

CHESHIRE & STAFFORDSHIRE

MY LOCAL CANAL

OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

It's quality time
with my family



**British
Waterways**

Looking after your canals and rivers

Yours to enjoy anytime

Find your nearest canal at waterscape.com

Cheshire & Staffordshire: The Canal Counties

These rolling green counties contain a host of waterway heritage as they meander by leafy rural towpaths and silent structures of a bygone industrial era. The slow moving miles of canals and rivers form a historic chain: from the salt mines of Cheshire to the bustling mills and pottery factories of North Staffordshire, immortalised by industrialist Josiah Wedgwood. Anderton Boat Lift forms the northern start point of a journey into our past, which takes in historic Froghall Basin, picturesque Rudyard Lake and the resurgent city of Stoke-on-Trent.

Anderton Boat Lift

- ★ 1 At the northern end of this industrial supply chain stands Anderton Boat Lift. Built in 1875, it forms a towering link between the ports of the mighty River Mersey and the industrial Midland heartlands. The huge structure still dominates the waterway landscape today, transferring leisure craft and the Edwin Clark trip boat effortlessly between the Trent & Mersey Canal and River Weaver 50 feet below as it has done for over a century. Now with a modern operations centre and interactive exhibition, the 'Cathedral of Canals' is in its ninth season since being reopened in 2002.



Take to the water

Experience this wonder yourself. Take a thirty minute voyage through the heart of Anderton Boat Lift aboard the elegant Edwin Clark trip boat. Extend your stay with a boatman's journey along the Weaver Navigation to the heritage swing bridges in Northwich. For more information: Tel: 01606 786777 www.andertonboatlift.co.uk

Out and about

- ★ 2 The area is also a haven for wildlife with Marbury Country Park, Anderton Country Park and Carey Country Park in close proximity. For more information visit: www.northwichcommunitywoodlands.org.uk

Where to eat and drink

- 🍷 1 **Anderton Boat Lift Café**
Boat Lift Visitor centre
Tel: 01606 786777
- 🍷 2 **Stanley Arms**
Anderton, Northwich CW9 6AG
Tel: 01606 75059
- 🍷 3 **The Moorings Restaurant**
Anderton Marina, Uplands Road,
Anderton CW9 6AJ
Tel: 01606 79789

Stoke-on-Trent

The presence of two canals – the Trent & Mersey and the Caldon – in this city shows its importance in the early days of the Industrial Revolution, before the railways replaced waterways as the motorways of their day. The Caldon Waterway is a strong contender for the UK's most scenic waterway, while the Trent & Mersey showcases the traditional and historic structures of The Potteries. Watch the colourful narrowboats as they head through the locks for Stoke Summit. Stop off at one of Etruria's popular pubs and take a leisurely detour back via the Etruria staircase locks on the Caldon Canal. The location of the city's train station near the Trent & Mersey Canal makes this green route ideal for walking to work and home again. The towpath also offers an easy route to many leisure and work outlets – the city's university, shopping centres, offices and waterway pursuits like angling. For a comprehensive guide to the new look city of Stoke-on-Trent, visit: www.waterscape.com/stoke-on-trent

Hanley

- ★ 5 **Hanley Park**
Few parks can boast a canal running through them. Hanley Park – opened in 1897 to cater for the Victorian social pastime of promenading – is accessed from the Caldon Canal which cuts a leisurely arc through its peaceful greenery. This elegant heritage park has a sports zone and play areas to cater for a new generation of active leisure seekers. A decked boardwalk encircling the lake provides an opportunity for those who simply want to take in the four beautiful fountains and modern art features on the island at the lake's centre. The newly improved towpaths, part of a major £5m waterway access project, connect to the Trent & Mersey Canal at Etruria Locks.
- ★ 6 **Potteries Museum & Art Gallery**
Visitors to the Potteries Museum and Art Gallery will discover and experience the history of The Potteries, including a fine collection of Staffordshire ceramics. Tel: 01782 232323 or visit: www.stokemuseums.org.uk

- ★ 7 **Etruria Industrial Museum**
Experience the Industrial Revolution as those involved in canals did many years ago through living history at the Etruria Industrial Museum. Britain's sole surviving steam-powered potters mill awes visitors along with Jesse Shirley's 1857 Bone and Flint Mill which was used to grind materials for the agricultural and potteries industries. On-site facilities include an interactive exhibition for all ages, a tea room and gift shop. Contact the museum for information on events and group visits. Tel: 01782 233144 or visit: www.stokemuseums.org.uk

Where to eat and drink

- 🍷 4 **The Toby Carvery**
Etruria, Stoke-on-Trent
Tel: 01782 260199
- 🍷 5 **Tea room and gift shop**
Etruria Industrial Museum
Tel: 01782 233144
- 🍷 6 **The Bird in Hand**
79 Etruria Vale Road
Tel: 01782 205048
- 🍷 7 **Duke of Wellington**
Lichfield Street, Joiners Square, Hanley
Tel: 01782 271424



Anderton



Key

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Canal or River | Steam Railway |
| Lock | Marina |
| Bridge | Picnic Area |
| Towpaths | Caravan Site |
| Railway Station | Wildlife |
| Pub, Restaurant or Café | Boat Trip & Hire |
| Place of Interest | Parking |

Find local area canal and river maps at www.waterscape.com/map

For further information please contact
British Waterways Central Shires Waterway,
Peel's Wharf, Lichfield Street, Fazeley, Tamworth,
Staffordshire B78 3QZ
Tel: 01827 252000 Fax: 01827 288071
E-mail: enquiries.centralshires@britishwaterways.co.uk
www.britishwaterways.co.uk
www.waterscape.com
British Waterways Customer Service Centre
Tel: 01923 201120

Hanley



Westport Lake

- ★ 8 The main lake is the city's largest body of water and lies off the Trent & Mersey Canal and Brownhills Road in Longport. Incorporating a play area, smaller lake, picnic spot and a woodland conservation area, Westport Lake is well known for its water birds and is popular with walkers and anglers.
- 📍 Granted the status of local nature reserve in 2004, this area is a must for wild bird enthusiasts. During the annual winter migration, water birds gather on the lake and in the surrounding woodland. Many rare species use the lake as a 'service station' en route to warmer climes. A conservation area at the rear of the site is home to many elusive creatures including kingfishers and dragonflies.



Westport Lake Visitor Centre

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's new eco friendly Visitor Centre at Westport Lake includes a modern café offering a wide range of snacks and drinks, with stunning views across the lake. Visitors can also enjoy fascinating displays relating to the history of the area, its waterways, local wildlife or simply relax on the lakeside balcony. Function and meeting rooms are available for hire. Visitor Centre summer opening hours 10.30am-6pm, every day.



Where to eat and drink

- 🍴 8 Westport Lake Visitor Centre Longport Tel: 01782 454193
- 🍴 9 The Pack Horse Station Street, Longport Tel: 01782 577322

Froghall

- ★ 9 Froghall Wharf Basin Railway and Visitor Centre Historic Froghall Wharf on the picturesque Caldon Canal has been restored as a heritage visitor attraction and canal boat destination. Located three miles north of Cheadle, it lies within the secluded Churnet Valley and is a tranquil haven for wildlife. Froghall Wharf makes an ideal starting point for a number of colour coded walks: blue for the old tramways and the local pub; green takes you through woodlands and past an old limekiln and red follows the line of the canal to Consall Forge, passing a falcon and otter sanctuary on the return leg. Take a stroll from the visitor centre alongside Thomas Bolton's copper works and experience the timeless atmosphere of this unique and hidden waterway gem. For boat trips Tel: 01538 266486
- ★ 10 Churnet Valley The valley's very own 'Nostalgia Express' transports you back 50 years to the golden age of steam. The Churnet Valley Railway is a truly memorable experience, involving a return journey of 10 miles through some stunning countryside. This privately operated line boasts three strikingly individual working stations. It also takes in Consall Forge with its huge and imposing limekilns. Tel: 01538 360522, or visit: www.churnet-valley-railway.co.uk

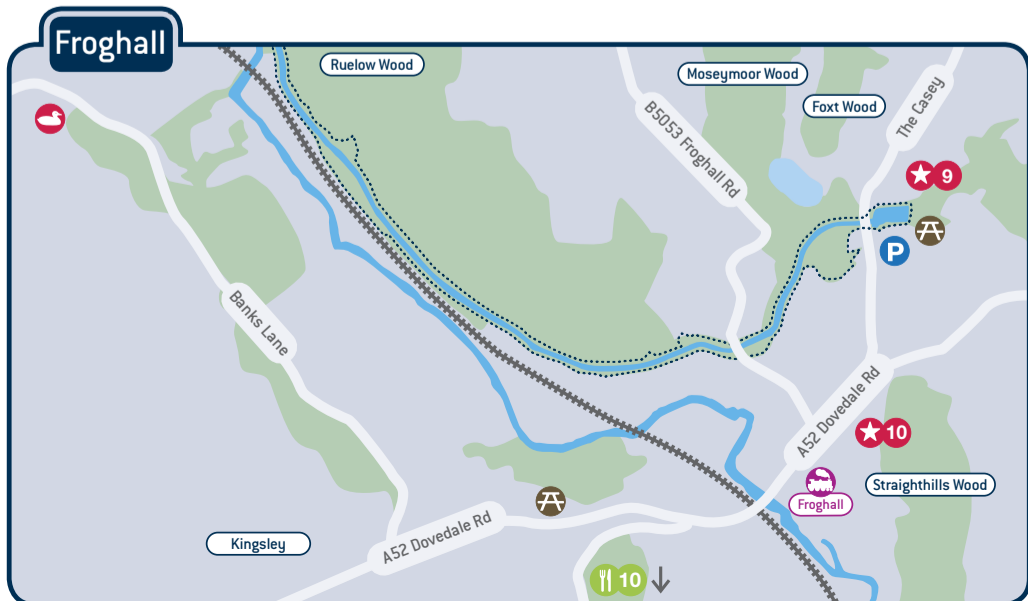
📍 Churnet Valley Wildlife Sanctuary is a woodland reserve stretching over 12 acres, just 15 minutes drive from Cheadle. Wildlife gathers here: otters, owls, wallabies, red squirrels, deer and many more can be spotted roaming free. It is open daily between Easter and October and at weekends between November to March. Tel: 01538 756702 or e-mail: churnetvalley@talktalk21.com

Consall Nature Park & Deep Hayes Country Park provide the ideal environment for family activities. Both are located in the beautiful Churnet Valley and offer marked walkways, excellent views and fishing among a stunning combination of rolling hills, dense woodland and lush pastures. The historic market town of Leek lies just two miles north of Deep Hayes.

Cheddleton Flint Mill Historic Cheddleton Flint Mill sits alongside the tranquil Caldon Canal and is a first-rate example of a water powered mill which ground flint for the thriving pottery industry over 200 years ago. The site boasts two water mills, a museum, cottage and a range of other exhibits. For visitor information Tel: 01782 502907

Where to eat and drink

- 🍴 10 Railway Inn 111 Froghall Road, Cheadle ST10 2DN Tel: 01538 754782



Rudyard Lake

- ★ 11 This natural looking feature was in fact created to provide water for the growing canal network of the 18th and 19th centuries. Steeped in history, the two and a half mile long lake lies in the Staffordshire Moorlands and is a haven of peace and tranquillity, less than a mile from the A523. The parents of England's most renowned poet named their son after the lake, and in its Victorian heyday 20,000 fun seekers would arrive via the railway linking Uttoxeter with Manchester. Now the site has a modern visitor centre, café and activity centre near the dam head and a three mile miniature railway offers unique glimpses of the woodland lake. Today, Rudyard Lake is popular for wildlife spotting, walking, cycling and fishing and Rudyard Sailing Club provides opportunities to take to the water. Nearby Hotel Rudyard and the Galleon also offer welcome refreshment after a hard day's recreation.

Rudyard Lake Steam Railway
Tel: 01538 306704

Rudyard Sailing Club
Tel: 01538 306200

Where to eat and drink

- 🍴 11 Rudyard Lake Visitor Centre Lake Road, Leek Tel: 01538 306280
- 🍴 12 Hotel Rudyard Lake Road, Leek Tel: 01538 306208



When you visit the canal make use of these great voucher offers

Buy one get one free

Buy one large hot drink and get one free at Westport Lake Visitor Centre

Valid Monday – Friday during normal opening hours.

Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 23rd December 2010



2 for the price of 1

Etruria Industrial Museum

Tel: 01782 233144 www.stokemuseums.org.uk

Terms & Conditions: This voucher is valid for one free place when accompanied by a full paying adult. This voucher is valid until 5th December 2010. This offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer. This voucher has no cash value, is non refundable and non exchangeable. Photocopies are not accepted. This voucher is not for resale. This voucher is not for use in any other museum in Stoke-on-Trent.

Voucher valid until 5th December 2010



10% off Boat Hire

Present this voucher and get 10% off the full price of rowing boat hire or a trip boat ticket at Rudyard Lake

Valid during normal operating hours.

Photocopies will not be accepted. Valid until 31st October 2010



Your local canal: yours to enjoy every day

A canal is not just a length of water. It's your escape route to another hidden world, and the best thing about it is it's right next to the noisy, busy world you're in now. All you have to do is step off the pavement, nip down a quiet pathway, or find some steps by a bridge, and you'll soon be in a completely different place. A place for a pleasant stroll or cycle, for wildlife spotting, alfresco dining and so much more.

This guide is full of useful ideas for exploring and making the most of your own local canal, as well as telling you about the things you'll see on and alongside it.

On your bike

Why not cycle along the towpath, whether for a quick commute to work, exercise session or an enjoyable afternoon out. There are no steep hills, no traffic, no car or lorry fumes and you can cycle through some of the best Staffordshire scenery. Of course, towpaths vary in width and surface covering and not all sections are suitable for cycling. However, almost all of the Trent & Mersey Canal is open to cyclists. As long as you are considerate to other visitors, you can cycle whenever you want. Check out the best for bicycles at www.waterscape.com/cycling



“Look! It’s a...

...duck. A water vole. A frog. A heron. A swan! With more than 60 different species of wildlife spotted in a recent survey of waterway wildlife (that's not counting the fish) you can never be sure what you might see on a walk by the canal. Westport Lake is a haven for wildlife, particularly migrating water birds, whilst the rural settings of Froghall and Rudyard make them ideal places to visit for the nature enthusiast.



Get hooked

The canals in Stoke are popular with both serious match anglers and casual fishermen. High quality fishing can be found on the Trent & Mersey and Caldon Canals and in the surrounding reservoirs.

Other places to fish in the surrounding area include Rudyard Lake near Leek and Stanley Pool Reservoir which are open all year round. Day tickets are available on the bank. Knypersley Reservoir, which supplies water to the Caldon Canal, is also a popular fishing destination and provides the most picturesque waters on any angling ticket. Fish here include bream, roach, carp and pike.

For further details about fishing contact enquiries.centralshires@britishwaterways.co.uk





Get involved – Volunteer!

Imagine a world without canals. Where would you walk the dog that's so picturesque? Or, where would you go for a jog and breathe so much fresh air? How would you be so close to home and still be a million miles away from it all? Or, how would you cycle to work every morning without any road rage? It's hard to imagine, isn't it? That's why we need to look after this oasis.

Canals for the Community is a British Waterways project, funded through the Big Lottery Fund, that focuses on the canalside communities surrounding the Trent & Mersey and Caldon canals which run through Stoke-on-Trent.

The project aims to engage with local people and encourage them to take an active interest in their local canalside environment.

The **canal clean team** meet fortnightly at different locations and volunteers carry out activities



such as towpath tidies, litter picking, graffiti removal, painting, vegetation management and wildflower bulb planting. Many people have taken to the towpath to use the canal network as an opportunity to get fit - **Towpath Trackers** are weekly health walks and new groups are springing up all the time.

In partnership with British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, **conservation activities** take place at various canalside locations throughout the year and provide the opportunity to develop a variety of conservation skills as well as helping the local wildlife.

To find out how you can become involved contact *Louise North* on 07827 083538.



Ditch the pavement, try the towpath

The towpath in Stoke-on-Trent has recently undergone much improvement. Whether you're walking to work, to school, alone, with friends and family, or with your dog, there's something about walking by the canal that's more relaxing than walking anywhere else. Find walks in your area at www.waterscape.com/walking