

# Walking the Weaver Way

Taking you deep into some of Cheshire's finest countryside, the 40 mile / 65 km Weaver Way follows the gentle path of meandering waterways, down the spine of this beautiful county.

Stretching from Frodsham in the north to its most southerly point at Audlem, the route leads you along the River Weaver and Navigation, as well as the Trent and Mersey, and Shropshire Union Canals.

Watch for wildlife along the way, from mad March hares to Canada Geese. Or delight at the bright blue and orange Kingfishers which launch themselves upon unsuspecting fish from overhanging trees.

The Weaver Way is rich in heritage; much of it linked to the county's now much mellowed, industrial legacy. Visit the Salt Museum in Northwich, where the story of Cheshire's exploitation of this valuable mineral is told. Or take a trip on the restored Anderton Boat Lift, carrying you 50 feet up from the River Weaver to the Trent and Mersey Canal.

On your journey visit some of Cheshire's most picturesque and fascinating towns and villages. Enjoy a canalside drink and bite to eat in pretty Audlem; or indulge in some retail therapy in the half timbered streets of historic Nantwich. Founded in Saxon times, Frodsham is a great place to explore, boasting attractive buildings, good pubs and fine restaurants.

Throughout the year there are many popular events and festivals taking place along the Weaver Way. Experience waterways culture at the Middlewich Boat and Folk Festival each June; relish the best of local produce at the Nantwich Food and Drink Festival or join more than 100,000 spectators in Northwich for the Thundersprint motorcycle event.

Whether taken in stages, or enjoyed in its entirety, the Weaver Way leaves a wealth of memories - of tranquil countryside, abundant wildlife, unique culture, rich heritage and vibrant events.

So come and discover the Weaver Way for yourself - and make these memories your own.

## Now Walk the Weaver Way

Further information about the Weaver Way together with downloadable route mapping and directions, can be found at [www.discovercheshire.co.uk](http://www.discovercheshire.co.uk). You can also use the site to find attractions, places to eat and drink, as well as accommodation near the route.

## The Weaver Way Network

The new Weaver Way Network is now being developed. It will allow walkers and cyclists to explore the full length of the valley, which stretches from Audlem to Frodsham. There will be facilities for horse riders too.

Using mainly off-road routes, the Network will link six towns and 11 villages - as well as eight regional walking trails and the National Cycle Way. It will be fully signed and can be joined from a number of locations along the valley.

The project will be completed between 2014 and 2018. Funding has been sourced by the Weaver Valley Regional Park.

## Enjoying the Countryside

Whenever you go walking into the countryside it's best to be prepared.

### Water Safety

The Weaver Way follows rivers and canals. Be safe and supervise children and animals at all times, particularly near locks and public roads.

### What to Wear

Walking boots or stout shoes are recommended if you are walking, as some paths may be rough or muddy. You should also bring waterproofs and warm clothing as the weather can change quickly.

### What to Bring

Drinks and snacks are always useful and don't forget a packed lunch on the all-day walks. Also pack your sunscreen - just in case!

### Maps

We would recommend you take OS Explorer maps 257 and 267.



## Visitor Information

Chester	01244 351609
Congleton	01260 271095
Cheshire Oaks	0151 356 7879
Macclesfield	01625 504114
Nantwich	01270 537359
Northwich	01606 353534
Warrington	01925 428585
Wilmslow	01625 522275
Knutsford	01565 632611

For further information on visitor attractions, places to stay and events in Cheshire go to: [www.visitcheshire.com](http://www.visitcheshire.com)

For more detailed information on walking, cycling and riding in Cheshire as well as places to visit in the countryside, click on [www.discovercheshire.com](http://www.discovercheshire.com)



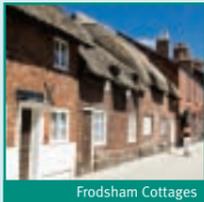
## Walking the Weaver Way



## Frodsham

1

Rich in history, Frodsham boasts attractive buildings, good pubs and fine restaurants. Many of today's town centre buildings stand on the original plots of land laid out in the 13th and 14th centuries. In fact, the Golden Lion pub stands on a plot dating from 1361. The 32 mile Sandstone Trail stretches between Frodsham and Whitchurch.



Frodsham Cottages

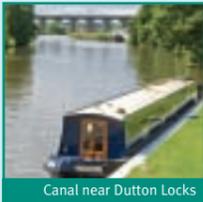
### Things to see and do nearby:

Walking, cycling and riding; Castle Park Arts Centre; Foxhill Arboretum; Hatley Farm Visits; Lady Heyes Craft and Antiques Restoration Centre; market each Thursday.

## Dutton Locks

2

The locks were built in 1874 to help transport Cheshire salt to the Port of Liverpool. When full, water in the locks is 24 feet deep and half a million gallons are lost each time a boat passes through. Here the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal go their separate ways. The footpath along the nearby Pickering's Cut has recently been improved.



Canal near Dutton Locks

### Things to see and do nearby:

Bluebell Cottage Gardens; Dutton Viaduct; fine riverside scenery and wildlife; Acton Bridge.

## Acton Bridge

3

A small village on the picturesque River Weaver, Acton Bridge was once famous for its pear orchards and dairy farms. There are a number of fine pubs in the area and it is an ideal starting point for trips on Cheshire's extensive waterways network.



Acton Swing Bridge

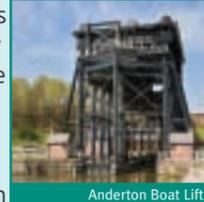
### Things to see and do nearby:

Bluebell Cottage Gardens; walking, cycling riding; riverside wildlife; Northwich and attractions; Dutton Locks.

## Anderton

4

The village of Anderton is probably best known for its Victorian Boat Lift, one of only two examples of its kind in the U.K. Fully restored it provides a 50 foot vertical link between the River Weaver and the Trent and Mersey Canal. Visitors can take a boat ride on the lift, before discovering more about this extraordinary feat of engineering at a special Visitor Centre. The nearby Anderton Nature Park is a wildlife haven transformed from industrial wasteland.



Anderton Boat Lift

### Things to see and do nearby:

Northwich Woodlands including Marbury Country Park; wildlife including bluebells in spring at Marbury; Northwich and attractions.

## Northwich Woodlands

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Northwich Woodlands is a rich and green environment to the north of the town centre. It is made up of nine areas, including Marbury Country Park and Anderton Nature Park, each with a different character and history. The Weaver Navigation and the Trent and Mersey canal flow through the heart of the Woodlands adding further variety to the landscape.



Marbury Country Park

### Things to see and do nearby:

Anderton Boat Lift; walking, riding and cycling, including the 13 mile Biking the Backroads cycle route; Northwich and attractions.

## Northwich

6

This is a dynamic town, which boasts popular events, top attractions and attractive countryside nearby. Known for its salt production since Roman times, Northwich is one of the few places in Britain where this vital mineral is still extracted on a large scale. The town's Salt Museum is the only one of its kind in the country.



Northwich Town Centre

### Things to see and do nearby:

Thundersprint motorcycle rally each May; Salt Museum; Northwich Woodlands; Anderton Boat Lift; Lion Salt Works; Northwich Festival.

## Vale Royal Locks

7

Beyond the tree tops, near these locks, you will catch a glimpse of the roof of Vale Royal Abbey, or to be more accurate, the building that now stands on its site.



Cycling on the Whitegate Way

Alongside, under the turf, are hidden the foundations of what was once the largest Cistercian Abbey in England, founded by Edward I in the late thirteenth century.

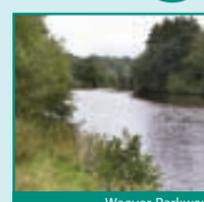
### Things to see and do nearby:

Riverside wildlife, including dragonflies and damselflies; Whitegate Way, Northwich and attractions; Northwich Woodlands.

## Winsford

8

The modern town of Winsford is made up of two much older settlements, Over and Wharton, both of which are mentioned in the Domesday Book. It is surrounded by attractive countryside, with the Weaver Parkway reclaimed from former industrial uses.



Weaver Parkway

### Things to see and do nearby:

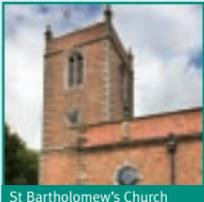
Weaver Parkway – wildlife rich restored landscape, along the Weaver Navigation; sailing, fishing and walking at Winsford Flashes (lakes); walking, riding and cycling on the Whitegate Way; Winsford Festival.

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## Church Minshull

9

A designated conservation area, Church Minshull is a typically picturesque Cheshire village with black and white architecture. It is located



St Bartholomew's Church

in rich dairy countryside. The brick and stone built St. Bartholomew's Church dates from 1702. The Shropshire Union Canal, which flows to the south and east of the village, was once used for transporting coal and salt.

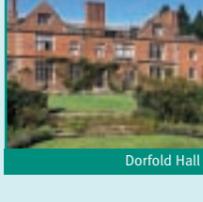
### Things to see and do nearby:

Bluebell wood, running parallel with the River Weaver (in May); numerous public footpaths; many Tudor houses

## Hurleston & Barbridge

10

Gentle countryside can be found here, with Barbridge boasting marina facilities and with canal junctions at Hurleston and at Barbridge.



Dorfold Hall

### Things to see and do nearby:

Snugbury's Ice Cream; Dorfold Hall; Barbridge Marina; countryside walks and wildlife; Nantwich town centre and riverside.

### Please Note:

This map is not to scale and is intended as a guide only.

## Nantwich

11

Famed now for its ancient black and white architecture, Nantwich was, in fact, originally a Roman salt producing settlement. Visitors can enjoy the beautiful Grade 1 listed St Mary's Church as well as a range of shops, pubs, cafes and restaurants.



Nantwich Town Centre

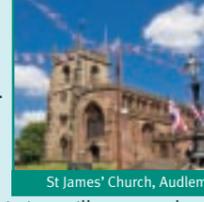
### Things to see and do nearby:

Nantwich Riverside; Town Centre Walk; Nantwich Museum; Stapeley Water Gardens, Bridgemere Garden World, Hack Green Nuclear Bunker; Dorfold Hall; Snugbury's Ice Cream; Dagfield's Craft and Antique Centre; Firs Pottery; festivals including Food and Drink and Jazz and Blues; Holly Holy Day civil war battle.

## Audlem

12

Deep in the leafy south Cheshire countryside, Audlem is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. Rich in waterways' heritage, ancient buildings and excellent places to eat and drink this is a village much praised for its civic pride.



St James' Church, Audlem

### Things to see and do nearby:

Thirteenth century St. James' Church; Shropshire Union Canal with its run of 15 locks; pubs including the Shroppie Fly; Audlem Mill Canal Shop; Open Garden and Scarecrow Competition; festivals, including music, transport and Proms in the Park.