

# SPOOKY PADDLING TRAIL



## Key Info



Scan or visit [bit.ly/Darley-Abbey](http://bit.ly/Darley-Abbey) to find the map in Mapometer and download the GPX file

**Start:** Creepy car park, Poplar Row, Darley Abbey DE22 1DU  
**Finish:** Poltergeist (Pride) Park, Derby County F.C. DE24 8XL

**Time:** 1-2 hours  
**Distance:** 3 miles  
**Locks/Portages:** One weir to portage /shoot  
**OS Map:** Explorer 259 Derby

Dip your paddle in the cursed waters of the River Derwent, dodging ghastly ghosts and fearful phantoms!

This short trail is sure to send a shiver down your spine.

- 1 Put in down the bank, below the shallows at the bottom of the weir and turn right, towards Derby city centre.
- 2 As you travel along this narrow bit of river, watch for what could be lurking in those overhanging trees. Did you see a pair of eyes watching you? Could it be the ghost of a monk from the Abbey?!
- 3 As you reach the spooky suburbs, a mile into your journey, you arrive at St Mary's road bridge. Look! Do you spot the Royal Carriage, carrying a ghostly nun, across the bridge? Hasten under as you listen for the moans of the criminals who were displayed here after being put to death, many years ago.
- 4 Travelling under another bridge, you will now see the silk mill on your right. Do you hear the sobs of the poor mill worker child? He is still heard to cry after being kicked cruelly down the stairs here, for not working quickly enough, in the 1700's.
- 5 Your fearful float is not over yet! Now you spot Derby Cathedral. Who is that man in old fashioned clothes, passing through the walls...Is it Bonnie Prince Charlie, looking for his troops? Or perhaps it's miserable executioner John Crossland; still looking for peace after putting his own father and brother to death to save his own skin!
- 6 At just under 1.5 miles you reach Longbridge Weir. This can be easily portaged on the right bank, or shot in enough water.
- 7 Continue to the finish of this terrifying trail at Pride Park Football Stadium.
- 8 Head to a heavily vegetated river bank on the right side, about 300 yards downstream of the modern road bridge to leave the river.
- 9 As you walk to your car...what's that running around the grounds? Why, it's the ghost of a black dog, said to play outside the stadium when good luck is coming to the team. Let's hope he's friendly!

Find more canoe trails at:  
[gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)



This trail offers a good opportunity to paddle what might be seen at first as an uninteresting urban river, but which repays your time and effort.

Downstream from the finish is a very industrial area, with poor road access and some dangerous weirs. In summer thick vegetation makes portaging difficult.

Darley Abbey village in Derbyshire, is a haven of peace and tranquility, a short distance from the busy A6 just north of Derby. It is a village of delightfully restored mill cottages, built in rows or around squares. It was originally an Augustinian priory, founded by Robert Ferrers, second Earl of Derby, around 1146. The Abbey became one of the most important in Derbyshire, but was surrendered as part of the Dissolution of Monasteries, in 1538, and almost totally obliterated.

Derby is the most central city in the UK. It is well worth taking the time to wander around the city before or after your trail.

Derby Silk Mill, formerly known as Derby Industrial Museum, is a museum of industry and history in Derby, England. The museum is housed in Lombe's Mill, a historic former silk mill which marks the southern end of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Please note: the Silk Mill is currently undergoing a full refurbishment, with an expected completion date of 2019/2020. Until the project is complete the majority of the museum is closed, with limited opening hours.

Derby Cathedral, known as the Cathedral of All Saints, is a grade I listed cathedral church in the city of Derby, in the county of Derbyshire, England. It was promoted from parish church status into a cathedral in 1927 in order to create a seat for the Bishop of Derby, which new see was created in that year.

<https://www.derbymuseums.org/locations/silk-mill>

<http://www.derbycathedral.org/>

<http://www.visitderby.co.uk/>

<http://www.darleyabbey.com/index.asp>

**Parking note:** At your start point, just downstream of the bridge is an obvious weir, and then an open area with a car park and green space. There is a good access point down the bank which is below the shallows at the bottom of the weir.

At the finish, do not try and park near to Pride Park on a home match day!

## 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](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk) or buy licenses direct from [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)