

Key Info

Start: Creepy Canal Side,
Beeston, Nottingham NG9 1LZ
Finish: Nightmare (National) Water
Sports Centre, Holme Pierrepont,
Nottingham NG12 2LU



Scan or visit
bit.ly/hpp-beeston-trail
to find the map
in Mapometer and
download the GPX file

Time: 1.5-3.5 hours
Distance: 6 miles
Locks/Portages: None
OS Map: Explorer 260 Nottingham

Do you dare take on this spine tingling tour and meet the ghosts of Nottinghamshire?! From Beeston to Holme Pierrepont (and back if you feel brave) you are sure to stir spirits from the murky depths of the river.



Put in at Beeston Weir - there is a concrete slipway with access to the beach which provides a suitable put in point.



As you start to paddle, look up to your right and spot imposing Clifton Hall. The last owner sold it in a hurry, having been hounded out by angry phantoms. If you see sturgeon swimming upstream here a death at the hall is said to be imminent!



Look out for the Wilford Ferry pub, on your right beyond the Toll Bridge. Here, a poltergeist was exorcised; perhaps the remaining spirit of ex-landlord and famous sportsman Albert Iremonger?



As you escape these fiendish friends move on along the river, to your next encounter. The Toll Bridge now carries the tram line but you may still spot a man dressed in blue standing on the bridge. He was once the toll collector here.



Paddle on fast towards Trent Bridge. Are you alone here? A phantom canoeist has been seen to pass under the bridge and disappear. Look up! Do you see a ghostly jogger, or an ethereal man dressed in green peering down at you? They have both been spotted here before.



Paddle on under Lady Bay bridge and towards the finish. To your left as the trail ends, you will see the edges of Colwick Park. The park may look packed with people but are you sure all those you see are real? Could that woman amongst the trees be Mrs Chaworth Musters, Lord Byrons first love? She still hides from marauders there. And those children, why are they sad? Aren't they the poor mites murdered by their father, William Saville, in 1844?



Finish at the National Water Sports Centre - there is a concrete beach after the sailing club which provides an excellent spot for easy access to the car park.



Find more
canoe trails at:
gopaddling.info



At the National Water Sports Centre an artificial canoe slalom course has been built, using water taken off the Trent, which is returned lower down. 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.

The Nottingham Canal is a relic of the times when this was a very major waterborne route centre.

The Nottingham end of the Grantham Canal 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.

It is worth having a walk around Holme Pierrepont. There are two cafes on site, a picnic site, a campsite, accommodation, a country park and a canoe retailer. If coming from the south, on the M1, the signs are picked up approaching Nottingham before Trent Bridge.

One day in Nottingham is never enough, take some time to explore the city.

Discover more:

<http://www.experiencenottinghamshire.com/>

<http://www.nwscnotts.com/>



Safety and Licenses

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!

The waterways in this trail are managed by Canal and Rivers Trust and require paddlers to hold a license. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual license for this waterway - please take your membership card with you as this acts as your license. Non-members can either purchase a British Canoeing membership from www.britishcanoeing.org.uk or buy licenses direct from www.canalrivertrust.org.uk