

## River Mersey Stockport to Sale Moderate Trail

### Route Summary

The River Mersey Canoe Trail is 11 miles from Stockport to Sale and allows the choice of several paddle lengths. See the separate guide for a short section.

**Nearest Town** - Stockport

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

**Start** - Ford Street, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0BT

**Finish** - Trafford Metrovick Rugby Club, Finney Bank Lane, Ashton on Mersey, Manchester Postcode:M33 6LR

**Waterways Travelled** – River Mersey

**Type of Water** - Natural river

**Distance** – 11 miles

**Licence Information** – No licence required – this is an access pilot trail designed by the Environment Agency for DEFRA

**Local Facilities** – This is a very urban area, and there are plenty of facilities – Stockport is a large town on the southern edge of Manchester

**Vehicle Shuttle Required** - Yes

**Portages and Locks** – 4 weirs, all of which should be inspected before shooting



### Description

The river is formed in Stockport from the confluence of the Rivers Goyt and Tame. The first mile is unusable due to high built up banks and a shopping centre built over the river. Downstream from Stockport the river has a rock gorge for the first half mile, the river valley is mainly undeveloped and rural due to the risk of flooding. There are four weirs and several 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.

There is a further 6 miles of trail to the end at Carrington not covered by this guide due to difficulty at the get out point.

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Miles    Map reference  
0        886901 The first get in point, at the end of Ford Street adjacent to Hollywood Way Bridge, Stockport.

0.2       884900 Brinksway Weir. Low crescent. OK at low flow and at high flow when it floods out to a wave but dangerous with a large tow back at medium flows. Inspect first, you can walk from Ford Street. The portage get out can be seen from the start point on the right 10 m above the weir. The get out is on a riffle and it may be best for a leader to get out first to catch the others.



Get in steps below weir on right.

0.8       874899 M60 Motorway Bridge

1.2       868900 Heaton Mersey Bleach Works Weir. Low crescent. OK at low flow and at high flow when it floods out to a wave but dangerous with a large tow back at medium flows. Inspect first. Portage get out on the right 20 m above the weir. Get in steps below weir on right.

1.6       862901 Intermediate finish/start point. Steps on right. Burnage Rugby Club welcome canoeists but do check if you want to park or use facilities. Phone 0161 432 2150.

2.0       856898 Cheadle Bridge, Manchester Road, B5095.

Confluence of Micker Brook.

2.4       852894 Kingsway Bridge, A34.

2.5       Railway Bridge

4.2       840907 Simons Bridge (Footbridge).

5.0       835901 M60 Motorway Bridge

5.1       834903 Footbridge immediately followed by -

5.2       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. Intermediate finish/start point.

5.4       832906 M60 Motorway Bridge

5.5       North Bridge, Palatine Road.

7.1       826911 Princess Road Bridge



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- 7.6 821917 Bridge (Private track)
- 8.3 818919 Bridge (Private track)
- 9.0 811926 Jacksons Bridge (Footbridge). Access. Intermediate finish/start point but bank very steep. Park on Rifle Road not on Jacksons Boat P.H. car park.
- 9.8 801936 Sale Ees Weir. Submerged weir with waves. Followed by rapid.
- 10.1 769934 Barfoot Bridge, Bridgewater Canal Aquaduct and railway bridge.
- 10.3 794934 M60 Motorway Bridge.
- 10.5 791932 Crossford Bridge, Chester Road, A56.
- 11.2 782930 Finish point. Steps on left. Trafford Metrovick Rugby Club welcome canoeists but do check if you want to park or use facilities. Phone 0161 973 7061

### 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 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- keeping 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 90% 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.

### Be sure to:

- Know the weather forecast before you set out canoeing.
- Familiarise yourself with the local area, its 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.

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- 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.
- 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:**

- ✓ Boat
- ✓ Paddle
- ✓ Buoyancy Aid
- ✓ Bailer/sponge
- ✓ Small First Aid Kit
- ✓ Penknife
- ✓ Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag....Please note that in some areas due to the location mobile telephone reception might be nonexistent)
- ✓ Fresh drinking water
- ✓ Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
- ✓ Light waterproof jacket
- ✓ Footwear
- ✓ Licence

ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you are going and when you are 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.

- 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.

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- 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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