

Enjoy a peaceful day out in the natural environment, on this very rural and attractive lock free section of canal. For cyclists and walkers there is a continuous tow path.

Key Info



Scan or visit
bit.ly/barley-mow-odiham-trail
to find the map
in Mapometer and
download the GPX file

Start and finish:

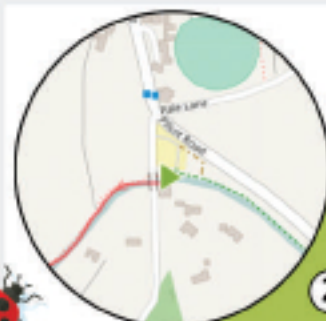
Barley Mow Car Park and Slipway,
Barley Mow Road, Winchfield
RG27 8DE

Distance: 9 miles

Time: 2.5 - 4.5 hours

Locks/Portages: None

OS Map: Landranger 186 Aldershot
and Guildford



1

Launch and turn right
towards Odiham,
going under the adjacent Barley Mow Bridge.

2

After passing under two bridges in the first mile, Sprat's Hatch Footbridge is reached. This is a crossing point for the Three Castles Footpath.

3

For the following mile or so you will pass under Sandy Hill and Broad Oak bridges. Once you go under the A287 you will see a cruiser hire centre on your right.

4

A right hand turn then brings Colt Hill Bridge and Odiham Wharf into view with a public landing, car park and picnic benches on the right. The Water Witch pub, on the left, is gained by going over the bridge from the car park.

5

Follow the straight route of the canal for just under one mile; there can be some summer weed growth in this section. Thereafter a sharp left turn, winds the waterway through North Warnborough and under the B3349.

6

Within a few hundred yards a lift bridge is encountered. It is quite feasible go under this. Paddling further on for a few minutes you will arrive at the ruins of Odiham Castle on the right. This is an interesting place to stop for a break before turning back as this is effectively the end of the navigable section of the canal.

7

Boaters are requested not to proceed beyond the adjacent viaduct over the River Whitewater as the area that leads up to the entrance of Greywell Tunnel is a conservation area.

Find more
paddling trails at:
gopaddling.info



Odiham Castle was one of three strongholds built by King John. Completed in 1214, he chose the location because it lay halfway between Windsor and Winchester.

The Basingstoke Canal runs for 32 miles, from Greywell Village in Hampshire to Woodham in Surrey. It opened 1794 to aid the development of agriculture in central Hampshire. By the 1960s the canal was neglected and 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 volunteer work parties. The canal formally reopened in 1991.

The Basingstoke Canal is also a notable wildlife habitat. It has one of the largest varieties of aquatic plants and invertebrates in the U.K. 25 of Britain's 39 species of dragonflies and damselflies inhabit the canal. The entire length, except for a part through Woking, is a SSSI. Greywell Tunnel, which marks the end of the navigable section is an internationally important haven for bats.

It is a delightful canal to canoe on, as it feels quite remote, especially in the more western sections. The peace can occasionally be interrupted by the passing of helicopters from RAF Odiham.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

Basingstoke Canal Authority – Telephone 01252 370073
 Aldershot Military Museum
 Airborne Forces Museum
 Farnborough Air Sciences Museum
 Odiham Castle
 Three Castles Footpath

Visit our website
britishcanoeing.org.uk
 for more information

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 & sunscreen!

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!

License Information: The waterways in this trail are managed by Basingstoke Canal Authority and require paddlers to hold a licence. If you are an existing British Canoeing member your membership includes an annual licence for the waterways covered within this trail – 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 Basingstoke Canal Authority for this waterway either online from their website or by giving them a call or by becoming a British Canoeing member you'll have a licence to cover you for a whole year.