

Key Info

Start: Evesham - Waterside opposite Rowing Club WR11 1BU
Start: Pershore - King George V Playing Field WR10 1QU

Don't be fooled by the lovely scenery on this trail...poltergeists, phantoms and panthers lurk in the shadows!

Time: 3 hours

Distance: 10.5 miles

Locks/Portages: 3 Portages or Weir Shoots

OS Map: Explorer 205 Stratford - upon - Avon & Evesham & Explorer 190 Malvern Hills & Bredon Hill



Scan me

Scan or visit <http://bit.ly/avon-evesham> to find the map in Mapometer and download the GPX file

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- 1 Park on the roadside on the opposite side of the river from Evesham Rowing Club. Before you set off on your paddle why not stroll along the High Street to visit Colin the poltergeist at the Spiritus shop? Watch out for the furniture he throws!
 - 2 Use path to enter riverside park area. Facing river you will head left/downstream, launching from the concrete jetty.
 - 3 After 1 mile arrive at Hampton Ferry. This is a hand controlled ferry, **if in use there will be a rope across the width of the river at a height of 1m**
 - 4 As you travel along the river listen for the sound of silver bells. They were hidden in the river here when the local abbey closed hundreds of years ago and are still said to ring sometimes.
 - 5 At just over 2.5 miles arrive at Chadbury lock/weir. There is a portage point to the right hand side of the lock island or a weir shoot.
 - 6 At 5 miles Fladbury Paddle Club is on the right immediately after passing under a railway bridge. A good place to stop and there is a toilet at the top of the steps. Don't linger too long though, lest the various floating apparitions seen along this river catch up with you.
 - 7 500m downstream of the Paddle Club is Fladbury lock/weir. The Lock can be portaged on the left hand side. To shoot the weir stay right of the lock, and past the mill house on the left. **There is a ferry wire at 1m to avoid and the weir shoot is best on the left.**
 - 8 At 6 miles pass through Crophome and listen for disembodied footsteps. Heard but never seen the ghost which lives here loves to roam freely.
 - 9 Keep your eyes peeled for the next few miles. There have been sightings of a giant black panther in this area. Did you know that cats can swim?!
 - 10 At 9.5 miles pass the Anchor Inn at Wyre Piddle and then stay left for a lock/portage or continue right for a weir shoot. This weir needs a good inspection before shooting.

Find more canoe trails at:
gopaddling.info





Reaching your destination at Pershore, get out at King George V Playing Field on the right.



You're not safe yet. A poltergeist has caused people to flee the local working men's club and a phantom sailor is an extra customer at the Angel Inn and Posting House. Will you make it back to your car safely?!



Discover More



The trail commences at Evesham which is the starting point for the Lower Avon. The River Avon is made up of the Upper Avon which runs from Alveston weir above Stratford-upon-Avon to Evesham, and the Lower Avon from Evesham to Tewkesbury where it joins the River Severn.

The rural Vale of Evesham is bordered by the Cotswolds to the East and Bredon and Malvern Hills to the South and West. The Vale is famous for its fruit orchards, market gardeners and food production.

The get in at Evesham is opposite the recently restored historical Bell Tower. The Bell Tower, 2 churches and the Almonry, now a museum, are all that remain of what was once the 3rd largest Abbey in England, dating back to 700AD.

After circling Evesham you pass under a railway bridge which carries the main Birmingham Paddington line and then paddle in to the heart of the Vale passing Sankey Marine on your right before arriving at Chadbury Lock and Weir (For fans of Top Gear, this is the weir they went over in their Ford Transit hovercraft)

Depending on the time of year you may see Wood Norton Hall on your right through the trees. This until recently was the BBC Engineering training Centre and supposedly Winston Churchill made war time broadcasts from and underground bunker here during the 2nd world war.

Fladbury Paddle Club is a sprint/marathon racing club well known for producing a number of international paddlers over the years and more recently the home of bell boating. If you fancy a wander into the village there are 2 pubs and the award winning Fladbury Pie shop.

Croptorne Mill is used as a holiday home, but if there are people there it is worth asking them to see the collection of old canoes and coracles.

Like Evesham, Pershore has an historic Abbey and is also famous for the High Street and its Georgian architecture. There are also a number of small cafes in the town.

<http://www.hamptonferry.co.uk/restaurant.html>
<http://www.anchorinnpershore.co.uk/index>



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!

Licence: The waterways in this trail are managed by the Avon Navigation Trust and require paddlers to hold a permit. British Canoeing membership includes a licence for this waterway. Or you can purchase from www.avonnavigationtrust.org

