

# River Mersey- Heaton Mersey to Northenden

**Easy Trail:** Please be aware that the grading of this trail was set according to normal water levels and conditions. Weather and water level/conditions can change the nature of trail within a short space of time so please ensure you check both of these before heading out.

## 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.

## Start Directions

Burnage Rugby Club, Battersea Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 3EA. Map Reference 862901. Phone 0161 432 2150.

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 above to check what is happening at the club. Some days there are major matches or a Car boot (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.

**Distance:** 4 miles

**Approximate Time:** 1-2 Hours

*The time has been estimated based on you travelling 3 – 5mph (a leisurely pace using a recreational type of boat).*

**Type of Trail:** One Way

**Waterways Travelled:** River Mersey

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

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

**Nearest Town:** Stockport

**Start:** Burnage Rugby Club, Battersea Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 3EA. Map Reference 862901

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

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

**Licence Information:** A licence is not required to paddle this waterway

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

## Finish Directions

Northenden Weir, Mill Lane, Northenden, Manchester, 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.

## 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.

### Miles

- 0 Burnage Rugby Club welcome canoeists but please 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 feet 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

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](#).



**Weirs:** 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, either use the portage point or do not attempt to shoot the weir.

Venture-Out, a Go Canoeing Tour Provider, have boat hire locally if you need more equipment. Further useful information can be found on the following website:

[www.venture-out.co.uk](http://www.venture-out.co.uk)

## CANOEING SAFETY ADVICE

Spending an afternoon or day canoeing on a Canoe Trail can be a fun way to experience nature, help you to stay fit and healthy and enjoy spending time with friends and family. It can also be a dangerous journey, if appropriate safety guidelines are overlooked. To help make sure you remain safe at all times, read on to see our canoeing safety advice guidelines.

### 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, gloves, additional dry clothing, and layered items which can easily be removed. Take or wear a windproof top and course always wear a buoyancy aid - for children make sure the crotch straps are used.

### Be sure to:

- Know the weather forecast and check the water conditions before you set out canoeing. There is an [Environment Agency](#) website where information concerning river levels can be found. We recommend checking this before heading out as the river levels can rise and fall quite quickly in wet or dry conditions.
- Observe navigation rules for this waterway.
- Check to see if there are any events on the waterways when you wish to travel.
- Check that your equipment is well maintained and ready for the water.
- Check that your boat has the required buoyancy to keep it afloat in the event of a capsizing

**ALWAYS** be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

**MAKE SURE** that the journey you plan is within your capabilities.

**MAKE SURE** you never paddle alone.

### Equipment Checklist

Use the canoeing safety advice checklist below to make sure you have everything you need:

- Boat
- Paddle
- Buoyancy Aid
- Bailer/sponge
- Small First Aid Kit
- Phone (in a waterproof bag)



Photo by James Carnegie

- Drinking water and snacks
- Suitable clothing for the weather

## Environmental Good Practice

One of the great things about paddling a canoe trail is enjoying the journey and different environments that you paddle through. So when you are out on the water please consider the following things to help keep the wonderful waterways and environment as you found them and to avoid accidentally disturbing wildlife and their habitats.

- Take your **litter** home with you
- Keep **noise** to a minimum
- Where possible keep to any **designated paths or launching points**.
- **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.
- Canoe a **safe distance away from wildlife**. If you see signs of disturbance move away quietly.
- Familiarise yourself with the local area, its **sensitive places and protected areas**
- On rivers, **avoid paddling over gravel banks** in low water conditions – they may contain fish spawn.
- 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
- When clearing litter left by others, **handle it with care**.
- **Be the eyes and ears on the water**. Report pollution, wildlife problems, damage, incidents etc to the relevant authorities: **Canal & River Trust**, Emergencies: 0800 47 999 47  
**RSPCA for wildlife and animals in distress**: 0300 1234 999 (24 hours)  
**Environment Agency**: 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)



### CHECK, CLEAN, DRY

Help minimise the spread of invasive aquatic species and disease by following the campaign advice before putting your canoe and equipment in and out of the water (some invasive species can survive in damp or wet conditions for five or six days on water recreation clothing and equipment).

- **CHECK** all your equipment and clothing for living organisms and plants fragments. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect.
- **CLEAN** and wash all equipment, clothing and footwear thoroughly away from water source. If you do come across any organisms, leave them at the water body where you found them. When practical, completely dry out all equipment and clothing before going to a new site.
- **DRY** all equipment and clothing - some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Dry your kit with towels. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

Canoeists and kayakers take environmental concerns very seriously and already follow existing voluntary environmental codes of conduct. You can find more information about canoeing and the environment in British Canoeing's two publications covering inland and coastal paddling 'You and Your Canoe'. Both are available on the [British Canoeing website](#).

*We have taken great care to ensure the currency, accuracy and reliability of this information. We cannot accept responsibility for errors or omissions but where such are brought to our attention, the information will be amended accordingly. Users should be aware that environmental conditions outside of our control can change the nature of the Trail within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable. **This trail was last reviewed in August 2013***



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**Paddling!**

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