

RIVER DEE Farndon Bridge to Chester Moderate Trail

Route Summary

Mention of the Welsh River Dee usually conjures up a vision of the major white water river flowing through Llangollen, but this is a trip on the lower river once it has met its flood plain much lower down, and slowed down. This is a gentle meander through pretty countryside. The end is right in the heart of Chester, a magnificent sight to see.

Nearest Town - Chester

O.S. Maps - 117 Chester & Wrexham

Start

Farndon Bridge SJ 412544

Farndon Bridge (between Holt and Farndon villages – access on right side upstream of bridge at picnic site) is the start on the A534, with Wales on the left bank, and England on the right



Finish

Chester, Queen's Bridge, egress on right bank to vehicle parking SJ 408659

Type of Water

River but do check the [Environment Agency](#) website for information on river conditions.

Distance - 11 miles

License Information

A license for this river is not required.

Vehicle Shuttle Required

Yes, although the river could be paddled back up, when there is virtually no current.

Driving down from Farndon, Sandy Lane is found by following the B5130 from Farndon to Chester.

Portages - None



We have taken great care to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of this information. We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention, the information will be amended accordingly. Users should be aware that environmental conditions outside of our control can change the nature of the Trail within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable.

Description

Access the river directly from the car park and then start to make your way down stream.

After a mile and a half is the village of Almere, astride both banks, on a very tight double bend in the river where the river almost comes back on itself, making one think that an oxbow lake is in the making. A small ferry used to operate across the river here. The river Alun joins from the left at the beginning of the bend.

Another few miles down, Pulford Brook also joins from the left, the brook looking very canalised, like a ditch.

After 6 miles, you are entering the Duke of Westminster's estate, Eaton Hall, and it is England on both banks. Aldford village is on the left, some way back from the river (built to be above flood level). Iron Bridge follows, a private estate bridge, with Eaton Hall itself on the left bank.

After Crook of Dee, a long bend round to the right, then left, Eccleston Ferry is obvious on the map, each side of the river having a straight road down to it. Ferry farm is on the right bank, (no access), and the pretty Eccleston village on the left side. This side could be a pick-up point, with a public road.

The next object of interest is the fairly recent Chester by-pass bridge, the A55, high above you.

As Chester obviously appears, the first sign of civilization is the Red House pub on the right bank, with a jetty, and a welcome for waterbourne travellers.



The river bends to the left into the centre of town, with many fine houses on the right bank, and Queen's park on the left, a pleasant water meadow.

Earl's Ferry is a passenger ferry just before the long left-hand bend, and you will then see a metal pedestrian bridge in front of you. On the right bank is Chester Motor Boat Club, followed by a sailing club and a rowing club.

Sandy Lane car park is on the right, marked by a small wooden jetty and a slipway, the easiest egress.

Downstream of here is Chester Weir, often used by kayakers, and also possible to shoot in an open canoe. Fish steps are on the left-hand side of the weir. This is the tidal limit of the river.

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Local Facilities

Little at Farndon (one pub), but toilets in Chester, including at Sandy Lane, the egress point. Chester is a major city with all facilities.

Other Nearby Visitor Attractions

The [City of Chester](#) is one of the most important old Roman towns in Britain, and well worth a [visit](#) in its own right. The town walls of 2 miles long are some of the most complete in England. Chester saw invasions by the Romans, Saxons, Danes, Vikings, and then Normans. Silting up of the former estuary diminished the town's port, but there was a Victorian revival, along with canals, roads and railways, leading to the city's reputation as a major holiday and visit town.

The main shopping area, The Rows, in the centre of the old town are one of Chester's most distinctive features, with both ground-floor and first floor shops on balconies and walkways, certainly dating from the 14th century.

There is too much of historical significance to mention here, but it would be a shame to canoe into [Chester](#), and not sample its many delights and [tourist attractions](#).

Useful Information

Please visit the [Environment Agency](#) website for information on river conditions.

Recommended Next Trail

If you have enjoyed this trail why not try the nearby River Weaver trail.

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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Additional Safety information

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.

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.

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- 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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