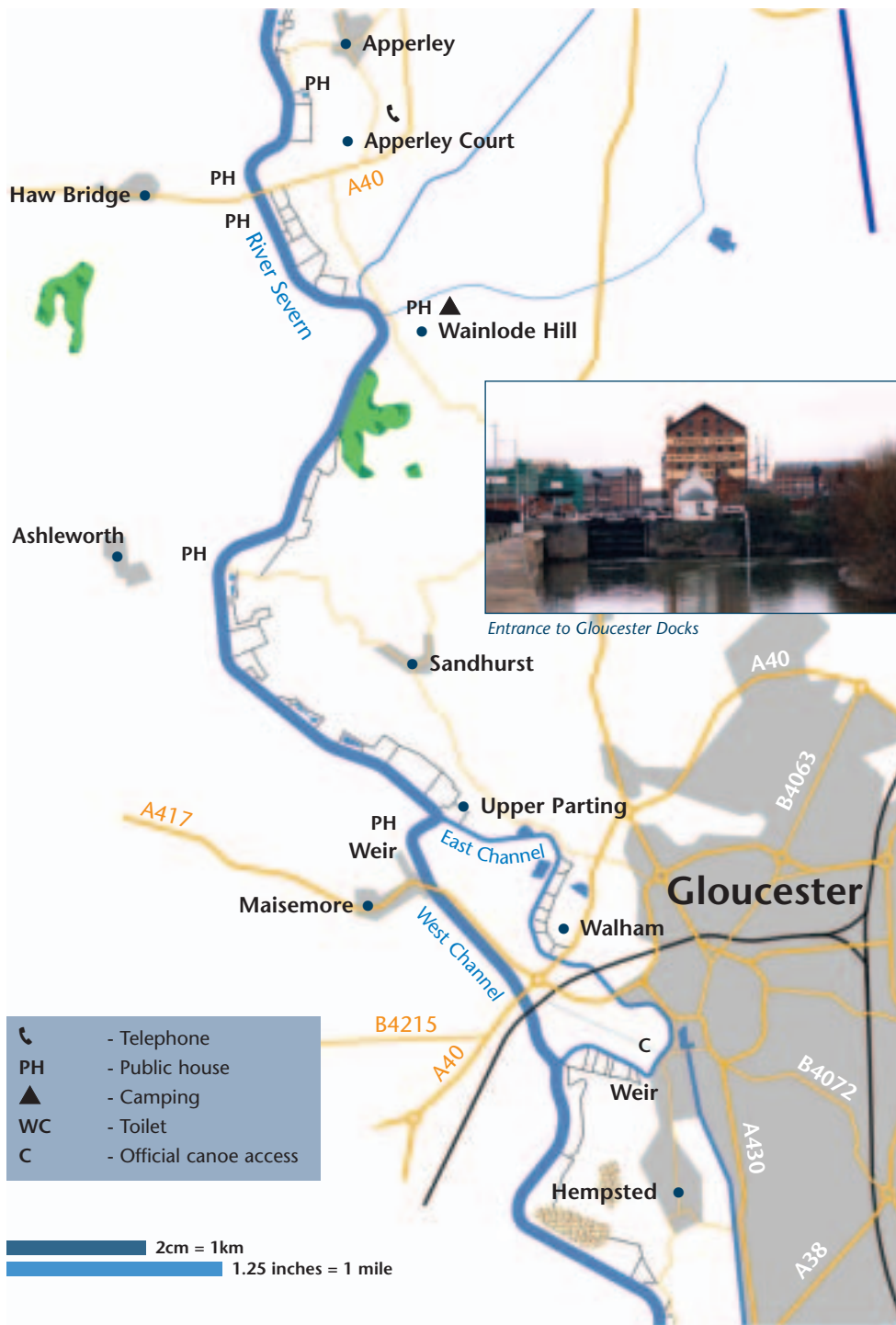
Miles from Pool Quay		NGR
124 3/4	Ashleworth Quay	SO 819 250
127	Long Reach to Upper Parting Upper Parting Gloucester	

Gloucester Docks thrived from 1794 and extended throughout the Victorian period, but by the 1980s waterborne commercial traffic had all but ceased and the huge dockside warehouses used for storage became redundant. The dock basin is now mainly used for leisure.



Kestrel

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* The Kestrel is a familiar bird often seen hovering on the wind over rough pasture, hunting small rodents and birds, from which it takes its old name of Windhover.



Safety on the river

The River Severn can be dangerous and has been the cause of many accidents and deaths. It is most dangerous where there are strong currents, when there are high water levels, and during cold weather conditions. **DO NOT** take any risks and **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE** the power of the river.

The Severn is a fast flooding river, which can rise after heavy rain, at a rate in excess of 1 metre per hour in the upper reaches. **When in flood, it is advisable not to go on the river at all.** The Environment Agency monitors water levels at all times and provides a recorded river levels service.

RiverCall 0906 619 7744 (calls charged at 60p per minute at all times).

For instruction or safety advice, please contact the canoeing governing body the British Canoe Union (BCU). First Aid knowledge may be required on the river so a first aid course should be considered.

Health and hygiene

The quality of the water in the River Severn is generally good, but unlike tap water it is untreated and contains natural bacteria and other micro-organisms. Although the risk of contracting illness is small, if the following sensible precautions are followed, those involved in water sports can stay healthy.

- Do not swallow river water
- Wash your hands before eating

Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease)

Leptospirosis is an animal infection. The infection is caught by direct contact with bacteria in urine or a polluted environment. The bacteria enter through skin abrasions or via eyes, nose or mouth.

The illness

The usual incubation is 2 to 12 days. Usually a 'flu'-like illness occurs which resolves in 2-3 weeks. A few cases develop jaundice, and then the condition is known as Weil's Disease.

If you think you may have the infection, go to your doctor and tell him/her that there may be a risk of leptospirosis. The diagnosis is by clinical suspicion. Blood tests can rarely confirm the illness in time to affect treatment. They may subsequently confirm it. The microbiologist at the local hospital is the best source of advice.

Prevention

- cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters
- always wear foot-wear to avoid cutting feet
- avoid capsize drill or rolling practice in suspect waters
- where possible, shower soon after canoeing.

If in doubt, contact your doctor early, particularly if you experience 'flu-type' symptoms.

Leptospirosis is very rare, and its deterioration into Weil's Disease even more rare. Weil's Disease is however a very serious illness, and must be swiftly diagnosed and treated.



Riffle near Pool Quay

Disturbance of spawning fish

Salmon and Trout lay their eggs in gravel. During the period October to March trampling and launching of canoes on gravels used by Salmon and Trout may damage unhatched eggs and young fry. Please take particular care when the water level is low and **DO NOT** canoe if there is any risk of disturbance to gravels. It is a criminal offence to wilfully disturb breeding fish or spawning beds. Please leave the water if requested to do so by an Environment Agency Fisheries Inspector. A request will only be made where there is a real risk of disturbance. The complete Code of Conduct is available from the Environment Agency as a separate leaflet.

Code of conduct

Both the Environment Agency and BCU have published a Code of Conduct, intended to help both canoeists and other river users enjoy the river, whilst having respect for all river users and the river environment.

Canoeists are requested to follow the relevant sections of both codes, which are given below.

General guidance

- look after the river environment and avoid damaging banks and bankside vegetation. Do not pick, uproot, or trample wild plants
- take special care not to disturb gravel beds or beds of waterweeds
- do not disturb birds and other wildlife found along the river. Avoid areas used by wintering wildfowl, nesting birds and spawning fish in the appropriate season. Stop canoeing if you are clearly disturbing wildlife
- do not trespass on private banks or moorings. Whenever possible come ashore at recognised landing places
- never throw rubbish in the river or leave it on the banks. Take it home or place it in a bin
- please be as quiet as possible; have respect for other users of the river
- obey the general rules of navigation and any local byelaws
- avoid crossing the bows of oncoming craft of any kind, at close quarters. In particular remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and cannot use such shallow waters as canoes
- give precedence to those engaged in organised competition and have regard to any instructions given by officials
- have special regard for beginners, as you would for learner drivers on the road
- hail to draw a person's attention to a situation, which might result in inconvenience, damage or collision. Please treat a hail as a friendly warning and not an insult
- pass anglers quietly. Try to:-
 - keep away from banks being fished
 - comply with reasonable directional requests
 - keep well clear of fishing tackle
 - avoid loitering in pools if anyone is fishing
 - cause as little disturbance as possible
- park vehicles and trailers responsibly so that they do not cause a nuisance
- groups of young or inexperienced canoeists should be accompanied by a suitably experienced, responsible person – preferably a qualified instructor.

The British Canoe Union

British Canoe Union

John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham
NG2 5AS

Tel: 0115 9821100

www.bcu.org.uk

Welsh Canoeing Association

Canolfan Tryweryn, Frongoch, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7NU

Tel: 01678 521199

www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk

The British Canoe Union is the governing body for the sport and recreation of canoeing in the United Kingdom. It represents the interests of canoeists at local, national and international level, and is a member of the International Canoe Federation.

The Specialist Access Committee of the BCU and WCA (Welsh Canoeing Association) work to improve the availability of water to their members.

A British Waterways licence is issued as part of the BCU membership package. This covers access to the River Severn below Gladder Brook by Stourport-on-Severn and an access sticker should be displayed on the boat.

Amongst many other responsibilities the BCU and the WCA administer a very comprehensive coaching service for the improvement of safety awareness and skills of individuals and instructors.

Local Access Officers

BCU River Severn Access 01743 365022

Tourist Information Centres in the Severn valley

Welshpool	Vicarage Car Park, Welshpool, Powys Tel: 01938 552043
Shrewsbury	The Music Hall, The Square, Shrewsbury, Shropshire Tel: 01743 281200
Ironbridge	The Toll House, on the Ironbridge Tel: 01952 432166
Bridgnorth	The Library, Listley Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire Tel: 01746 763358
Bewdley	Load Street, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 2AE Tel: 01299 404740
Worcester	Guildhall, High Street, Worcester Tel: 01905 726311
Tewkesbury	64 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire Tel: 01684 295027
Gloucester	28 South Gate St, Gloucester Tel: 01452 396572

Accommodation

Campsites and accommodation are available along the entire length of the River Severn, ownership and details do change so contact the Tourist Information Centres for further information.

Canoe hire and instruction

Several companies in the Severn valley offer canoes for hire and also offer instruction and will guide groups of canoeists.
For details contact Tourist Information Centres.

Maps

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 series

Sheet 126	Pool Quay to Cressage
Sheet 127	1 km above Leighton to 2km below Coalport
Sheet 138	2km above Apley Forge to Grimley
Sheet 150	5km above Worcester to 2km below Chaceley Stock
Sheet 162	2km above Wainlode to Severn Road Bridge

Fishing season

Salmon	1st February to 7th October
Trout	18th March to 7th October
Coarse	16th June to 14th March
Canals	No closed season (apart from SSSIs)

British Waterways and lock keepers



British Waterways

Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EJ
Tel: 01452 318000

Lincomb Lock	Stourport	01299 822887
Holt Lock	Worcester	01905 620218
Bever Lock	Worcester	01905 640275
Diglis Lock	Worcester	01905 354280
Upper Lode Lock	Tewkesbury	01684 293138

Useful publications

The River Severn (Fact sheet pack)	Environment Agency (Midlands Region)
The Severn Bore	Environment Agency (Midlands Region)
The Severn Way Guide	

Web sites

www.environment-agency.gov.uk
www.visitbritain.com
www.nationalrail.co.uk

www.welsh-canoeing.org.uk
www.svr.co.uk
www.mobile-adventure.com

Project Partner

Mobile Adventure

Europe's open canoe specialists

Marina Village, Preston Brook, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 3DW
Tel: 01928 716 666
Fax: 01928 714 399

MIDLANDS REGION ADDRESSES

REGIONAL OFFICE

Environment Agency
Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Solihull
West Midlands B91 1QT
Tel: 0121 711 2324
Fax: 0121 711 5824

UPPER SEVERN AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency
Hafren House
Welshpool Road
Shelton
Shrewsbury SY3 8BB
Tel: 01743 272 828
Fax: 01743 272 138

LOWER SEVERN AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency
Riversmeet House
Newtown Industrial Estate
Northway Lane
Tewkesbury GL20 8JG
Tel: 01684 850 951
Fax: 01684 293 599

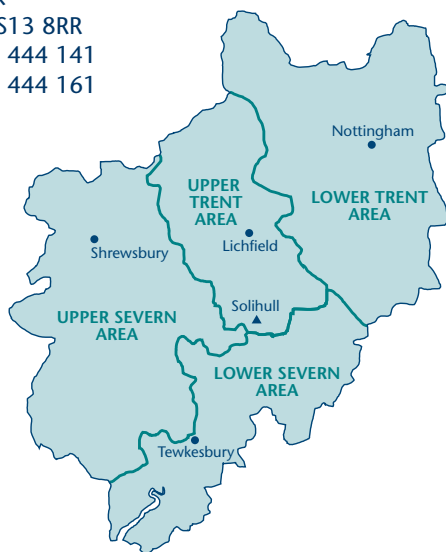
UPPER TRENT AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency
Sentinel House
Wellington Crescent
Fradley Park
Lichfield WS13 8RR
Tel: 01543 444 141
Fax: 01543 444 161

LOWER TRENT AREA OFFICE

Environment Agency
Trentside Offices
Scarrington Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 5FA
Tel: 0115 945 5722
Fax: 0115 981 7743

- Area Administrative Boundaries
- Regional Boundary
- Area Office
- ▲ Regional Headquarters



www.environment-agency.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE

08708 506 506

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
FLOOD LINE

0845 988 1188

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY HOTLINE

0800 80 70 60



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