

## River Mersey Heaton Mersey to Northenden Easy Trail

### Route Summary

This trail covers the easiest 3.6 miles of the River Mersey Canoe Trail from Heaton Mersey to Northenden. The full trail flows 17 miles from Stockport to Carrington and is shown in a separate trail guide. This trail covers the easiest 3.6 miles of the River Mersey Canoe Trail from Heaton Mersey to Northenden. The full trail flows 17 miles from Stockport to Carrington and is shown in a separate trail guide. This trail covers the easiest 3.6 miles of the River Mersey Canoe Trail from Heaton Mersey to Northenden. The full trail flows 17 miles from Stockport to Carrington and is shown in a separate trail guide.

**Nearest Town** - Stockport

**O.S. Sheets** - Landranger No.109 – Manchester

**Start** - Burnage Rugby Club, Battersea Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, Postcode: SK4 3EA

Access to the river is 200m along a foot path just outside the Rugby club gate, then turn right downstream to the get in steps.

Burnage Rugby Club welcomes canoeists but ring the number below to check what is happening at the club. Some days there are major matches or a Carboot (Sunday mornings May-Sept) which are very busy. You can use the club car park, toilet facilities and refreshments. In Heaton Mersey turn south off Didsbury Road A5145 into Station Road, right into Vale Road, right into Battersea Road and the club is at the end.

If you search Google Earth on the post code you can see it all. Map Ref. 862901

**Finish** - Northenden Weir, Mill Lane, Northenden, Manchester, Postcode:M22 4HJ

There is a council car park next to the river on Mill Lane, off Palatine Road, B5167, Northenden. Camperlands shop next door may allow use of their toilet, there are shops and pubs nearby on Palatine Road.

Either get out above the weir at the steps on the right bank just after the foot bridge or shoot the weir and get out on the left.

**Waterways Travelled** – River Mersey

**Type of Water** - Natural River, with small rapids

**Distance** - 4 miles

**Licence Information** - Licence not required; this is a pilot access project by the Environment Agency, working for DEFRA

**Local Facilities** – Urban area, plenty of facilities

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**Vehicle Shuttle Required** - Yes

**Portages and Locks** – No portages, except possibly at one weir at the end

### Description

This section of the Mersey appears rural with development kept back by the floodplain. There is one weir and several small submerged rubble weirs for a bit of interest. The river has enough water in dry weather and at high levels gives a brisk run with some bouncy bits.

Helmets are required by the agreement. Canoeing can be dangerous, check out the weirs etc and make your own decision on shooting.

Miles    Map reference

0        862901 Start. Burnage Rugby Club welcome canoeists but do check if you want to park or use facilities. Phone 0161 432 2150.

0.4      856898 Cheadle Bridge, Manchester Road, B5095.  
Confluence of Micker Brook.

0.8      852894 Kingsway Bridge, A34.

1.9      Railway Bridge

2.6      840907 Simons Bridge (Footbridge).

3.4      835901 M60 Motorway Bridge

3.5      834903 Footbridge immediately followed by -

3.6      833903 Northenden Weir. 8' sloping. Shoot on left. Dangerous in spate, at medium flows a nice long slide. Inspect first. Portage steps on right just below foot bridge. Public Car park on left bank. Mill Lane, Northenden. Shops nearby, turn right down Mill Lane.

### Useful Information

Canoe hire and guide services are available from [www.messingaboutonthemersey.co.uk](http://www.messingaboutonthemersey.co.uk)

### Recommended Next Trail

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

### Safety Information

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great work out and spend time with friends and family. It can also be a dangerous journey, if appropriate safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules.

### ***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 other 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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