

# PADDLING TRAIL

Canoe through rural Cheshire along the first canal in England to be built under an Act of Parliament. The small towns and villages bordering the canal bring much of the charm to this trail.

## Key Info

**Start:** Ye Old No 3 Public House, Little Bollington WA14 4TA

Park in the large lay-by by the pub

**Finish:** Keckwick Hill Bridge, Daresbury WA4 4AN

Free parking in lay-by adjacent to bridge



Scan or visit [bit.ly/little-bollington](http://bit.ly/little-bollington) to find the map in Mapometer and download the GPX file

**Distance:** 11 miles

**Time:** 3-6 hours (approx)

**Locks/Portages:** 0

**OS Map:** Landranger 109 Manchester and 108 Liverpool and Surrounding Areas

- 1 Once on the water set off to your left heading towards Lymm.
- 2 At Oughttrighton pass under Lloyd Bridge, dedicated to the Lloyd family who served the canal for 200 years.
- 3 Arrive at Lymm, a small town whose streets come down to the water's edge. This is a nice spot to stop for lunch.
- 4 Leave Lymm and pass under the M6 just south of Thelwall Viaduct. A dog leg turn takes you on to Grappenhall and past the village stocks!
- 5 The waterway continues alongside the A56 to Stockton Heath; the original terminus of the canal. Ice creams and snacks are available here, from Thorn Marine. At just over 8 miles you will come to two bridges together. You are at Walton Hall and Gardens and can get out here to explore.
- 6 Pass a secluded wooded cutting before the Daresbury Atomic Energy buildings come into view. The get out is one mile further along, at Keckwick Hill Bridge.



Find more paddling trails at:  
[gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)



The Bridgewater Canal was constructed when Lord Ellesmere, the Duke of Bridgewater, wanted to transport his coal from his underground mines in Farnworth and Bolton some 10 miles away.

The navigation reached Lymm in 1766 and had a profound effect on commerce in the area with the introduction of the fustian (a type of cloth) cutting trade.

If you stop for lunch here, spend a little time looking around this small town. There is a self-guided heritage trail, a pretty village pond and Lymm Cross which represents Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. Half a mile further on there is a park. Boats can be moored and there are picnic benches, another good place to stop for lunch.

Where the houses of Grappenhall merge into those of Stockton Heath there are easy access or get out points. Stockton Heath, at 7 miles, was the original canal terminus, until it was extended to Runcorn, so consequently it was a major transshipment point for passengers and freight before the railways came.

Walton Hall is a Grade II listed building, owned by Warrington Borough Council. It was built in the 1830's for Sir Gilbert Greenall, a brewer and Member of Parliament. It boasts 32 acres of parkland, Green Flag gardens and a petting zoo. There are also public toilets here, next to the canal bridge.

Approaching Daresbury you will spot the distinctive tower of the atomic research facility on your left, with the Mersey Estuary and arch of the Runcorn-Widnes Bridge to your right. Daresbury is the site of some pretty serious research into nuclear physics, particle acceleration and super computers. The levels of security and signage reflect this.

Daresbury is also the birthplace of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson better known as Lewis Carroll. All Saints church has a pretty memorial window in the Daniell Chapel, where he is shown with the characters of Alice in Wonderland. The new Lewis Carroll Centre celebrating his life is now fully open.

Venture-Out, a Go Canoeing Tour Provider, have boat hire locally if you need more equipment: [www.venture-out.co.uk](http://www.venture-out.co.uk)

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.lewiscarrollcentre.org.uk>

<http://www.Lymm.com>

<http://www.Bridgewatercanal.co.uk>



## Safety and Licenses

*We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.*

### Paddle Safe:

Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and / or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

### Paddle Responsibly:

Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licences: The waterways in this trail are managed by the Bridgewater Canal Company and require paddlers to hold a licence. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual licence for this waterway - please take your membership card with you as this acts as your licence. Non-members can either purchase a British Canoeing membership from [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk) or buy licences direct from [www.bridgewatercanal.co.uk/boating/licensing](http://www.bridgewatercanal.co.uk/boating/licensing)

Visit our website  
[britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://britishcanoeing.org.uk)  
for more information

