

## Key Information

### Start and finish:

Horsenden Hill Visitor Centre, Horsenden Lane North, Perivale, UB6 7PQ  
Portages: 0

**Time:** 3.5 - 7 hours

**Distance:** 14 miles

**OS Map:** Explorer 173 London North



For more information scan the QR code or <https://bit.ly/2DVzb aV>

Don't be fooled by the green and leafy start to this trail; many dark and dastardly beings lurk along your route.



Image Credit: Richardjo53

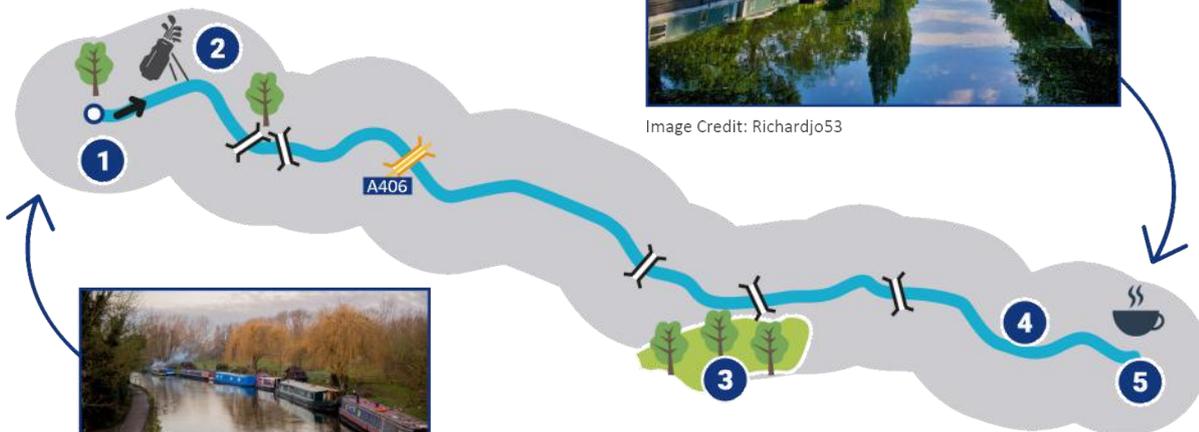


Image Credit: Brett Jordan

**1.** Park in the visitors centre car park and walk down the path to the canal. Get in at the landing stage near the visitor centre and turn left, towards the centre of London. Horsenden Hill is the final resting place of the legendary Saxon warrior chief, Horsa. You may still hear his ghostly battle-cries as you paddle off on your journey.

**2.** Sudbury Golf Club is on your left, followed by Alperton Cemetery. Do not fear the cemetery but be sure to keep one eye on the skies here. Wembley Stadium is off to your right and a banana shaped UFO has been seen to hover there. At just over 2 miles, take in the view as an aqueduct carries you over the busy North Circular Road. Here you may spot the derelict Tywford Abbey to your right. This gothic mansion is haunted by a large black dog, who still waits for people to play fetch with him in the grounds.

**3.** At 4.5 miles Wormwood Scrubs Common is on your right, with the famous prison just beyond. Listen for the old prison bell which used to be rung after each execution. Despite its wires being cut many years ago the bell is still heard to ring in the corridors of the jail.

**4.** Immediately after, on the opposite side of the canal, you pass Kensal Green Cemetery; the final resting place for thousands, including those of fame and royalty. It is often used as a set for horror movies and is a popular tourist attraction. But do the undead also walk here?

**5.** At just over 7 miles round a bend into the busy Little Venice area. As you arrive watch out for a young girl wearing a blue dress and hat. This is the ghost of Sarah Siddons, who frequents the area. Here you can stop, rest and take in the atmosphere at the waterside cafe, before retracing your journey to the start.



Find out more information at: [gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)

Canal & River Trust waterways offer a range of opportunities for activities. From angling to country walks and from boating holidays to volunteer lock keeping. Visit their website to find out more.

Due to large amounts of pottery that was found there, it is now known that Horsenden Hill was originally inhabited by iron age settlers over 2500 years ago!

During WW2 the hill was the home of an anti-aircraft battery, nowadays you're more likely to spot some highland cows grazing.

Wormwood Scrubs is home to the prison that was once home to Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, but also contains a nature reserve home to a wide variety of birds, insects, and other wildlife.

Alan Turing the famous code breaker and computing pioneer was born in Little Venice in 1912.

For more information about British Canoeing visit: [britishcanoeing.org.uk](http://britishcanoeing.org.uk)

For more information about getting started in paddling visit: [gopaddling.info](http://gopaddling.info)

Our members and the wider paddling community can get in touch with us at: T. 0845 370 9500



## 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 in this trail are managed by the Canal & Rivers Trust and require paddlers to hold a licence. British Canoeing membership includes a full annual licence for this waterway - please take your membership card with you as this acts as your licence. 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)

**New to  
paddling?**

Check out the  
Paddle Awards!