

This lock free, rural section of canal offers a peaceful day out and is perfect as an introduction to canoe trails. The route is described as out and back but could be done one way, with a shuttle.

### Key Info



Scan or visit  
[bit.ly/crookham-barley-mow-trail](http://bit.ly/crookham-barley-mow-trail)  
to find the map  
in Mapometer and  
download the GPX file

#### Start and finish:

Crookham Wharf, Crookham  
Village, Fleet GU51 5SY

**Time:** 1.5 - 3 hrs

**Locks/Portages:** None

**OS Map:** Landranger 186 Aldershot  
and Guildford

**Distance:** 5.5 miles



- 1 A visitor information board, by the bridge, provides navigation and canal information. Put in and turn right, away from the bridge.
- 2 After a mile the minor road from Dogmersfield to the north crosses the canal at Double Bridge and 200m further on is Blacksmith's Bridge.
- 3 A few minutes later you will see Tundry Pond on your left. This is a feeder pond for the canal.
- 4 After the pond the left bank is continuously wooded and very pretty. You may spot the attractive houses of Dogmersfield village amongst the trees.
- 5 At around 2.5 miles the canal bends steadily round to the left and here you will see the Barley Mow slipway on your right.
- 6 The Barley Mow is on the opposite side of the road from the car park. This is your turning point for an out and back trip.



Find more  
paddling trails at:  
[gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)



**Parking:** Crookham Wharf is situated by Chequers Bridge, with a small public car park, picnic site and pub. The car park entrance is by the bridge on the Crookham Village side.

If you choose to do this as a one way trail there is also car parking beside the canal at your half way point. Barley Mow Car park, Spratts Hatch Lane, Winchfield, RG27 8DE

The Basingstoke Canal runs westward from its junction with the Wey Navigation, only 3 miles from the Thames, to Basingstoke. It was conceived in 1769 as an economical means of transport to develop agriculture in Central Hampshire, and transport goods to market. The canal was never profitable, and by the 1960s 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. In 1990, the work was completed, and the 31 mile canal formally reopened in 1991.

An attractive waterway, 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 (Sites of Special Scientific Interest). Greywell Tunnel, which marks the end of the navigable section is an internationally important haven for bats.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

Basingstoke Canal Authority – Telephone 01252 370073  
Aldershot Military Museum  
Farnborough Air Sciences Museum

Visit our website  
[britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://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](http://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.