

006559

Canoeists Guide

to the River Severn



RUMMOND
Outdoor
KAYAK AND CANOE CENTRE



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**



ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

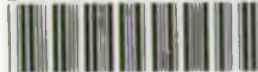
NATIONAL LIBRARY &
INFORMATION SERVICE

HEAD OFFICE

Rio House, Waterside Drive,
Aztec West, Almondsbury,
Bristol BS32 4UD

EA - Midlands

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



006559

Contents

Introduction	2
The River Severn	2
Severn Bore	2
Fish Weirs	3
Navigation	3
Access	4
Safety On The River	4
Health & Hygiene	5
Leptospirosis – Weil’s Disease	5
Code of Conduct	7
Use of Locks	8
Weirs	9
Launching & Landing	9
Itinerary	9
Poole Quay (Abbey Weir) – Montford Bridge	10
Montford Bridge – Shrewsbury Weir	12
Shrewsbury Weir – Ironbridge	14
Ironbridge to Bridgnorth	16
Bridgnorth – Stourport	18
Stourport – Worcester	20
Worcester – Tewkesbury	22
Tewkesbury – Gloucester	24
The British Canoe Union	26
Useful Information	26
Canoe Hire & Instruction	27
Maps	27
Fishing Seasons	27
Useful Addresses & Publications	28
Accommodation	29
Youth Hostels	30
Notes	31-32



Introduction

This guide has been produced by the Midlands Region of the Environment Agency (EA) which has a duty under Section 16 of the Water Resources Act 1991 to promote the use of inland and coastal waters, and land associated with such waters for recreational purposes.

It is intended to provide useful information for canoeists using the River Sever. It contains a detailed itinerary of a trip down the river, together with other information to help you plan and enjoy parts of, if not the whole canoeing trip.

The Midlands Region of the Environment Agency is indebted to Roger and Sue Drummond who have written much of this guide, DJ Pannett for the information on fish weirs and Dr J Whitehead for advice prepared for the British Canoe Union (BCU) on Leptospirosis.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within the guide is accurate. No liability can be accepted for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions.

In particular, readers should be aware that details such as land ownership, camp sites and landing places can change from year to year.



The River Severn

The Severn, Britain's longest river, rises on the slopes of Plynlimon in the Cambrian Mountains. It drops quickly through the Hafren Forest to Llanidloes and follows a generally north easterly course through the quietly undulating hills of Powys until it meets the River Vyrnwy, where together they create a huge flood plain on the borders of England and Wales. The river then flows eastwards through the narrow Ironbridge Gorge, deepening and widening in Worcestershire, and becoming tidal in Gloucestershire, before finally emptying into the sea in the Bristol Channel.

Throughout much of its length the Severn remains a natural waterway, wild and unspoilt in its upper reaches. Dippers, Little Ringed Plover, Herons, Swans, Dragonflies, Damselflies and Otters are examples of wildlife dependent on the river. It contains nearly every native species of freshwater fish in the British Isles, including salmon, trout, eels and coarse fish, together with the rare twaite and allis shad.

It is the unspoilt state of the Severn that gives the canoeist some of the best journeying river to be found in Britain. The few towns along its course do not intrude and the lack of riverside properties in the upper sections give a "wildness" feeling which is not easy to achieve in Central England today.

Below Gloucester the Severn is tidal. Canoeing beyond Gloucester is possible, but not recommended and falls beyond the scope of this guide.

THE SEVERN BORE

In common with a few other rivers, a tidal wave, or bore, occurs in the lower reaches of the River Severn during high tides. For a bore to form, a considerable rise in tide is needed in a converging channel with a rising bed, ie funnel-shaped.

The Severn Estuary experiences the second highest tide anywhere in the world, with a range which can be in excess of 14.5 metres (47.6 feet). Under the most favourable conditions, the Severn Bore may reach two metres (six feet) in height. Opposing winds or high freshwater levels can considerably reduce the height and delay the time of arrival, whereas a following wind can increase the height and advance the time.

The average speed of the bore is approximately 16 kilometres (10 miles) per hour. The true phenomenon does not occur upstream of Gloucester because of the presence of weirs on the twin armed channel near the city.



Fish Weirs

Special features of the River Severn are the sites and islands of ancient fish weirs created by large estates, medieval manors and monastic establishments to trap fish. Designed to catch migrating eels, salmon and other fish, they were constructed of a wattle fence, supported by timber braces and piles, running across the river to form one or more v-shaped funnels pointing downstream. At the apex of each funnel stood a 'doorway' about 1.25m wide, across which was held a bag-like net, controlled from a catwalk above with long poles. Constructing a fish weir across the river would close it to traffic, so in order to maintain the navigable channel, a barge gutter was cut and an island or 'bylet' created.

At various times in our history fish weirs were closed, and eventually trapping fish by this method became illegal. In many cases the barge gutter has silted up and disappeared but several of these islands remain in Shropshire, which are mentioned in the guide and the sites of other are noted. Evidence of fish weirs below Stourport disappeared with the building of the locks and weirs.

THE NAVIGATION

Once one of the great navigable rivers, the Severn is now used mainly by recreational boaters. The days of barges and trows are long gone and the modern Severn is travelled by canoes, kayaks, small power boats and in the lower reaches, by cruisers of all sizes.

The Severn is a free public navigation as far as Stourport, with its head at Pool Quay near Welshpool. It is thought that navigation once extended upstream to Abermule, but this became physically impossible when the monks of Strata Marcella Abbey constructed a stone weir to hold up water for mill leats.

Our guide starts just above the now broken Abbey Weir near Pool Quay and runs down to Gloucester Docks.

From Pool Quay to Stourport the river is generally hazard free, with the exception of Shrewsbury Weir and the rapids at Jackfield and Eymore.

From Stourport the river has been canalised and navigation is under the control of British Waterways, from whom a licence is required (address is listed). In general, canoes and kayaks are carried around locks but it is possible to lock through, providing certain guidelines are strictly observed.

At times of flood the Severn can rise rapidly, particularly in the upper reaches and can reach a level of over 5 metres above its normal summer height. It is not uncommon for the river to rise higher than its banks and spread out over the surrounding flood plain several times in the course of a normal winter. Flash floods can occur in the summer.

Although the navigation brought trade and wealth to the inland downs along its course, it was never totally reliable, being dependent upon the level of water, which was often too low in summer and flooded in winter. A towing path which ran alongside the river was used for hauling boats upstream, firstly by gangs of men and later by horses.

Trade varied throughout the centuries eventually falling into decline perhaps with the advent of rail and the Severn Valley Railway.

Today the Severn Navigation gives the canoeist well over 100 miles of superb journeying river.

Access

The public right of navigation existing on the Severn gives everyone the right to navigate from Pool Quay to Stourport, and from Stourport to Gloucester as previously mentioned with a British Waterways licence. The right of navigation, however, does not give the canoeist the right to cross privately owned land or launch a boat without landowner permission.

Access to the Severn is relatively straightforward. Because of the navigation, certain public quays and slipways have been in existence for centuries and others have appeared more recently.

Throughout the guide, official access and egress points have been noted, as have others that have been traditionally used, but for which permission must be sought. In some cases a small fee may be payable.

A list of names and telephone numbers is included.





Safety on the River

The River Severn can be dangerous and has been the cause of many accidents and deaths. It is most dangerous where there are strong currents, when there are high water levels, and during cold weather conditions. **DO NOT** take risks and **NEVER UNDERESTIMATE** the power of the river.

It is a fast flooding river, which can rise after heavy rain at a rate in excess of 1 metre per hour in the upper reaches. When in flood, it is advisable not to go on the river at all. The Environment Agency monitors water levels at all times and provides a recorded river levels service. Telephone numbers are listed.

Although common sense is the most important requirement, the risk of accidents can be minimised by taking note of the following guidelines:-

- 1 Wear an approved buoyancy aid or life jacket and a helmet.
- 2 Make sure that your canoe has built in buoyancy or has inflated bags inside, to prevent it sinking, if you capsize.
- 3 Make sure that you can swim at least 50 metres in the clothing, or type of clothing you will wear for canoeing.
- 4 If your canoe has not been used for some time ensure that it is river-worthy.
- 5 If you have not canoed before, make sure you are accompanied by someone with experience.
- 6 Take notice of any signs warning of danger and keep away from weirs, sluices and other dangers.
- 7 Inspect rapids before "shooting" them.
- 8 If possible do not canoe alone, if this is the only option, inform someone of where you are going, estimated time of arrival and let them know of your arrival.
- 9 Carry a repair kit for your canoe, and make sure that you know how to use it.
- 10 If you wear glasses, make sure they are secure in case of capsize.

You should also know what to do in the case of an accident. Ideally you should be able to:-

- Help someone if they have capsized or are in difficulty in the water.
- Revive someone who is unconscious.
- Give first aid.

The above points may seem so obvious that they should not need to be mentioned but it is surprising how often they are overlooked.

Health & Hygiene

The quality of water in the River Severn is generally good, but unlike tap water it is untreated and contains natural bacteria and other micro-organisms. Although the risk of contracting illness is small, if the following sensible precautions are followed, along with those given under Leptospirosis, those involved in water sports can stay healthy:-

- Do not swallow river water.
- Wash your hands before eating.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is an animal infection. After recovery the animal excretes the organisms in the urine. The bacteria survive for days or even weeks in moist conditions, but only for a few hours in salt water. The infection is caught by direct contact with the urine or polluted environment. Bacteria enter through skin abrasions or via eyes, nose or mouth.

The illness

The usual incubation is 2 to 12 days. Usually a 'flu'-like illness occurs which resolves in 2-3 weeks. There may be fever, severe headache, pains in the back and calf and prostration. A few cases develop jaundice, when the condition is known as Weil's Disease.

Although death may occur in about 15% of the jaundiced patients, death without jaundice is virtually unknown. Antibiotics during the first few days help in limiting infection. Many cases recover without specific treatment.

What to do

If you think you may have the infection, go to your doctor and tell him/her that there may be a risk of leptospirosis. The diagnosis is by clinical suspicion. Blood tests can rarely confirm the illness in time to affect treatment. They may subsequently confirm it. The microbiologist at the local hospital is the best source of advice.

Prevention

- Cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters
- Always wear footwear to avoid cutting the feet
- Avoid capsizing drill or rolling practise in suspect waters
- Where possible, shower soon after canoeing
- If in doubt, contact your doctor early, particularly if you experience 'flu'-type symptoms

The level of risk

Each year, an average, 9 water sports people contract Leptospirosis, among which 3 on average are canoeists.

Leptospirosis is very rare, and its deterioration into Weil's Disease even more rare. Weil's Disease is however a very serious illness, and must be swiftly diagnosed and treated.





Code of Conduct

Both the Environment Agency and BCU have published a Code of Conduct, intended to help both canoeists and other river users enjoy the river, whilst having respect for all river users and the river environment.

Canoeists are requested to follow the relevant sections of both codes which are given below.

General Guidance

- Look after the river environment and avoid damaging banks and bankside vegetation. Do not pick, uproot, or trample wild plants.
- Take special care not to disturb gravel beds or beds of water weeds.
- Do not disturb birds and other wildlife found along the river. Avoid areas used by wintering wildfowl, nesting birds and spawning fish in the appropriate season. Stop canoeing if you are clearly disturbing wildlife.
- Do not trespass on private banks or moorings. Whenever possible come ashore only at recognised landing places.
- Never throw rubbish in the river or leave it on the banks. Take it home or place it in a bin.
- Please be as quiet as possible, have respect for other users of the river.
- Obey the general rules of navigation and any local byelaws.
- Avoid crossing the bows of oncoming craft of any kind, at close quarters. In particular remember that larger boats are less manoeuvrable and cannot use such shallow water as canoes.
- Give precedence to those engaged in organised competition and have regard to any instructions given by officials.
- Have special regard for beginners, as you would for learner drivers on the road.
- Hail to draw a person's attention to a situation which might result in inconvenience, damage or collision. Please treat a hail as a friendly warning and not as an insult.
- Pass anglers quietly. Try to:-
 - keep away from banks being fished
 - comply with reasonable directional requests
 - keep well clear of fishing tackle
 - avoid loitering in pools if anyone is fishing
 - cause as little disturbance as possible
- Park vehicles and trailers responsibly so that they do not cause a nuisance.
- Groups of young or inexperienced canoeists should be accompanied by a suitably experienced, responsible person – preferably a qualified instructor.

Salmon and trout lay their eggs in gravel. During the period October to March trampling and launching of canoes on gravels used by salmon and trout may damage unhatched eggs and young fry. Please take particular care when the water level is low and **DO NOT** canoe if there is any risk of disturbance to gravels. It is a criminal offence to wilfully disturb breeding fish or spawning beds. Please leave the water if requested to do so by an Environment Agency Fisheries Inspector. A request will only be made where there is a real risk of disturbance.

The complete Code of Conduct is available from the Environment Agency as a separate leaflet.

Use of Locks & Weirs

The use of locks by canoes is normally discouraged as such craft are, by design, somewhat lightweight and unstable, bearing in mind the turbulence caused by flooding and emptying. The normal practice is for canoes to be lifted out and carried round the lock before taking to the water again. However the following guidelines should be strictly observed if you wish to go through:-

- 1 Prior notice of arrival and numbers to be advised to the lock-keeper.
 - 2 Powered craft to be given precedence.
 - 3 Level of experience/competence is of paramount importance.
 - 4 Lock-keeper's directions/instructions must be followed without question.
 - 5 Inform lock-keepers if large parties are using the river.
- Telephone numbers are included at the end of the guide.

WEIRS

At each lock there is an accompanying weir, the "shooting" of which is prohibited under British Waterways bye-laws.

LAUNCHING AND LANDING

Locations are shown at which it is possible to launch or land without permission. In all other cases it is necessary to gain landowners' consent. Landing may also be made, with permission, at certain riverside camp sites.

Reference to right or left bank refers to the river as viewed looking downstream.

ITINERARY

For convenience, the river between Pool Quay and Gloucester has been divided into eight sections, each with a corresponding map. The sections can be undertaken as day runs, but it is left to the canoeists themselves to decide how far they can travel comfortably in a day.

The first column in the itinerary is the distance from Pool Quay in miles and the second distance between points.



Poole Quay (Abbey Weir) – Montford Bridge

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
0	0	ABBEY WEIR Over this first stretch the river is narrow with many twists and turns and can be overgrown in places. The old, broke Abbey Weir, with its small island below, creates a riffle but is not hazardous. The Breidden Hills appear right and later the Criggion Radio masts come into view, as the river twists and turns.	SJ 251 104
1	1	POOL QUAY Bridge for farm access. Inn – Powis Arms left.	SJ 259 115
1½	½	Old railway bridge – dismantled	
3¾	1¾	STONE RAPID Red brick building appears right, left hand bend, rocks right, fast water under low trees left. Proceed with caution in low water.	SJ 276 129
8¾	5¾	LLANDRINIO BRIDGE – 1775 – Road Take centre arch – small stoney riffle in low water. Haimwood. Tower on left. Camping.	SJ 298 169
12	3¾	CONFLUENCE WITH RIVER VYRNWY Vyrnwy enters left. Severn now passes into England and for a time becomes the border between England and Wales. It is possible to paddle into the Vyrnwy to the village of Melverley – interesting church. Inn – Tontine Arms. Craft Centre.	SJ 328 158
12¾	¾	MELVERLEY/CREW GREEN BRIDGE Disused railway bridge converted to single track road bridge in 1962. Inn – Fir Tree Inn right ¼ mile. Over this next stretch numerous clay humps become visible at normal level. HAYES ISLAND – left.	SJ 330 159
14¾	2¾	THE ROYAL HILL Riverside Inn with camping. Left.	SJ 351 173
17¾	2¾	ALBERBURY PRIORY – right MINISTRY OF DEFENCE TRAINING AREA – left. Caution.	
18¾	1	SHRAWARDINE ISLAND RAILWAY BRIDGE – dismantled – abutments only.	SJ 392 152
19¾	2¾	MONTFORD ISLANDS Left of small islands, right of larger island. Preston Montford Field Study Centre right ¼ mile.	SJ 422 144
22¾	1¾	A5 BRIDGE -1992 – Road Picnic site, toilets, car park right. Inn – Wingfield Arms – right camping.	SJ 429 151
22¾	¾	MONTFORD BRIDGE – 1792 – Road Severn House Camp site below bridge – left.	SJ 431 153



Montford Bridge – Shrewsbury Weir

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
22½		MONTFORD BRIDGE	SJ 431 153
23¾	1	ISLAND – right pass either side.	
23¾	¼	BROMLEYS FORGE, CONFLUENCE WITH RIVER PERRY	SJ 440 166
		Perry enters left . River shallow left below confluence, fast water under trees right . Caution.	
		BICKLEY COPPICE	SJ 443 164
		Scout camp – right .	
25	1¼	THE ISLE – ISLE GRANGE	SJ 456 158
		River now makes a large loop around The Isle. This is a particularly pretty stretch with large wooded estates. Remains of Berwick House boat house left , followed by Berwick House – best seen from right bank below.	
31½	6¾	SHELTON WATER WORKS	SJ 467 137
		Severn Trent Water extraction plant. Two large bends and the spires of Shrewsbury come into view.	
32¾	1¼	SHROPSHIRE & WEST MIDLAND SHOWGROUND – Left	
		COTON HILL PUBLIC SLIPWAY – Left	
34	1¼	FRANKWELL, SHREWSBURY	SJ 492 129
		Canoe launching ramp – right . Cafe – left . River forms a two mile loop in which the town of Shrewsbury nestles. The town can be reached by the footbridge, ships, cafes, pubs, castle, museums etc.	
		FRANKWELL FOOTBRIDGE – 1979 – Access to town	
		WELSH BRIDGE, ROAD – 1795 – Toilets, leisure centre, childrens play area. Inn – The Boat House – Right.	
		PORTHILL BRIDGE – 1922 – Foot	
		Town Park, The Quarry left , Pengwern Rowing Club right . Shrewsbury School right .	
		KINGSLAND TOLL BRIDGE 1881, Road – Inn, The Crown right.	
		GREYFRIARS BRIDGE – 1879, Foot.	
		CONFLUENCE WITH REA BROOK – right. Brook can be paddled at certain levels – possible to reach Youth Hostel but some walking may be involved.	
		Access to brook from Council Car Park.	
		ENGLISH BRIDGE 1927 – Road.	
		SHREWSBURY STATION BRIDGES – 1848 & 1903 – Rail.	
		CASTLE WALK BRIDGE 1951 – Foot.	
		DRUMMOND OUTDOOR – Canoe hire and supplies – left.	
36	2	SHREWSBURY WEIR	SJ 501 130
		Inspection recommended at all levels – can be dangerous, large stopper in medium to high water. Portage left and re-enter at canoe launching point. Avoid fish pass on right bank at all times as it is an offence to disturb fish.	

Montford Bridge – Shrewsbury Weir





Shrewsbury Weir – Ironbridge



Shrewsbury Weir – Ironbridge

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
36		SHREWSBURY WEIR HOLYWELL OR GOFFS ISLAND – pass left	SJ 501 130
36½	¼	TELFORD WAY BRIDGE – 1964 – Road PIMLEY ISLAND – left. View of HAUGHMOND HILL	SJ 508 140
38½	2	A49 BYPASS BRIDGE – 1992 – Road UFFINGTON – Inn The Corbet Arms left. Here the river can be shallow in summertime. A49 BYPASS BRIDGE 1992 – Road	
39½	1	BELVEDERE RAILWAY BRIDGE – 1846 PRESTON – Site of a good example of a fish weir, which was extended and was the last in operation in Shropshire. Water can be shallow here, pick way through stones.	SJ 519 125
41¼	1½	A5/A49 BRIDGE EMSTREY ISLAND – pass left – right can be shallow in low water. CHILTERN ISLAND – pass left in low water.	SJ 521 109
43½	2	ATCHAM NEW BRIDGE 1927/29 – Road. OLD BRIDGE 1776. Now Footbridge. Inn – Mytton & Mermaid – left, shop left ATTINGHAM HALL left.– CRONKHILL ISLAND – normal passage right.	SJ 541 093
45½	2½	CONFLUENCE WITH RIVER TERN Tern enters left. Remains of lock wall into Tern visible. TERN BRIDGE 100 yds upstream. Tern runs through the grounds of Attingham Hall and Deer Park now owned by the National Trust. No canoeing any further upstream. The Severn over the next few hundred yards becomes wider and shallower.	SJ 553 091
46½	¾	WROXETER ISLAND – Pass right SMALL ISLANDS and remains of Roman Ford. Remains of the Roman town of Wroxeter (Viroconium) ½ mile NE left.	SJ 561 083
48	1½	CONFLUENCE WITH COUND BROOK – Right ISLAND – right. SANDSTONE CLIFF – left.	SJ 566 062
48½	¾	CHOLMODELY RIVERSIDE INN ISLAND – pass right or left.	SJ 570 050
51	2½	CRESSAGE BRIDGE – 1913 – Road Village, Inn – The Eagles – ½ mile. River flows through plain and meanders over sandy bed. View of the Wrekin and Leighton Hall.	SJ 594 045
56	5	BUILDWAS BRIDGE – rebuilt 1993 – Road Buildwas Village left, ruins of Abbey right. Islands above and below bridge. Power Station – right. Old Power Station access bridge. New Power Station access bridge. ALBERT EDWARD BRIDGE - 1862 - Rail – Ironbridge Rowing Club - left.	SJ 644 044
58½	2½	IRONBRIDGE – 1779 – Foot. The first iron bridge. Town left, shops, museums, cafes, pubs etc. Coracle Maker, left below bridge. Remains of disused Severn Valley Railway right.	SJ 673 035



Ironbridge – Bridgnorth

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
58½		IRONBRIDGE SJ 673 038 The river has now entered the Ironbridge Gorge and the flow increases – islands in the middle create riffles – normal passage in low water – left channel.	
58½	½	NEW JACKFIELD BRIDGE – 1994 – Road SJ 681 032 This bridge replaces the FREEBRIDGE – now dismantled. JACKFIELD RAPID – 200 yds downstream. Grade ½ rapids at normal level. Very fast and rapids washed out at high water. Inspect from left bank – do not land right . Telford Canoe Club – left (For contact see notes) Inns – left and right . CAUTION – 400 yds downstream of Jackfield Rapid and 100 yds upstream of the Half Moon, due to land slippage there is debris on the bed of the river. Inn – The Half Moon – right . WAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE – 1992 – Foot . Inn – The Boat – right . Hay inclined plane connecting Coalport river wharf with canal basin – left .	
60½	1½	COALPORT SJ 701 020 Bottle kilns of Coalport pottery left . Left tar tunnel and Blists Hill Museum. COALPORT BRIDGE – 1818 – Road . Inn – The Woodbridge – 1818 – right . NEW BRIDGE – 1960's – Telford Sewage Treatment Plant .	
63½	3	APLEY PARK BRIDGE – Private SO 706 983 The river passes through the Apley Park Estate one of the prettiest stretches with wooded banks and sandstone cliffs – cave. CONFLUENCE WITH RIVER WORFE – left . HIGH ROCK – left .	
67½	4	BRIDGNORTH SO 719 930 Bridgnorth High Town appears on the right . Low town left . Cliff railway connects. Slipway at Severn Park. Shops, cafes, pubs, museums etc. Terminus Severn Valley Railway. BRIDGNORTH BRIDGE – Repaired 1966 – Road . Take one of the right arches in low water. Island below left . Car park left .	

Ironbridge - Bridgnorth



A TYPICAL FISH WEIR ON THE RIVER SEVERN



Bridgnorth – Stourport

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
67½		BRIDGNORTH	SO 719 930
		New By-Pass Bridge 1980's	
69½	2½	QUATFORD	
		Inn – The Danery – left .	
71½	1½	CONFLUENCE WITH THE MOR BROOK – Right	
		Cast Iron Bridge over Mor Brook which carried towpath.	
		BRIDGE – Carrying water from Chelmarsh Reservoir to water works.	
72½	1½	HAMPTON LODGE	SO 747 865
		Car Park (National Trust) – left .	
		Inn – The Unicorn – Right . Camping – Right .	
		Operational Rope Ferry. Station – Severn Valley Railway – Right .	
		Inn – The Lion – left – Few hundred yards downstream.	
74½	1½	ALVELEY BRIDGE – 1936 – Foot	SO 748 839
		Alveley Country Park – left	
		Colliery Bridge	
75½	¾	HIGHLEY – site of old ferry.	
		Inn – The Ship – right . Station – Severn Valley Railway – right .	
		BORLE BROOK enters right . Bridge over Borle Brook carried towpath.	
77½	2½	ARLEY	SO 765 901
		Quay – left . FOOTBRIDGE	
		Inn – Severn Valley Railway – right	
		EYMORE WOOD – left	
78½	¾	VICTORIA BRIDGE – Carries Severn Valley Railway.	
		WYRE FOREST – right	
		WATER EXTRACTION PLANT – left	
79½	¾	EYMORE RAPID	SO 772 785
		Rapid left . Island centre. Pass left of island taking channel down main chute.	
		Right too shallow in summertime.	
		200 yds below island – rock ledge with break on right hand side covered in high water.	
		WATER PIPE BRIDGE – TRIMPLEY	
		RAILWAY BRIDGE – dismantled	
		DOWLES BROOK enters right .	
81½	2½	BEWDLEY BRIDGE	SO 787 754
		Access right above and below bridge.	
		Town right – shops, cafes, pubs, museums etc.	
		Rowing Club – left above bridge.	
		WYRE FOREST CANOE CLUB – left below bridge.	
		NEW BY-PASS BRIDGE – Island under bridge channel left .	
		BLACKSTONE ROCK	
		GLADDER BROOK	
		The Gladder Brook enters right and marks the head of the navigation under the control of British Waterways (licence required). The river changes character becoming deeper, traffic increases and canoeists must be aware of powered craft.	



Stourport – Worcester

Below Stourport the character of the river changes as it is now controlled by locks and weirs. Please see notes on use of locks and weirs (pages 8 and 9).

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
85½	4	STOURPORT BRIDGE – 1870 – Road Access/egress – small canal basin immediately left below bridge Junction with Staffs & Worcester Canal and River Stour left . Town left – shops, cafes, pubs, museums etc. Rowing Club – right . REDSTONE ROCK – right – Site of old ferry	SO 808 710
87	1½	LINCOMB LOCK Highest Lock on the River. Lock – left Weir – right .	SO 821 693
88	1	Inn – The Hampstall – left Site of Old Ferry DICK BROOK – enters right SHRAWLEY WOOD – right Site of Lenchford Ferry	
91¼	3¼	HOLT LOCK Lock – left Weir – right HOLT FLEET BRIDGE – 1827 Road Joel Enterprise – Canoe supplies – access from left then over bridge. Inns – The Holtfleet and The Wharf – right and left Site of Hawford Ferry CONFLUENCE WITH RIVER SALWARPE – left Camping – turn into Salwarpe – under road bridge	SO 821 633
94¼	3¼	BEVERE LOCK Lock – right Weir – left Site of Camp Ferry. Inn – Camp House – right Site of Kepax Ferry	SO 836 593
98¼	3¼	WORCESTER Racecourse left . Rowing Club – left Worcester Canoe Club – left RAILWAY BRIDGE WORCESTER ROAD BRIDGE Cathedral left City left – shops, cafes, pubs, museums etc Inn – The Ketch – left – campsite immediately behind pub	SO 846 546

Worcester – Tewkesbury

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
98½		WORCESTER DIGLIS LOCK – left – JUNCTION WITH WORCESTER & BIRMINGHAM CANAL. DIGLIS RIVER LOCK – Lock – left Weir – right.	SO 846 546
100	1¼	CONFLUENCE WITH THE RIVER TEME River Teme enters right Site of the Battle of Worcester – right ROAD BRIDGE Site of Ketch Ferry Site of Pixham Ferry. Views of the Malverns right Site of Clifton Ferry. Cliffs and wood right Severn Stoke – left.	SO 850 521
109¾	9%	UPTON ON SEVERN ROAD BRIDGE. Town – right shops, cafes, pubs etc Upton Marine Slipway – access/egress left Waterworks – left Site of Saxons Lode Ferry Site of Uckinghall Ferry MOTORWAY BRIDGE	SO 851 408
115	5%	MYTHE BRIDGE – 1825 – Road TEWKESBURY – Access/egress Turn left into Avon. Turn left before Lock or continue through lock for Quay.	SO 888 333
115¾	¼	CONFLUENCE WITH THE RIVER AVON	SO 888 331

Please note that the river is tidal as far as Tewkesbury and in the case of exceptionally high tides there can be an impact as far as Upton-on-Severn. Please consult Arrowsmith Tide Table for the Bristol Channel.



Tewkesbury – Gloucester

Miles from Pool Quay	Miles between locations		
115½		CONFLUENCE WITH THE RIVER AVON	SO 888 331
116	½	UPPER LODGE LOCK Lock – centre Weir – left	SO 880 308
116¼	¾	LOWER LODGE Second channel of the Avon enters left Site of Ferry Inn – Lower Lode right Access/egress – slipway at Inn. Small charge. CHACELEY STOCK Inn – Yew Tree – right APPERLEY Inn – The Coal House – left .	
121½	4½	HAW BRIDGE – Road. Inn – New Inn – right Inn – Haw Bridge Inn – right DISUSED CANAL Disused Coombe Hill Canal left WAINLODE HILL – left Inn – Red Lion left Rock – left	SO 845 278
124¼	3¼	ASHLEWORTH QUAY Inn – The Boat – right Access/egress – small charge Site of old ferry. Interesting Tithe Barn.	SO 819 250
127	2¼	LONG REACH TO UPPER PARTING The last stretch before the River separates – the right arm to continue to the estuary – the left arm to enter Gloucester.	
		UPPER PARTING At Upper Parting take the left arm passing under several bridges (road and rail) with Maisemore Ham right and Alney Island right . (The river passes right over weir, past Maisemore around Alney Island eventually meeting with the Gloucester arm again at Lower Parting and then on down to the estuary. This section is tidal and in high tides a bore occurs which is ridden by surfers and canoeists. The address for details of the Severn Bore is listed. Canoeing is not recommended below Upper Parting and therefore the river is not covered below this point by this guide).	
		GLOUCESTER Inn – The Globe – left Egress is up steps which can be silty and therefore slippery depending on tidal conditions – left . The lock – left Weir and river to Lower Parting – right The lock brings you into Gloucester Docks and the entrance to the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. There are special regulations regarding canoeing through the canal – the address for details is listed. Gloucester City has shops, cafes, pubs, museums, cathedral etc.	

Tewkesbury - Gloucester



- ☎ - TELEPHONE
- PH - PUBLIC HOUSE
- △ - CAMPING
- WC - PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
- ⤵ - FISH WEIR
- ✓ - LANDOWNER'S CONSENT REQUIRED FOR ACCESS
- C - OFFICIAL CANOE ACCESS



The British Canoe Union

The British Canoe Union is the governing body for the Sport and Recreation of Canoeing in the United Kingdom. It represents the interests of canoeists at local, national and international level, and is a member of the International Canoe Federation.

The Specialist Access Committee of the BCU and WCA (Welsh Canoeing Association) work to improve the availability of water to their members.

A British Waterways licence is issued as part of the BCU membership package. This covers access to the River Severn below Gladder Brook by Stourport and an access sticker should be displayed on the boat.

Amongst many other responsibilities the BCU and the WCA administer a very comprehensive coaching service for the improvement of safety awareness and skills of individuals and instructors.

General enquiries about BCU or WCA should be addressed to them at the addresses listed.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centres in the Severn Valley.

Welshpool	Vicarage Car Park, Welshpool, Powys. Tel: 01938 552043
Shrewsbury	The Music hall, The Square, Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Tel: 01743 350761
Ironbridge	4 The Wharfage, Ironbridge, Shropshire. Tel: 01952 432166
Bridgnorth	The Library, Listley Street, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Tel: 01746 763358
Kidderminster	Severn Valley Railway Station Development, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. Tel: 01562 829400
Worcester	Guildhall, High Street, Worcester. Tel: 01905 726311
Tewkesbury	64 Barton Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucester. Tel: 01684 295027
Gloucester	St. Michael's Tower, The Cross, Gloucester. Tel: 01452 421188

Canoe Hire and Instruction

Several companies in the Severn Valley offer canoes for hire and also offer instruction and will guide groups of canoeists. For details contact Tourist Information Centres.

MAPS

Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 series

Sheet 126	Pool Quay to Cressage
Sheet 127	1 km above Leighton to 2km below Coalport
Sheet 138	2km above Apley Forge to Grimley
Sheet 150	5km above Worcester to 2km below Chaceley Stock
Sheet 162	2km above Wainlode to Severn Road Bridge

FISHING SEASONS

Salmon	1 February to 7 October
Trout	18 March to 7 October
Coarse	16 June to 14 March but subject to review

LOCK-KEEPERS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lincomb Lock	Stourport	012993 2887
Holt Lock	Worcester	01905 620218
Bevere Lock	Worcester	01905 642075
Diglis Lock	Worcester	01905 354280
Upper Lode Lock	Tewkesbury	01684 29313



Useful Addresses and Tel. Nos.

Environment Agency Midlands Region (Head Office)
Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull B91 1QT. Tel: 0121-711 2324.

Environment Agency (Upper Severn Area)
Hafren House, Shelton, Shrewsbury SY3 8BB. Tel: 01743 272828.

Environment Agency (Lower Severn Area)
Riversmeet House, Newtown Industrial Estate, Northway Lane, Tewkesbury,
Gloucestershire GL20 8JG.
Tel: 01684 850951.

British Waterways,
Llanthony Warehouse, Gloucester Docks, Gloucester GL1 2EJ.
Tel: 01452 318000.

British Canoe Union,
John Dudderidge House, Adbolton Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5AS.
Tel: 01159 821100.

Welsh Canoeing Association,
Canolfan Tryweryn, Frongoch, Bala, Gwynedd LL23 7NU.
Tel: 01678 521199.

Severn Valley Railway.
Tel: 01746 764361.

Telford Canoe Club.
Tel: 01952 409622.

BCU River Severn Access.
Tel: 01743 365022.

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

The River Severn Region)	Environment Agency (Midlands
-----------------------------	------------------------------

River Canoeists and The National Rivers Authority	Environment Agency (National)
---	-------------------------------

The Severn Bore Region)	Environment Agency (Midlands
----------------------------	------------------------------

Accommodation

The list below is intended as a guide to camping facilities along the River Severn. Attempts have been made to ensure that the list is as accurate as possible but be aware that some sites are not official camp sites and camping is only available with the landowners permission. The availability of sites changes from year to year therefore you are advised to check details in advance, especially if canoeing with a group.

Facilities vary with some sites being very basic.

Severn Caravan Park, Welshpool, Powys	01938 76238
Mr Cadwallader, Mill Field Cilcewydd, Welshpool, Powys	01938 580449
Mr Nixon, Haimwood, Llandrinio, Powys	01691 830764
The Royal Hill, Edgerley, Oswestry, Shropshire	01743 81242
The Wingfield Arms, Montford Bridge, Nr. Shrewsbury, Shropshire	01743 850750
Severn House Camp Site, Montford Bridge, Nr. Shrewsbury, Shropshire	01743 850229
The Woodbridge, Coalport, Telford	01952 882054
The Unicorn, Hampton Loade, Bridgnorth, Shropshire	01746 861515
Camping and Caravan Site, Lenchford, Shrawley, Nr. Worcester	01905 620246
Mrs Link, Goods Green Farm, Arley Lane, Shatterford, Nr. Kidderminster	01299 7380
Mr G Barnett, Holt Fleet Farm, Holt Heath, Nr. Worcester	01905 620512
The Mill House, Caravan and Camping, Hawford, Nr. Worcester	01905 451283
The Ketch Caravan Park, Bath Road, Worcester	01905 820430
Riverside Caravan Park, Clevedale, Malvern Worcester	01684 310475
Abbey Caravan Club Site, Gander Lane, Tewkesbury	01684 294035
Red Lion Caravan and Camp Site, Wainloade Hill, Norton Hill, Norton, Gloucester	01452 730251



Youth Hostels

Shrewsbury	The Woodlands Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury Shropshire	Tel: 01743 360179
Ironbridge	Paradise Coalbrookdale Telford Shropshire	Tel: 01952 433281
Slimbridge	Shepherd's Patch Slimbridge Gloucestershire	Tel: 01453 890275

MIDLANDS REGION ADDRESSES

REGIONAL OFFICE

Environment Agency
Sapphire East
550 Streetsbrook Road
Solihull
West Midlands B91 1QT
Tel: 0121 711 2324
Fax: 0121 711 5824

UPPER TRENT AREA

Environment Agency
Sentinel House
Wellington Crescent
Fradley Park
Lichfield WS13 8RR
Tel: 01543 444 141
Fax: 01543 444 161

LOWER TRENT AREA

Environment Agency
Trentside Offices
Scarrington Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham NG2 5FA
Tel: 0115 945 5722
Fax: 0115 981 7743

UPPER SEVERN AREA

Environment Agency
Hafren House
Welshpool Road
Shelton
Shrewsbury SY3 8BB
Tel: 01743 272 828
Fax: 01743 272 138

LOWER SEVERN AREA

Environment Agency
Riversmeet House
Newtown Industrial
Estate Northway Lane
Tewkesbury GL20 8JG
Tel: 01684 850 951
Fax: 01684 292 599



For general enquiries please call your local Environment Agency office. If you are unsure who to contact, or which is your local office, please call our general enquiry line.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE**

0645 333 111

The 24-hour emergency hotline number for reporting all environmental incidents relating to air, land and water.

**ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
GENERAL ENQUIRY LINE**

0800 80 70 60



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**

Headquarters:

Sapphire East, 550 Streetsbrook Road, Solihull B91 1QT

Telephone: 0121-711 2324



**ENVIRONMENT
AGENCY**