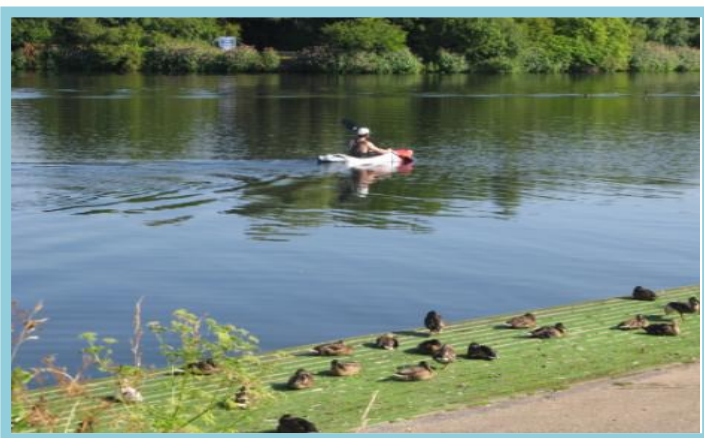


River Trent, Holme Pierrepont to Beeston Weir

Moderate to Challenging 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 is a very easy trip to undertake. The Trent is broad and slow-flowing, and the river through the city is thankfully very user-friendly, and there is plenty to see.

Start and Finish Directions

National Water Sports Centre car park, use the un-surfaced car park just before White Water course. When driving in, the lake can be glimpsed on the right, and just before the white water course is an un-surfaced car park on the left side, with easy access to the river down a slipway. Please check on the [National Waters Sports Centre](http://www.nationalwatersportscentre.co.uk) website for any major events which may be running.

Distance: 12 miles

Approximate Time: 2-4 Hours

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

Type of Trail: Out and Back

Waterways Travelled: River Trent

Type of Water: Urban and rural river

Portages and Locks: None

Nearest Town: Nottingham

Start and finish: Holme Pierrepont Car Park, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG12 2LU

O.S. Sheets: (1:50 000) Nottingham & Loughborough Sheet 129

Licence information: A licence is required to paddle on this waterway. See full details in Useful Information below.

Local Facilities: At Holme Pierrepont there is parking and toilet facilities as well as two cafés.

Description

This trail can be undertaken by embarking in the city centre near to Wilford Bridge, but as parking is not always to be found (mainly due to the nearby football grounds), using the National Watersports Centre is recommended, which will always give parking, unless a major canoeing competition is on. The trip can therefore be as far upriver as you wish to go, merely turning around when wanting to drift back to the start point.

All canoeists should really be familiar with the Holme Pierrepont set-up, even if not competition paddlers. An artificial canoe slalom course has been built using water taken off the Trent, and then returned lower down, and the course has been re-built and improved in recent years. Just away from the river is the rectangular sprint regatta course lake, and the buildings of the National Watersports Centre (NWSC), which is clearly signposted on brown signs from all directions.

It is about a mile and a half upstream to Trent Bridge, and it can be busy, especially at weekends, but also at other times. There is both a Sea Cadet centre on the right bank, and a sailing club on the left. The Trent from [Nottingham](#) down is also a major commercial conduit, and carries traffic down to the Humber, so keep a look-out for large craft. After a large culvert on the right bank is the canal depot, a large dock you can paddle into.

The first bridge is Ladybay Bridge, and on the left bank are both a rowing club and Nottingham Kayak Club, which means being in the presence of long racing kayaks, which can move very fast.

You can now see both the Nottingham Forest Football ground and Trent Bridge Cricket Ground on the left side Notts County is on the right bank- the reason for little car parking on some weekends!

On the right bank, the Nottingham Canal leaves, bound for a major canal junction to the west of the city, with connecting routes to the West Midlands, Merseyside, and London, a relic of the times when this was a very major water-borne route centre. On the left, behind you, are the remains of the former (now closed) Grantham canal. The Nottingham end was severed by new road building, and the canal was closed in 1936. There are currently plans (as in many parts of England), for a re-opening, but both the Grantham and Nottingham ends would require totally new routes. There are two tiny sections of canal still open along the route.

After Trent Bridge itself, a very busy arterial road for Nottingham, the river opens out into a very pleasant stretch, with a stepped embankment all along the north (right) side, giving access on to the water, and a tree-lined riverside road. There can be many fishermen on this bank as well, as access is so easy.

The river winds around a long right-hand bend to a footbridge in a mile, and then a long left-hand bend to Clifton Bridge, carrying the western ring road for the city. After another mile and half, with the scenery becoming even greener, a sharp bend to the right takes the paddler to the turn-a-round point of Beeston Weir and lock.

After heading the current for the 6 miles upstream, the canoeist can drift back at leisure.



Useful Information

The waterways in this trail are managed by Canal and Rivers Trust and require paddlers to hold a licence. If you are an existing British Canoeing member the good news is that your membership includes an annual licence for the waterways covered within this trail – please ensure you take your membership card with you on the water as this acts as your licence, if stopped with no licence, you will be at risk of being fined.

You can buy a licence directly from [Canal and Rivers Trust](#) for this waterway or by becoming a British Canoeing member you'll have a licence to cover you for a whole year. A British Canoeing membership gives you a whole range of benefits including licenses to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. If you are planning to paddle regularly this will save you great deal of money and hassle alongside having peace of mind. For more information on British Canoeing membership please [click here](#)

It is worth having a walk around Holme Pierrepont to see everything, and there are two cafes on site, a picnic site, a campsite, [accommodation](#), a country park, and at least one canoe retailer. If coming from the south, on the M1, the signs are picked up approaching Nottingham before Trent Bridge.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

[River Level Advice](#)

One day in Nottingham is never enough ... see why [here](#)

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 capsized



Photo by James Carnegie

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)
- 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 April 2013***

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