



From awe inspiring architecture to engineering endeavour, Modern History showcases the best of the region's museums, mills, railways, walking trails and attractions.

Inside you'll find a small selection of Modern History venues to visit on this cycle route, for information on over 100 places to visit go to modernhistory.co.uk

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?



Sustrans makes smarter travel choices possible, desirable and inevitable. We're a leading UK charity enabling people to travel by foot, bike or public transport for more of the journeys we make every day. We work with families, communities, policy-makers and partner organisations so that people are able to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys, with better places and spaces to move through and live in.

KEEP SAFE, BE COURTEOUS AND ENJOY YOUR CYCLING!

The National Cycle Network offers 10,000 miles of cycle routes, running right through urban centres and reaching all parts of the UK. It is designed to encourage people to start cycling again and to be a safe and attractive resource for families, novices and experienced cyclists. One third of the National Cycle Network will be on traffic-free paths providing a major new amenity for walkers and people with disabilities.

ON ALL ROUTES:

Please be courteous! Always cycle with respect for others, whether other cyclists, pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, horse riders or drivers, and acknowledge those who give way to you.

WHEN CYCLING ON SHARED USE PATHS PLEASE:

- give way to pedestrians, leaving them plenty of room
- keep to your side of any dividing line
- be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary
- don't expect to cycle at high speeds
- remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired - don't assume they can see or hear you. Carry a bell and use it - don't surprise people
- give way where there are wheelchair users and horse riders.

WHEN CYCLING ON ROADS:

- always follow the Highway Code
- be seen - most accidents to cyclists happen at junctions
- fit lights and use them in poor visibility
- consider wearing a helmet and conspicuous clothing
- don't cycle on pavements except where designated - pavements are for pedestrians
- use your bell - not all pedestrians can see you.

AND IN THE COUNTRYSIDE:

- follow the Country Code
- respect other land management activities such as farming or forestry and take litter home
- be self-sufficient - in remote areas carry food, repair kit, map and waterproofs
- try to cycle or use public transport to travel to and from the start and finish of your ride
- cycle within your capabilities.

THANK YOU FOR CYCLING!

The bicycle does not cause pollution or contribute to climate change. Thank you for choosing this environmentally friendly form of transport. Keep safe, be courteous and enjoy your cycling on the National Cycle Network.

For more information on routes in your area please contact the local tourist information centres, or to find out more about Sustrans visit www.sustrans.org.uk or call 0845 113 00 65



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HERITAGE CYCLE TRAIL

ANDERTON BOAT LIFT—NORTHWICH—
THE WEAVER HALL MUSEUM



WHERE PEDAL POWER LEADS TO A LASTING LEGACY

Unearth the stories that have shaped the modern world. With events and exhibitions for everyone...

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?



HERITAGE CYCLE TRAIL

Enjoy a different kind of cycle ride on our heritage trail and discover an amazing feat of engineering in the heart of the Cheshire Plain. Then meander through the Cheshire countryside, along the waterways heading into Northwich, to discover the story of this salt mining town at the meeting point of the River Dane and River Weaver.

Your starting point is Anderton Boat Lift, the cathedral of the canals which was built to transfer salt laden barges between the Weaver Navigation and the canal 50 feet above. Take the journey yourself and time travel through the unique structure on board the elegant Edwin Clark trip boat.

As you head off on your journey enjoy the meadows and woodland, crossing over a brook. Take a detour into Marbury Country Park and marvel at the lime avenues and arboretum before heading down into Northwich.

After Northwich take the riverside path to visit Weaver Hall Museum to discover the tales and history of West Cheshire.



WHERE YOUR JOURNEY BEGINS



01 ANDERTON BOAT LIFT AND VISITOR CENTRE

Travel 50 feet up on a canal boat on the Edwin Clark boat trip as you move from the River Weaver to the Trent and Mersey Canal. After that explore the Operations Centre boasting a two-storey facility with cafe area for that much needed 'rest bite'.

The lower level houses the new exhibition, focusing upon the lift's history and the people who worked on and around it. The exhibition is colour coded to specific themes, with a high interactive content and an entertaining cinematic centrepiece. The lift control centre is located within the exhibition, enabling visitors to get up close and personal with the lift on its busy daily schedule.

Feel free to browse the gift shop with its unique heritage and historic content, while outdoor decking offers fine views over the grounds and lift. On fine weather days, take advantage of the picnic areas, located in the impressive shadow of this mighty structure.

andertonboatlift.co.uk



02 WEAVER HALL MUSEUM AND WORKHOUSE

Discover the tales of the history and industry of West Cheshire at the Weaver Hall Museum. The stories are told through films, reconstructions, models and displays of intriguing artefacts relating to market towns, transport, archaeology, the famous Cheshire salt industry and the museum building's former history. The museum is housed within the old Northwich Union Workhouse building. A special display in the former workhouse schoolroom explores life for the paupers, the dismal diet and the harsh work routine.

cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/visiting/museums/weaver-hall





HERITAGE CYCLE TRAIL



ROUTE 1

Anderton Boat Lift to Northwich Centre

Our starting point is the Anderton Boat Lift, the “cathedral of the canals”. The high iron columns and beams that form the structure of the lift form an unmistakable landmark and a link for boats passing from the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal.

If you are travelling to the area by car, there is a large (pay and display) car park close to the Anderton Boat Lift Visitor Centre. Our suggested route starts from here and uses mainly traffic free trails and roads to reach the town centre of Northwich. However, there is a good local network of traffic free trails for cycling on, that link you to the neighbouring Marbury Country Park. A map is available from the Anderton Boat Lift Visitor Centre that shows the shared trails. Please note and respect that not all the trails in the area are open to cyclists, and where cycling is allowed, walkers, horse-riders and cyclists have equal right to be using the trails.

ROUTE 1

- 1 From the Visitor Centre Car Park, follow the driveway for 250m. Turn right onto the trail opposite where there is a left turn for cars leaving the site. Look out for the fishing ponds (called cisterns) on the right hand side of the route.
- 2 After 500m look for a cross roads in the path and bear to the left, signed for Dairy House Meadows. Take care on the down hill section before crossing Marbury Brook at “Lesley’s Leap” before climbing out of the valley to reach Marbury Lane.
- 3 Turn right onto Marbury Lane. This lane is now, usually, closed to motorised traffic. Follow the lane down and over Butterfinch Bridge over Forge Brook.

- 4 After 1km look out for the car park at Witton Brook. Marbury Lane is open to traffic from this point on. Please take care. Continue on the road until you come to the cross roads with Leicester Street. Cross straight over onto Old Warrington Road.
- 5 At the junction with Witton Street turn right and ride down hill to the junction with Venables Road.

If you wish to visit the town centre we suggest you dismount, cross over Venables Road and walk the short distance down Witton Street to where the pedestrian area begins. Cycle Parking is available in this area.

ROUTE 2

Town Centre to Hunts Locks and the Weaver Hall Museum

The Southern portion of the route is shorter in length and more urban in character. However, with the exception of the short on-road link to the museum itself, the route is traffic free and passes many areas of interest.

The new swing-bridge referred to forms a part of one of 79 “Connect2” projects promoted by

Sustrans and the Big Lottery Fund , and delivered in partnership with the local authority and British Waterways. Traffic free routes actually extend beyond Hunts Locks and the Swing bridge making access to this traffic free route easy for large areas of Northwich.

ROUTE 2

- 1 From the Memorial Hall, continue towards the large car park and follow Whalley Road, looking for the River Dane on the right. Towards the corner of the car park the shared riverside path leaves the road on the right hand side and continues on the river bank.
- 2 Follow the path, looking out for the railway viaduct. The path turns to the right to run alongside the viaduct. Continue with the viaduct on your left. The path narrows to cross a small bridge. Please give way to other users of the bridge.
- 3 After the bridge the path crosses London Road. To visit Weaver Hall Museum, turn left onto the road and continue for approximately 100 metres. The museum is on the right hand side of the road. London Road can be quite busy and less confident cyclists may prefer to wheel their cycles on the pavement for this short distance.
- 4 To continue the route, cross over London Road at the Toucan Crossing, and continue on the path alongside the viaduct. After approximately 100 metres the path turns left, under the viaduct and then continues close to the River Weaver on your right.
- 5 After around 100 metres you will come to a cross roads in the path, close to the recently constructed swing bridge over the river. Turn right and cross the bridge and after 50 metres you will come to Hunts Locks on the Weaver Navigation. In your ride from the Anderton Boat lift you have travelled from the level of the Trent and Mersey Canal, down to the level of the Weaver Navigation. The same distance as the drop of the boat lift itself, just over 15 metres.

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
The boat lift looks as though it should take enormous energy to lift boats. However it is so well balanced it takes no more power than to light a lightbulb each time the lift is used.

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
Lookout for the carved wooden animals in logs and tree trunks along the trail through the woods. How many can you find?

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
You will see signs for Ashton and Neumann’s Flashes. These are areas of water in depressions in the ground that formed after underground mines collapsed in the late 1800s. How far did ground level fall? Between 10 and 20 metres!

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
The Weaver Navigation is a link to the sea. Its locks are as big as they are so that sea going ships (up to 1000 tonnes), could be sailed to Northwich directly so valuable was the cargo of salt and chemicals produced in the area.

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
Hunts Locks are traditional canal locks that allow boats to gain height in small stages. How many locks do you think it would take to lift a boat the same height as the Anderton Boat Lift? Hunts Lock lifts boats just over 3 metres so 5 locks would be needed.

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
You crossed a new swing bridge to reach Hunts Locks. Swing bridges can be moved (swung) to one side to leave the channel clear for bigger boats. Have you seen any other swing bridges in town? (Town Bridge is at the west end of the town centre).

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
If continuing Southwards, turn down Venables Road to the junction with Chester Way. Chester Way is a busy main road we need to use for a very short (c100 metres) link to the remainder of the route. If you have very young or inexperienced cyclists with you, we would suggest dismounting, cross over Venables Road, turning right to walk alongside Chester Road before crossing at the Pelican crossing towards the Memorial Hall. The cycle route continues on the shared footpath alongside Brockhurst Street.

★ POINT OF INTEREST ★
On the return or Northbound journey, if confident, turn left onto Brockhurst St before turning right onto Chester way, and right again at the traffic light controlled junction of Chester Way and Watling Street. Take the second left turn onto Meadow Street, and follow around to the right, to the junction with Venables Road. Turn left then first right onto Albion Road which then rejoins the main route at Warrington old Road. Younger or less confident riders can use the shared cycle lane alongside The Memorial Hall before dismounting to use the pelican crossing across Chester Road and turning right to pick up the cycled route at Meadow Street.

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