

# River Wey Navigation- Pyrford Lock to Weybridge Town Lock

**Moderate 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

Enjoy a paddle along the Wey which was one of the first British rivers to be made navigable and opened to barge traffic in 1653. It is quite unusual waterway. The Wey has two separate sources in two different counties. The two River Weys unite near the historic Tilford Oak in Surrey

The Wey and its two Navigations flow across 87 miles (140 km) of countryside yet drop a mere 98 feet (30 m) by the time the waterway joins the Thames at Weybridge.

## Start Directions

Limited off road parking on the opposite side of the canal to the Anchor pub – Map 187 Ref 054593 GU23 6QW

The Anchor pub car park is for customers only and barrier controlled.

On the A3 travelling towards London, between Ripley and the junction with the M25 take the slip road signed for Wisely Royal Horticultural Society. Turn into Wisely Lane and continue on this minor road that leads to Pyrford Lock. Cross over the canal bridge (tight width restriction) for the limited off road parking immediately on the left- TQ 054593

Or from the A245 at West Byfleet take the minor roads to Pyrford Green, thence to Pyrford Lock by reference to the OS maps.

**Distance:** 4.8 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 Wey Navigation

**Type of Water:** Rural and Urban River

**Portages and Locks:** 2

**Nearest Town:** Weybridge

**Start:** Pyrford Lock GU23 6QW

**Finish:** Weybridge Town Lock Map 176 Reference 069647 KT13 8XX

**O.S. Sheets:** Landranger No 187 – Dorking, Reigate & Crawley and No. 176 – West London

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

**Local Facilities:** In Weybridge

## Finish Directions

Weybridge Town Lock Map 176 Reference 069647 KT13 8XX

Public car adjacent (free with height restriction)

Turn off the A317 between Weybridge and Addlestone into the Bourne & Weybridge Business Park. Take the first exit at the mini roundabout that leads to the canal and Weybridge Town Lock. Opposite the lock turn into Weystone Road for the car park.

If travelling from Pyrford Lock the most direct route is via the A3, M25 and (J11) for Chertsey, then A317 for Weybridge.

## Description

This is both an urban experience, but also more rural at times. Launch by the off road parking area. Pyrford Basin is close by on the left, with mooring capacity for 170 boats. After this is Dodd's footbridge, and then Murray's Bridge. You paddle under the main A245 road bridge, West Byfleet to your left, and then the Old Parvis Bridge and Byfleet Boat House, (some parking here), the former main road. The canal then has a long straight section, with the roar of the M25 on your right.

Next is the brick-built Woodham Railway Bridge, the Woodham Footbridge, and then the entrance to the Basingstoke Canal on the left. Go under a metal-covered bridge, and the M25 Bridge. Between here and the lock at New Haw there are numerous moored boats at the foot of gardens backing onto the canal.

Portage right at New Haw Lock opposite the small spillway (weir). This entails crossing the A318 that is usually busy and care is required. Just below the lock and on the left the spillway rejoins the canal that can be taken for the White Hart pub with a waterside garden and easy landing.

It is only 0.8 miles to Coxes Lock mostly passing houses that overlook the canal until as far as Addlestone Canoe Club when the canal assumes a brief rural aspect. Two bends in the course of the canal later brings Coxes Lock into view with a portage on the right. The impressive former mill on the left is now flats, when launching be aware the spill from the mill pond discharging into the pool area can create a back eddy by the lock entrance.

There follows a railway bridge, the Pelican pub, Blackboys Bridge, and the finish at Weybridge Town Lock. Land on the towpath 50 yards before the lock. To keep the towpath clear, boats and kit can be moved across the road and over the footbridge to a useful area of open ground at the rear of the car park.

Weybridge town centre with full facilities is a five minute walk beyond the lock and over the road bridge.

The trail is also suitable for a longer out and back paddle from Weybridge to Pyrford.

## Useful Information

**License Information:** The waterways in this trail are managed by The National 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 [The National Trust](#), Dapdune Wharf, Wharf Road, Guildford Surrey GU1 4RR tel 01483 561389. 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](#)

The river has been recorded in history as the Wegan (956–1225) and Waie (1190–1193).

During the seventeenth century the river was made navigable to Guildford and extended in the eighteenth century to Godalming. The Basingstoke Canal and Wey and Arun Junction Canal were later connected to the river. The navigable sections are now owned by the National Trust.

The river has long been used as a source of power for mills, and many are recorded in the Domesday Book. At one point there were 22 mills on the river, and more on its tributaries. At various times they have been used for grinding grains, fulling wool, rolling oats, crushing cattle cake, leather dressing, paper production and gunpowder manufacture. Willey Mill was still in use in 1953 (Cox's Mill closed in the 1980's and saw the end of commercial traffic on the waterway). There were more watermills per mile along the River Wey than anywhere else in Britain.

This 15½-mile waterway linked Guildford to Weybridge on the Thames, and then to London. The Godalming Navigation opened in 1764, enabled barges to work a further four miles upriver. The award-winning visitor centre at Dapdune Wharf in Guildford tells the story of the Navigations and the people who lived and worked on them. Visitors can see where the huge Wey barges were built and climb aboard Reliance, one of three surviving barges.

## 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 capsize

**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.



Photo by James Carnegie

- 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 May 2013***

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