

### Key Info



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

**Start:** Deep Hayes Country Park,  
nr Cheddleton, Leek ST13 7JS

**Finish:** Froghall Wharf, Foxt Road,  
Froghall, Staffs ST10 2HJ

**Time:** 1.5 - 3.5 hours

**Distance:** 6.5 miles

**Locks/Portages:** 5 locks. 1 tunnel

Unpowered boats may use this but must have  
a bright white, forward facing light on each boat.

**OS Map:** Explorer 259 Derby

This is a lovely paddle through the Churnet Valley. The countryside is some of the most picturesque in Britain. Its final miles run through an area known as Little Switzerland.

- 1 Access to the canal is at Bridge 39; launch and turn towards and past the canalside houses; in the direction of Cheddleton. Immediately one is struck by the quiet, rural setting. It is a very gentle journey towards the village of Cheddleton.
- 2 Immediately after the A520 bridge there are two locks to portage, via the towpath on the left. On the right bank is a small chapel which was the birthplace of the Methodist Church in the area.



- 3 After almost another mile Cheddleton Station and the Boat Inn are reached. The River Churnet flows a few metres away and will follow the canal until they eventually join, just over a mile down river, at Lock 16.
- 4 At lock 16 the tow path moves to the right bank so egress left, just before the lock and walk over the humpback bridge to get in, down a concrete step. For the next mile the river and canal follow the same water course.
- 5 At Consall Forge the river diverges away to the right and tumbles down a large and potentially dangerous weir to a basin 3 metres below.
- 6 You are around 4 miles into your journey and this is a good place to take a break or enjoy refreshments at the Black Lion; a quaint, rustic pub. Consall Forge Lime Kilns are set back on the right bank along with an interesting tiled seat memorial. This is part of Consall Nature Park; home to abundance of wildlife.
- 7 The railway continues to run alongside the canal and soon Consall Station comes into view. The platform here forces the canal into a narrow channel of just one boat width.
- 8 You now enter Booths Wood. On the canal overflow chutes occur at various points, to allow excess water to flow into the River Churnet. For safety paddle to the right of the canal, away from them. This is particularly true after bridge 50b, where an incoming stream can cause a large outflow down the 45 degree chute, to the river below.

- 9 At Flint Lock (no. 17), portage on the left, via the towpath. Note the warning sign and red and white strips at the lock exit gate, which act as a template to ensure boats will fit through Froghall Tunnel.
- 10 At just over 6 miles the Froghall Tunnel is reached; a low tunnel, 75 yards (68m) in length. Unpowered boats may use this but must have a bright white, forward facing light on each boat. If you do not have this, or would prefer not to paddle, you can portage on the right, via the flat towpath which crosses a main road.
- 11 The concrete eyesore on the right bank is the demolished remains of Thomas Bolton's copper works. It's now only a few hundred metres to your finish point at Froghall Wharf.

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



This is a lovely paddle through the Churnet Valley, which the canal shares with a heritage railway and the river even shares the same course for a mile. The countryside is mostly either a conservation area, or site of special scientific interest.

Once bustling with industry, it has been reclaimed by nature and only the occasional steam train at the weekend spoils the peace and tranquillity.

Deep Hayes Country Park is set in a natural bowl in the hillside and is a delightful mixture of woods, meadows and pools. Originally a reservoir built by the Potteries Water Company to compensate the River Churnet for water extracted by industry lower down the valley. It was finally abandoned in 1979.

Churnet Valley Railway: [www.churnet-valley-railway.co.uk](http://www.churnet-valley-railway.co.uk). A heritage railway which runs at the weekend and bank holiday along a five mile restored track from Froghall to Leekbrook.

Just before the bridge under the A520 (at around 1 mile) you will see Cheddleton Flint Mill. This is a fine example of a water mill which ground flint for the pottery industry.

The navigation from Stoke to Froghall is 18 miles long and was originally built as a branch to supply water from the Staffordshire Moorlands to the Trent and Mersey Canal. Its main traffic was transporting limestone from the quarries at Caldon Low to the potteries of the industrial midlands.

Further useful information can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eland/countryside/openspaces/openspacesdeephayes.aspx>

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/eLand/Countryside/OpenSpaces/OpenSpacesFroghallWharf.aspx>

[www.blacklionpub.co.uk](http://www.blacklionpub.co.uk)

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

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 Canal & Rivers Trust and require paddlers to hold a license. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual license for this waterway – please take your membership card with you as this acts as your license. Non-members can either purchase a British Canoeing membership from [www.britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk) or buy licenses direct from [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

