

River Trent - Yoxall to Alrewas

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 is a pleasant and short river trip in the middle Trent valley. The Trent is a small river, flowing quietly through pretty countryside, and a definitely underestimated waterway.

The River Trent is the third longest river in England, flowing from north Staffordshire east to the sea eventually via the Humber estuary. The Trent and Mersey Canal follows it for most of the way, from Preston Brook in Cheshire to Derwentmouth in Derbyshire.

The route is contained within a triangle formed by Rugeley to the west, Burton-on-Trent to the north, and Lichfield to the south.

Start Directions

Yoxall Bridge – SK 131177 (Post code: DE13 8NJ)

The bridge is half a mile south of Yoxall village, and 1 mile north of King's Bromley. On the north side of the river is a round-a-bout, and the old road runs back to finish at the bridge, making a convenient parking place.

King's Bromley is on the Alrewas to Armitage road, the A513.

Distance: 4 miles

Approximate Time: 1-2 miles

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 Trent

Type of Water: Natural River

Portages and Locks: 1 weir to portage

Nearest Town: Lichfield

Start: Yoxall Bridge, Lichfield, DE13 8NJ

Finish: Alrewas DE13 7BE

O.S. Sheets: Landranger No. 128 – Derby and Burton-upon-Trent

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

Local Facilities: Alrewas has toilets and shops and pubs – Lichfield has more facilities.

Description

You start your journey at Yoxall Bridge following the river flow. Here the river is away from any village or buildings, and this is a feature of the Trent, as its wide-bottomed valley floods often in winter, and this margin makes for a quiet paddle, often seeing nobody all day.

The river winds pleasantly through green countryside, with King's Bromley visible on the right side. The river is first fairly straight, and then takes long bends to the north, and then to the south. After one and a half miles, Orgreave Hall is to the right. Near Wychenor Park on the left bank, there used to be a short divide, with a broken weir on the right branch, but this appears to have broken down, and been flooded over the years.

Alrewas Mill is the next feature, with a portage on the left bank, to follow the left branch under a farm bridge, and to the weir, portage on the left bank. This branch, carrying much more water, soon re-joins the other mill stream, and under a long footbridge, joins the Trent and Mersey canal. This only lasts for about 200yds, and the Trent can be seen leaving to the right over a weir.

For this trip, you turn sharp right into the canal, and paddle back towards Alrewas, portaging at the last lock just before the bridge. This area is usually very busy with moored narrow boats, and you will have plenty of company in the summer.

Finish Directions

Alrewas – SK 169152 (DE13 7BE)

Alrewas is just off the A38 main road from Birmingham to Derby.

The finish point is at a preserved hump-back bridge in Alrewas, (the name means 'alder washes', used in basket-making with alder), that is not signposted – it is more a case of working north through the village from the junction of the A38 and A513 until coming across water. There are about half a dozen parking places here.

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](#)

Care is required on the River Trent – although small, there are Grade 1 rapids, overhanging trees, and high water will accentuate these difficulties

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/riverlevels

The National Arboretum is on the east side of Alrewas, the other side of the A38, and is open every day of the year, free, except for Christmas Day. There are the usual facilities here, including for people with disability, and a gift shop etc. The River Tame, a Birmingham river, joins the Trent just outside the Arboretum area.

Lichfield is a pleasant cathedral town, and Burton-on-Trent is famous for its breweries.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

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www.thenma.org.uk
www.thenma.org.uk/visit/visitorinformation
www.alrewas-staffs.info
www.alrewas.org.uk/
www.canalguide.co.uk/canals/britain

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

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 January 2013***

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