

Key Information

Pass nature reserves and the charming town of Topsham on this river and canal experience. There are Waymarker points at get in/out locations with a canoe on them.

Start/Finish: Entrance
Road to Sewage
works, off Bridge
Road, Exeter, EX2
7EQ

Portages: 2
Time: 1 - 2 hours
Distance: 3.3 miles
OS Map: Explorer 114
Exeter & The Exe Valley



For more
information scan
the QR code or
visit
bit.ly/31FGA7V



1. Put in on the river and turn right, downstream. Keep to the left side of the river to avoid any salmon anglers.

2. To your left is Old Sludge Beds Nature Reserve; once the resting place for much of Exeter's treated sewage. Today the Old Slug Beds is a more welcoming place to wildlife and people.

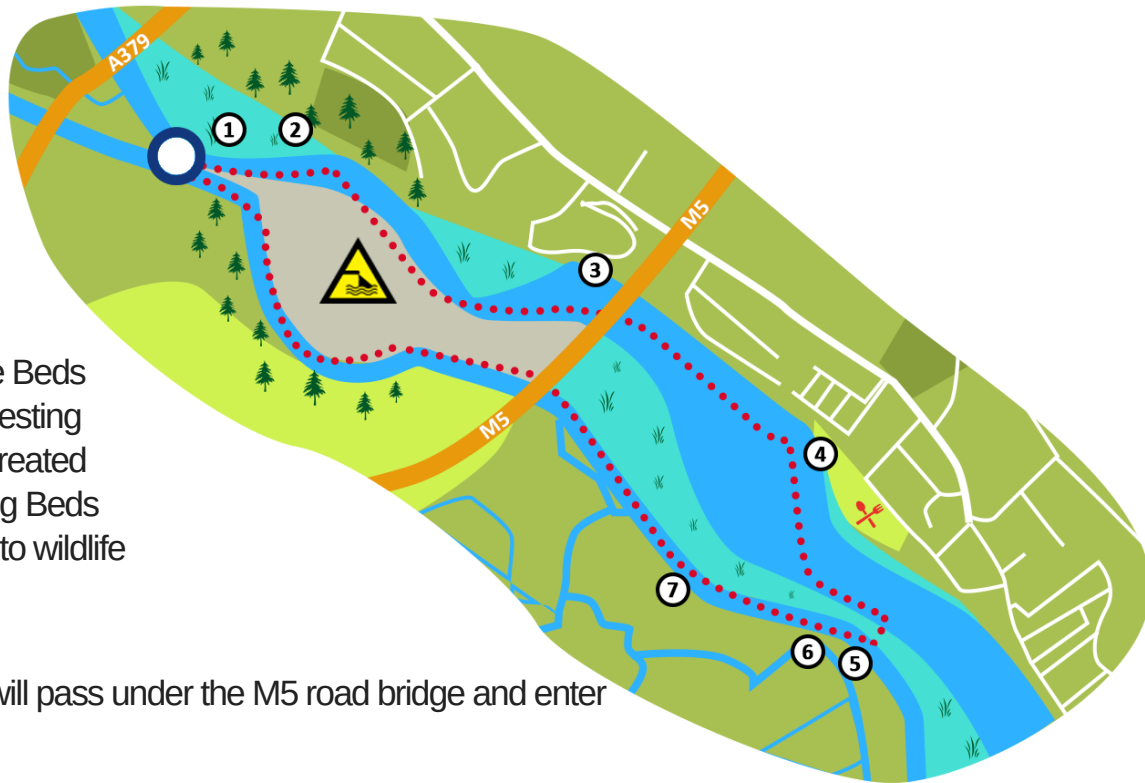
3. After around a mile you will pass under the M5 road bridge and enter the edges of Topsham.

4. Past Topsham, you now have Exe Reed Beds Nature Reserve to your left. Look out for a wide variety of wading birds and other wildlife.

5. At just over 1.6 miles you arrive at your crossover point for the canal. Get out on the right side of the river, on the stone steps by Topsham Lock Cottage.

6. Walk across to the canal and get in via the landing stage.

7. Follow the canal back to your start point.



Find out more
information at:
gopaddling.info

This is loop three of four on the River Exe and Exeter Ship Canal. You can combine all four loops to make a scenic 10.5 mile day trip.

500 years ago Topsham was an important port and boat building area; more important than Exeter itself. When visiting it is worth taking time to stroll around the town to view the historic buildings. You could also visit the heated, open-air swimming pool!

The Exeter Ship Canal is one of the oldest artificial waterways in the UK. First built in the 1560's it underwent many improvements over the centuries and finally fell out of commercial use in the 1970's. It runs from the centre of Exeter out to the river Exe estuary.

The Exe Estuary is recognised as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and is important for wading and migrating birds. The RSPB have two nature reserve areas on either side of the estuary.

Further information can be found on the following websites:

[britishcanoeing.org.uk/
exeterviews.co.uk/
visitexeter.com/things-to-do/exeter-quayside](http://britishcanoeing.org.uk/exeterviews.co.uk/visitexeter.com/things-to-do/exeter-quayside)

Licence

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 & suncream!

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!

Licences: The waterways on this trail don't require you to have a licence to paddle on them. However if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of British Canoeing. A British Canoeing membership gives you a whole range of benefits including a licence to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 Million. Not only will membership help save you money, it will give you peace of mind when out on the waterways. For more information on British Canoeing membership please click here.

