

River Weaver Canoe Trail



Start – Winsford Flash activity centre. GR SJ 656661 location
Web site for all information can be found at www.Discovercheshire.co.uk

The whole trail is on OS Landranger sheets 117 and 118

Length and Duration – 28.5km. 1.5 days as a one way trip. The river is split into sections that will support trips from ½ a day up to the full trip

End – Runcorn Canoe Club GR SJ 601761. Exit on the Right Bank

Licence – A British Waterways Licence is required. Canoe England membership includes this licence so please take your membership card with you.

Maps and Information – These can be down loaded from www.Discovercheshire.co.uk and will provide all the information and current guidance on the trail.

Alternative Loop – As an alternative there is a loop of 9km taking in the river Weaver and the canal on a return trip from Anderton Boat Lift to Acton Bridge or starting at Action Bridge up to the Anderton Boat lift. This can be extended to Dutton Lock to add an additional 2.5km. It is recommended that the loop is completed in a clockwise direction.

Camping – There is camping at Woodbine Camp Site where there are a range of facilities and near by services.

Lock Access travelling from Winsford to Runcorn.

Vale Royal Lock. Exit on the right bank at the pontoon. Walk along the tow path to below the lock and enter via the pontoon. Note this is a 300m portage and we would advise considering the use of a trolley for open boats and heavy sea kayaks. Do not exit on the left bank as this is private fishing.

Hunts Lock.

Option 1

On the approach to the lock head down the right channel.

Exit at the Rowing club on the right bank. Walk along the footpath to the swing bridge. Cross the swing bridge to the lock keepers house. On reaching the lock, head right, down the steps and access the river via the pontoon. This bridge will be completed in October 2010. Until that time use option 2

Option 2

This can be used outside the fishing season. (15th March to 15th June)

On the approach to the lock head down the left channel. Exit the river on the left bank close to the lock. Please be aware of fishing in this section.

Walk down the left bank past the lock staying close to the river.

Once below the lock there are some narrow steps which lead to a concrete platform. These steps are steep. Enter the river.

Saltersford Lock.

Exit on the right bank near the sluice gate. Follow the road to the lock keepers cottage. Pass the cottage and continue down the track until you reach a point you feel is low enough to access the river.

Dutton Lock.

Paddle to the lock gates. Exit on the right bank where the grass is low. Follow the path past the lock keepers cottage.

At the end of the grass there is a low concrete ledge. This may be over grown.

Access the river at the end of the grass.

To access the canal from the river. Exit at Dutton Lock on the right bank. Head back up stream to the sluice gates. Walk across the sluice gate bridge. Once on the track the footpath is on your left heading up the hill in a straight line. This is relatively steep and is 350m long and a soil path. We would advise considering the use of a trolley for open boats and heavy sea kayaks. Once reaching the canal head right along the canal to Acton or Anderton Boat lift

Acton Bridge.

To exit at Action bridge, exit on the right bank, upstream of the bridge on the right channel. To portage to the canal, proceed under the bridge and follow the road up to the main road footpath. Follow the path and turn left down the small road. Follow this round to the right and past the Davenport Farm Shop and camp site. To reach the canal, continue past the shop into the canal marina to access the canal. To head to Anderton go right along the canal.

Canal Tunnels.

To portage the tunnels. Exit on the Southern bank. Follow the path that heads up the tunnel. Continue straight on these paths till you reach the other side. Access the canal from the right bank. These are long portages of 300m and 500m over a hill. We would advise considering the use of a trolley for open boats and heavy sea kayaks.

After the tunnels we do not recommend joining the river at any other point until you reach Anderton boat lift. Any path you find is difficult due to the main road and access to the river is poor.

Anderton Boat Lift.

Access point and car park. To rejoin the river paddle past the lift with the lift on your right hand side. Pass the pour over sluice on the right bank and exit on the right bank (South bank). At a point level with the sluice head away from the canal at 90 deg towards the car park. Reaching the car park head straight across to the dragon fly gates on the far side. Follow the path and take the right fork following the track down hill to the river. At the bottom of the track when the track turns sharp left, continue over the grass to access the river. Heading left (upstream) takes you towards Winsford. Heading right (down stream) takes to you Acton Bridge and Runcorn.



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Swing Bridges

This trail does have some swing bridges and we would advise that you ensure you have considered, the craft you are in, the river levels and the potential need to portage. If you do go under these bridges please look out for any nuts and bolts protruding below the bridge