

## Key Information

This is a pleasant trip just south of the centre of a major city, taking a circular route down the River Exe, and back up the Exeter Ship Canal. It is 2.8 miles long, and gives great views of the city to the east side, and an increasingly rural view downstream. There are Waymarker points at get in/out locations with a canoe on them.

**Start/Finish:** Canal Banks Car Park, Clapperbrook Lane East off Alphin Brook road, EX2 8QA

**Portages:** 2  
**Time:** 1 - 2 hours  
**Distance:** 2.8 miles  
**OS Map:** Explorer 114 Exeter & The Exe Valley



For more information scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/2KEv1YV](https://bit.ly/2KEv1YV)



1. Walk around 150m away from the canal and over to the river. Put in and turn right, downriver.

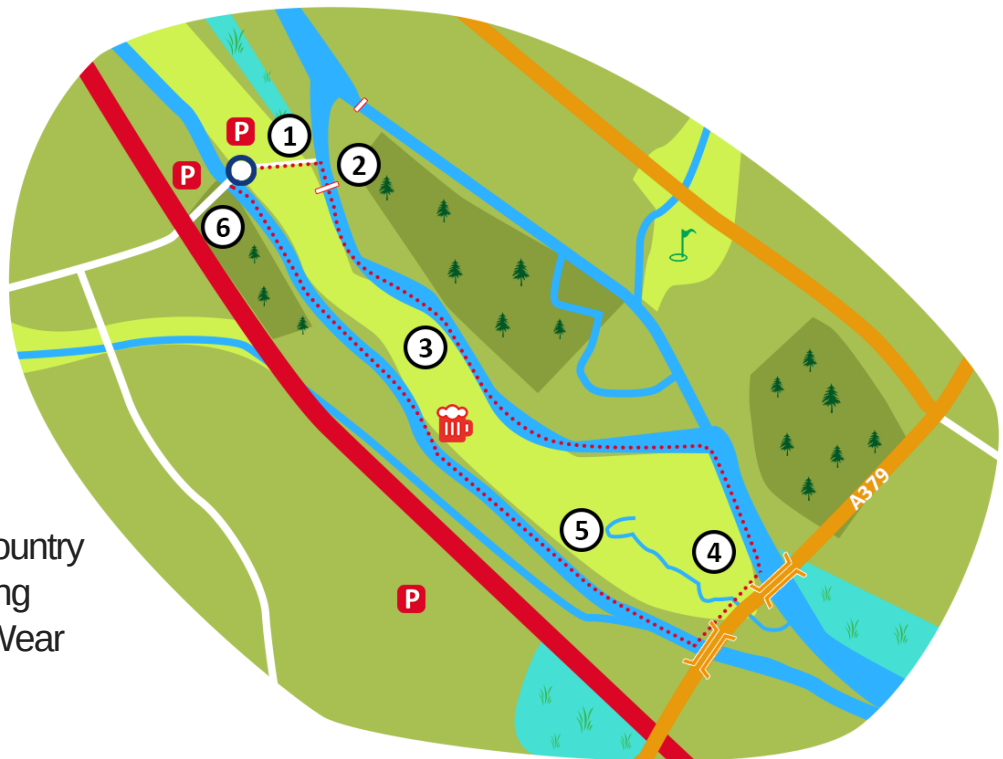
2. Please keep to the right side of the river, to avoid going too close to the houses on the east bank and any salmon anglers.

3. To the right is the greenery of a country park. The river sweeps around a long bend to the right before Countess Wear Bridge is reached.

4. Below the bridge, it is possible to portage along the old Exeter bypass to the canal, but our portage is an easier one; 200 yards downstream, over a narrow neck of land by the sewage works entrance.

5. The canal narrows as the paddler reaches the crossing point of the old A38, the Exeter by-pass. Here there are two bridges, the old swing bridge and a newer lifting bridge opened in 1971. At Double Locks there is another Inn, dating from 1701.

6. The canal now skirts the edge of the Marsh Barton Trading Estate and in front is a magnificent view of the City and the Cathedral. Land back where you parked, on the right side of the canal by the road bridge.



Find out more information at: [gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)

**This is loop two of four on the River Exe and Exeter Ship Canal. You can combine all four loops to make a scenic 10.5 mile day trip.**

All weirs can be dangerous and you should only shoot a weir if you are confident of your ability to do so. An inspection should be made of the weir to assess conditions, If you are unsure of the conditions for you and fellow paddlers, use the portage point and do not attempt to shoot the weir.

Many centuries ago Exeter was an important wool trade exporter, until a dispute arose with the owner of Topsham and a weir was built to divert trade.

The Exeter Ship Canal is one of the oldest artificial waterways in the UK. First built in the 1560's it underwent many improvements over the centuries and finally fell out of commercial use in the 1970's. It runs from the centre of Exeter out to the river Exe estuary.

On the Quay in Exeter is A/S Watersports - a paddling shop - and they are more than happy to help you with canoeing information in the area. There is also Haven Banks - and outdoor education centre.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

[britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://britishcanoeing.org.uk)

[aswatersports.co.uk](http://aswatersports.co.uk)

[visitexeter.com/things-to-do/exeter-quayside](http://visitexeter.com/things-to-do/exeter-quayside)

## Licence

**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 on this trail don't require you to have a licence to paddle on them. However if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of British Canoeing. A British Canoeing membership gives you a whole range of benefits including a licence to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. Not only will membership help save you money, it will give you peace of mind when out on the waterways. For more information on British Canoeing membership please click here.**

