

TRENT LOOP NOTTINGHAM

THE CHALLENGE...

Paddle the River Trent and Nottingham and Beeston Canal

DISTANCE: 14 miles (approximately)

START AND FINISH: National Water Sports Centre (Nottingham NG12 2LU, map reference SK 6608387). This is a circular route which takes you through town and countryside. There are three locks throughout the route that will need to be portaged. The National Water Sports Centre has a few car parks. The best one to use for this challenge is the un-surfaced car park, where the cafe and family fun park are located. When driving in, follow the signs for the white water course; the lake can be glimpsed on the right. Turn into the first un-surfaced car, which has easy access to the river down a slipway.

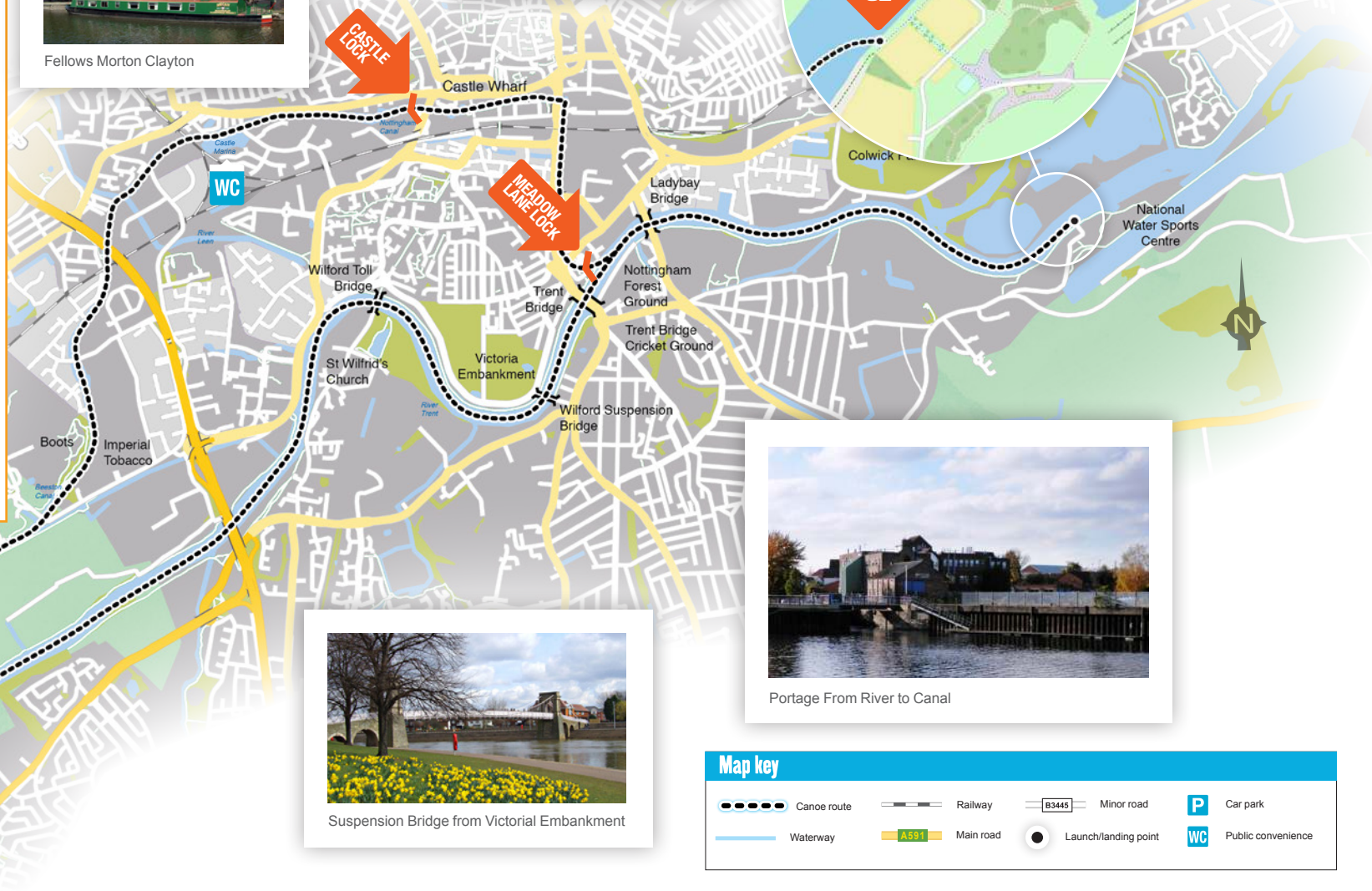
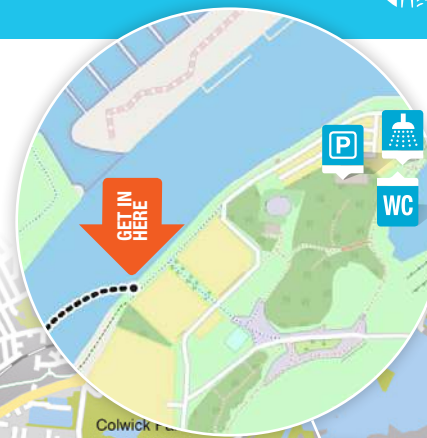
Please check on the National Waters Sports Centre website for any major events that may be running.



Fellows Morton Clayton



Castle Lock



Suspension Bridge from Victoria Embankment



Portage From River to Canal

Map key

	Canoe route		Railway		Minor road		Car park
	Waterway		Main road		Launch/landing point		Public convenience

TRENT LOOP CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE: Paddle the River Trent and Nottingham and Beeston Canal loop

Distance: 14 Miles (circular route)

Time: 2 – 5 Hours (approx)

Portages and Locks: 3 Locks. (The water levels on this route can fluctuate. This can mean a large step down into your boat at portages)



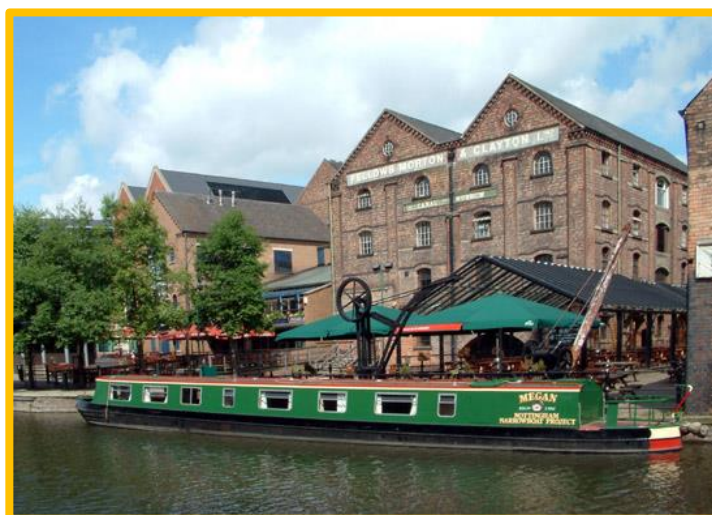
OVERVIEW:

This trail begins at the Holme Pierrepont Country Park home of The National Water Sports Centre and British Canoeing. From here you head east on the River Trent, as it snakes its way towards the city of Nottingham. Joining the Nottingham and Beeston Canal, your route takes you into the bustling heart of Nottingham and then out. Gradually you leave the noise behind and head towards Beeston, along some beautiful stretches of canal. The canal finishes at Beeston, where you once again join the great River Trent by Beeston Weir. You then follow the river back, through some beautiful, rural, countryside to your start point, passing many iconic landmarks of Nottingham; all of which can be seen from your canoe/kayak.

Please Note: The distances for our challenge routes are rounded up to the nearest mile. The distance you cover on the water will vary depending on the exact course your journey takes. The time to complete the challenge will depend on a number of factors including fitness levels, ability, stopping times and craft used. We have calculated the guidance times by assuming a leisurely pace in a recreational craft may travel at around 3mph and a fast pace in a racing craft may travel around 7mph.

ABOUT THE RIVER TRENT AND NOTTINGHAM AND BEESTON CANAL:

The River Trent is the 3rd longest river in the UK, in the past it was known for its dramatic flooding, particularly when there was a large snow melt in the Peak District. The Trent's source is in Staffordshire, on the southern edge of Biddulph Moor. The river flows through the Midlands, forming a once significant boundary between the north and south of England. It then joins the River Ouse at Trent Falls to form the Humber Estuary, which empties into the North Sea between Hull and Immingham.



Nottingham Canal was originally 14.7 miles long and ran between Langley Mill in Derbyshire and Nottingham. It opened in 1796 and most of it was closed in 1937. The section you will be travelling on in this challenge trail is now known as the Nottingham and Beeston canal. Whether you are a local or visiting Nottingham you will be able to see some of the iconic landmarks of the area in a whole new light.

AREA INFORMATION:

Nottingham is a vibrant city, surrounded by beautiful countryside, and makes much of its watersports connections. For further information please visit the National Water Sports Centre website [here](#).

Other Useful Local Websites

Beeston Marina and Café:

<http://www.beestonmarina.com/cafe.html>

Castle Marina:

<http://www.castlemarinas.co.uk/marinas/nottingham>

ROUTE DETAILS:

Start/Finish Location:

National Water Sports Centre

Adbolton Lane

Holme Pierrepont

Nottingham

NG12 2LU

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

WATERWAY LICENCE: The waterways on this route are managed by Canal and Rivers Trust and require paddlers to hold a licence. If you are an existing British Canoeing member your membership includes a licence for the waterways covered on this route – 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. 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](#)

Parking charges apply. If you are using a Sat Nav we advise that you use the name 'National Water Sports Centre' rather than the postcode as some Sat Navs will direct you to Colwick Racecourse. When arriving at the centre follow the signs for: Family Fun Park, Country Park and White Water Rafting. This is your car park.

ROUTE DESCRIPTION:

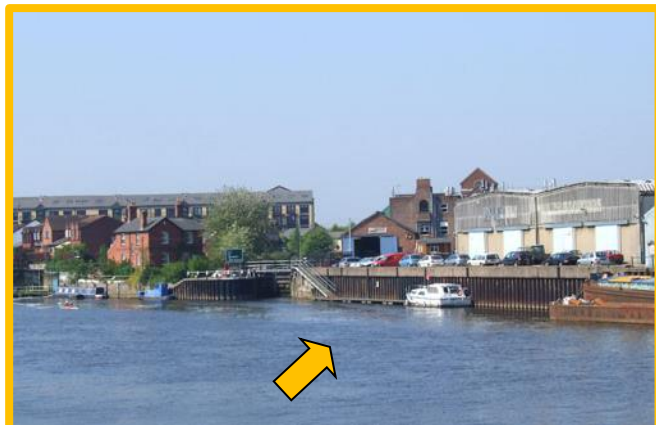
Your get in point is from a landing stage, at the edge of the car park, directly onto the River Trent. Put in and turn left (upstream), towards Nottingham.

As you are paddling upstream the best route is to stay close into the bank, crossing the river where there are large bends to take the most direct route. Before crossing please check both behind and in front of you for other water users, as the river is used by many rowers and small cruisers. Paddling under Lady Bay Bridge you will be on the busiest stretch of the river; home to four rowing clubs, a dragon boat club and a kayak club. They all feed into this part of the river so keep your eyes peeled for other craft coming towards you. Trent Bridge will now be in full view with Nottingham Forest

football stadium on the left hand side. This is your cue to look out for the first lock/portage, which is on the right approximately 200 meters before Trent Bridge. With pontoons indicating where to get out, exit on the right and carry your boat up and across a small footbridge, being careful as it can be slippery. Canal boats can be seen sitting moored up on the canal and your get in can be seen in the picture. If the get in is blocked by boats, just follow the towpath along until an open stretch opens up and put your craft in. The canal sits at an easy level for you to get back in.

Point Of Interest: At around the 2km mark you will round a corner and spot the Nottingham Sea Cadets TS Orion Building on the right. After passing this you will get your first sight of the glorious Lady Bay Bridge. The bridge first opened in 1878, as a railway bridge, and was used in the filming of TV series 'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy'.

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The Nottingham Canal now stretches all the way up to Beeston Lock. If you find canal boats coming towards you pass on the right and, if possible, give a wide berth. Follow the canal, winding and twisting through the heart of Nottingham. This first section of canal can also be quite busy with fishermen so be careful and courteous; remember to slow down if passing fishermen's lines as it is easy to get tangled up. The canal bends round a left corner and passes under Carrington Bridge as you approach the Castle Wharf area.

Point of Interest: A spur on the left used to lead into Midland Railway yards, for goods transferral. The spur has now been transformed into a water feature outside the City Magistrates Court. You will also spot the attractive building of Fellows Morton and Clayton. Fellows Morton & Clayton Ltd was, for much of the early 20th century, the largest and best-known canal transportation company in England. The company was in existence from 1889 to 1947 and their warehouse in Nottingham was very important to trade in the city. After the warehouse and offices shut down the building became a Canal Museum before being converted into a popular real ale pub. The Castle Wharf area is buzzing with bars, nightlife and alfresco dining; all at the water's edge. It is also overlooked by Nottingham Castle, perched dramatically on a high rock above the city (don't forget to look).



Heading past the British Waterways building you then pass under a cast iron bridge to Castle Lock. This lock is portaged on the left. Take care getting out and pass under the bridge. Be aware of other cyclists and pedestrians as this is a busy commuter's tow path. The put in is back onto the canal, after the lock.

Once back on the water paddle for a further 1km and you will come to Nottingham Castle Marina; a nice place to stop and take a break before continuing your route. Paddling along the canal for a further few kilometres, you pass under the A52 road bridge which marks the start of the big industrial sites of Nottingham.



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Point of Interest: The Imperial Tobacco factory, which can be seen through a fence on the left, is one of the last vestiges of Britain's tobacco industry. The factory closed its doors in May 2016, as production moved abroad.

Also in sight is the headquarters of Boots the Chemist. Boots began its journey to becoming a huge nationwide company when Jesse Boot opened a small herbalist store on Goose Gate in Nottingham in 1849.

You will notice the noises of Nottingham fading behind you as you now paddle along a peaceful stretch of canal. A straight stretch of the canal leads you up to the Beeston Lock with canal boats moored up on either side. The canal ends here and your route rejoins the River Trent. Portage on the left hand side, taking care when climbing the steps, and carry your boat around the corner. Here one can stop again for a break and enjoy the facilities of Beeston Marina which include a cafe, bar and toilets.



Walking along the path and then down the grassy bank to your right you will hear the roar of Beeston Weir. Care is needed here as there is a lot of flow but is easily negotiated. Depending on the water level you will need to make a decision on conditions whether to face upstream or downstream. When decided be confident and head out into the flow, making sure to keep clear of the trees to your left and paddle hard. Once out in the middle of the river paddle downstream keeping in the middle as this can be shallow.



Point of Interest: As you sweep round the corner look up on the hill and see Clifton Hall, a Grade 1 listed building with history stretching back to the 11th century.

In the distance ahead is Clifton Road Bridge; it looks far away but is great to know you now have a target to paddle towards. You have just paddled under 7 miles your arms and legs are feeling like they have had a good workout but the route is not finished just yet. However being back on the Trent, with the flow in your favour, you will find the kilometres soon get devoured up.



Point of Interest: You may now be able to smell the food cooking at Pork Farms. Pork Farms are particularly well known for their production of Melton Mowbray pork pies; a recognised, traditional, regional product.



You now follow the river back to the start point and can enjoy the various facilities that the National Watersports Centre has to offer. Take a stroll around to watch the white water rafters negotiating the course before heading over to the Lakeside Cafe for refreshments. Before you leave you can also visit the Desperate Measures Canoe shop or take a look at the Sky Trail and Segway adventures on offer within the Holme Pierrepont country park.

Passing St Wilfrid's Church on the right you soon arrive at the Wilford Toll Bridge; locally referred to as 'Halfpenny Bridge' the structure has recently been enlarged to carry the new Nottingham tram system. You will then pass under the Wilford Suspension Bridge and back onto the main part of the busy river, so be alert when paddling. Just before you pass under Trent Bridge you can observe the flood marks from previous years etched into the wall.

Point of Interest: You are now paddling past some of the famous Nottingham sporting venues. Trent Bridge cricket ground to your right is considered to be one of the best grounds in the world to watch cricket. It has been used as a ground since the 1830's and is host to many one day internationals, test and Twenty20 matches. To the left of the river is the Meadow Lane Ground; home to Notts County football club.

PLANNING:

It is important to consider all aspects of the challenge when planning your trip; from choosing the appropriate equipment, logistics and itinerary to your support crew, fellow paddlers, nutritional and hydration requirements. Please see our Safety Advice section for more information.

Firstly, you must be confident of your canoeing ability and experience. Make sure this challenge route is the right one for you. It should be challenging yet achievable without putting yourself or others at unnecessary risk.

The River Trent can fluctuate in its river levels and flow. After periods of heavy rain the river can rise and increase in its flow making it much more technical to paddle. In times of high river levels it can be dangerous to paddle so before taking on this challenge please make sure you check the safety information on river levels before embarking on this route. You can do this by checking on Environmental Agency flood information service [website](#). Normal summer levels at Clifton Bridge are around 1m.

When planning which paddle craft to complete the challenge in, you need to ensure it is suitable for the environment and conditions you will encounter. For this route, we recommend that you have some experience of paddling your chosen craft before undertaking the challenge.

This challenge could be completed without a support crew but you might find it nice to have people meet you along the route. If you are looking to do it more leisurely then there are a few places you could arrange to stop and meet up with your support crew to have a comfort break and have some refreshments. If you are doing it independently then we'd suggest having some food and drink onboard, which you can enjoy at one of the portages to keep your energy levels up.

Please check on the National Waters Sports Centre [website](#) for any major events that may be running.

SAFETY ADVICE

To help make sure you remain safe at all times, consider the following safety advice when taking part in the Challenge Routes.

Wear appropriate clothing- ensure you always wear shoes and a buoyancy aid. Also consider additional dry clothing, layered items, lightweight waterproofs, sun cream and hat.

Know the weather forecast before you set out canoeing, take account of water levels, flow and weather conditions. Remember to be prepared for this to change, sometimes very quickly and without warning. If in doubt of ability to deal with the weather conditions leave the trip for another day.

- Ensure your equipment is in good condition and used correctly.
- Where possible carry a small first aid kit, drinking water and food.
- Make sure the journey you plan is within your paddling capabilities and schedule planned stops to eat and drink.
- Do not paddle alone
- Follow safety recommendations provided
- Leave details of your trip with a responsible person including when you expect to return.
- When offering assistance to those in need, on or off the water, do not put yourself or fellow canoeists at risk.
- Where possible carry some form of communication such as mobile phone or radio.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Help minimise the spread of invasive aquatic species and disease by following the **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** campaign 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: Check all your equipment and clothing for living organisms and plant fragments. Pay particular attention to areas that are damp and hard to inspect.

CLEAN: 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.

DRY: When practical, completely dry out all equipment and clothing before going to a new site. Some species can live for many days in moist conditions. Make sure you don't transfer water elsewhere.

- Familiarise yourself with the local area, noting its sensitive places, protected areas and breeding seasons.
- Leave the environment as you found it and take your litter home with you.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not damage bankside vegetation when launching or landing.
- Do not 'seal' launch or drag boats to avoid damage to the natural banks. Where possible keep to designated paths or launching points.
- Paddle a safe distance away from wildlife.
- Respect the freshwater and marine environment.
- Avoid paddling over gravel banks in low water conditions, as they may contain fish spawn.
- Paddle a safe distance away from wildlife to avoid causing disturbance and stress.
- Constantly assess wildlife. If you see signs of disturbance move away quickly.

CONSIDERATION TO OTHERS

- Show consideration to other water users and treat them with courtesy and respect.
- Be aware that permission may be required to cross private land.
- Stay away from houses and private gardens.
- Change discreetly, using public facilities where possible.
- Drive sensibly at all times.
- Car parking - do not obstruct roads or entrances to buildings or farm property.
- Ensure your kit does not cause an obstruction when unloading.
- Leave gates positioned and property as you find it.
- Avoid damage to fences and walls.
- Show consideration to organised bank side activities, and give way as required to on-water events.
- Keep a look out for anglers while paddling. Anglers can be hard to spot on banks. Co-operate to avoid lines, nets, and swims. If it is unclear where to pass lines or swims, then quietly attract the attention of the angler and agree a route to follow.
- When an angler is playing a fish from the bank or wading, stop some way off and await their acknowledgement to proceed.
- Do not linger in pools or swims occupied by an angler.

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 route within a short space of time. It is recommended that weather and water conditions are checked beforehand, and tide timetables where applicable.

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