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 18,000 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 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](http://www.sustrans.org.uk) or call 0845 113 00 65

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**FROM AWE INSPIRING ARCHITECTURE TO ENGINEERING ENDUE, 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?**

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

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

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

ANDERTON BOAT LIFT AND VISITOR CENTRE

WEAVER HALL MUSEUM AND WORKHOUSE
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 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

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.

After around 100 metres you will come to a small bridge. Please give way to other users of the bridge.

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.

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.

To continue the route, cross over London Road to 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.

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. The same distance as the drop of the boat lift itself, just over 15 metres.

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.

ROUTE 2

Town Centre to Hunts Locks and the Weaver Hall Museum

The route begins at the Anderton Boat Lift with its 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.

The Weaver Navigation is a link to the sea. 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.