

£2.50

ROUTE

3

Basingstoke Canal

Type of trail: Canal (Sheltered Water)

Region: North Hampshire



DIFFICULTY RATING
1 PADDLE

INSPIRING canoeing



SPORT HAMPSHIRE & IOW

3

Basingstoke Canal

Type of trail: Canal (Sheltered Water)

Region: North Hampshire



6 1/4 miles

Approximate distance:
Up Canal from Canal Visitor Centre

6 1/4 miles
Round trip

General Information

The Basingstoke Canal runs westwards to Basingstoke from its junction with the Wey Navigation, 3 miles from the River Thames.

It was built in 1769 as an economical means of transport to develop agriculture in central Hampshire.

The Canal never really proved profitable and by the 1960s it was no longer navigable. In the 1970s Surrey and Hampshire County Councils took the canal into public ownership and funded a programme of restoration supported by voluntary working parties. In 1990 work was completed and the Canal formally reopened in 1991.

The Trail

Starting at the Canal Centre, turn left and paddle through to Mytchett Lake and onto Ash Station. The Canal widens here into the wonderfully named Great Bottom Flash.

Continue to Ash Wharf where you can make a quick visit to the shops to pick up forgotten picnic supplies. Beyond the two bridges the Canal starts to open out along the embankment (built with the spoil dug out from Deepcut).

A modern aqueduct takes the canal across the Blackwater Valley Relief Road. If you wish to picnic in comfort take a short paddle to Ash Lock Portage as the picnic tables are just across the road

Additions to the Trail

An attractive waterway, the Basingstoke Canal is also a notable wildlife habitat. It is one of the most varied selections of aquatic plant and invertebrate species in the UK, including 25 of Britain's 39 species of dragonflies and damselflies.

The entire length apart from a section through Woking is a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Greywell Tunnel which marks the end of the navigable section is an internationally important haven for bats.

Additional information

Boat hire available from John Cale Cruises at Basingstoke Canal Centre 07984 952712

Portages

One optional portage

Licences

A licence to paddle the Basingstoke Canal is included in Canoe England membership fees.

Otherwise licenses can be obtained from the Basingstoke Canal Authority, Canal Centre, Mytchett, Surrey. GU16 6DD 01252 370073



DIFFICULTY RATING
1 PADDLE

2 hours

(at a leisurely 3 miles per hour)



Start

Basingstoke Canal Visitor Centre Basingstoke:

GU16 6DD

(Tearooms, tap, BBQ & picnic site, camping)

OS Grid Reference:
SU 893 551



Finish

Round trip return to start at Basingstoke Canal Visitor Centre.

Road access

Free parking within 50 metres easy walk of launch and recovery



Car shuttle required?

No - round trip.



Maps covering the area:

OS 1:50,000: Sheet 186 Greywell Tunnel-Fleet-Aldershot-Mytchett-Deepcut-Woking-West Byfleet
Sheet 176 for Woking - West Byfleet-New Haw

Difficult: Do not attempt trail with wind of Force 4 or greater.

Accessibility

Easy access to launch and recovery point.

Ease of access to the water

Free Car Parking within 50 metre easy access of launch and recovery.



Important:
Your safety comes first **always** wear a buoyancy aid.



ROUTE 3

DIFFICULTY RATING 1 PADDLE

Basingstoke Canal

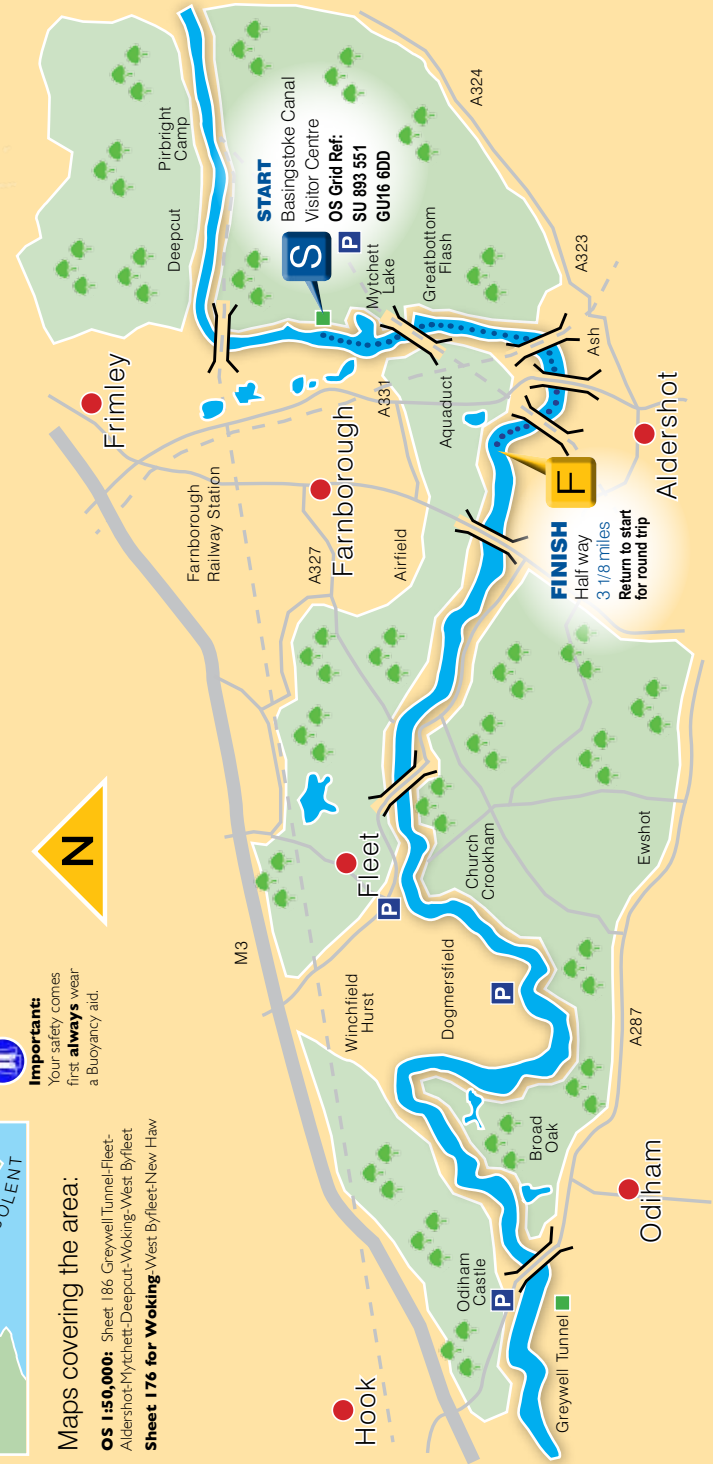
Type of trail: Canal (Sheltered Water)

Region: North Hampshire

6 1/4 miles

Approximate distance:
Up Canal from Canal Visitor Centre

6 1/4 miles
Round trip



Padding Safety

Spending an afternoon canoeing can be a fun way to experience nature, get a great workout and spend time with friends and family. It can also be a dangerous journey, if appropriate safety guidelines are overlooked. Always follow these basic rules.

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, additional dry clothing, towels, and layered items which can easily be removed.

Know the weather forecast

Find out the weather forecast before you set out on your Canoe Trail. The Met Office, BBC Weather and Local Marina Offices will have an up to date forecast.

Local area

Familiarise yourself with the local area, its sensitive places and protected areas.

Be sure to:

- Leave the environment as you find it.
- Take your litter home with you.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- Do not damage bank side vegetation when launching or landing.
- Where possible keep to any designated paths or launching points.

- Canoe a safe distance away from wildlife

Check your equipment

Use the checklist below to make sure you have everything you need.

Checklist:

- 1 Boat
- 2 Paddle
- 3 Bailer/sponge
- 4 Buoyancy Aid
- 5 Small First Aid kit
- 6 Penknife
- 7 Mobile telephone (in a waterproof bag)
- 8 Fresh drinking water
- 9 Sun cream, hat and sunglasses
- 10 Light waterproof/ jacket
- 11 Footwear



Basingstoke

Centre details

Basingstoke Canal Centre
Mytchett Place Road,
Mytchett, Surrey
GU16 6DD
01252 370073
Fax 01252 371758



Runways End Outdoor Centre
1 Forge Lane
Aldershot
GU11 2RE
01590 623903
RWVE@hants.gov.uk
www.hants.gov.uk/runwaysend



ALWAYS be certain to let others know where you're going and when you're expected to return.

INSPIRING canoeing



Other canoe trails



For more information on other canoe trails go to our website:
www.canoe-england.org.uk

Contact:

info@sporthampshireiow.co.uk
0845 603 5638

Downloads



Go online and download the routes:
www.sporthampshireiow.co.uk