

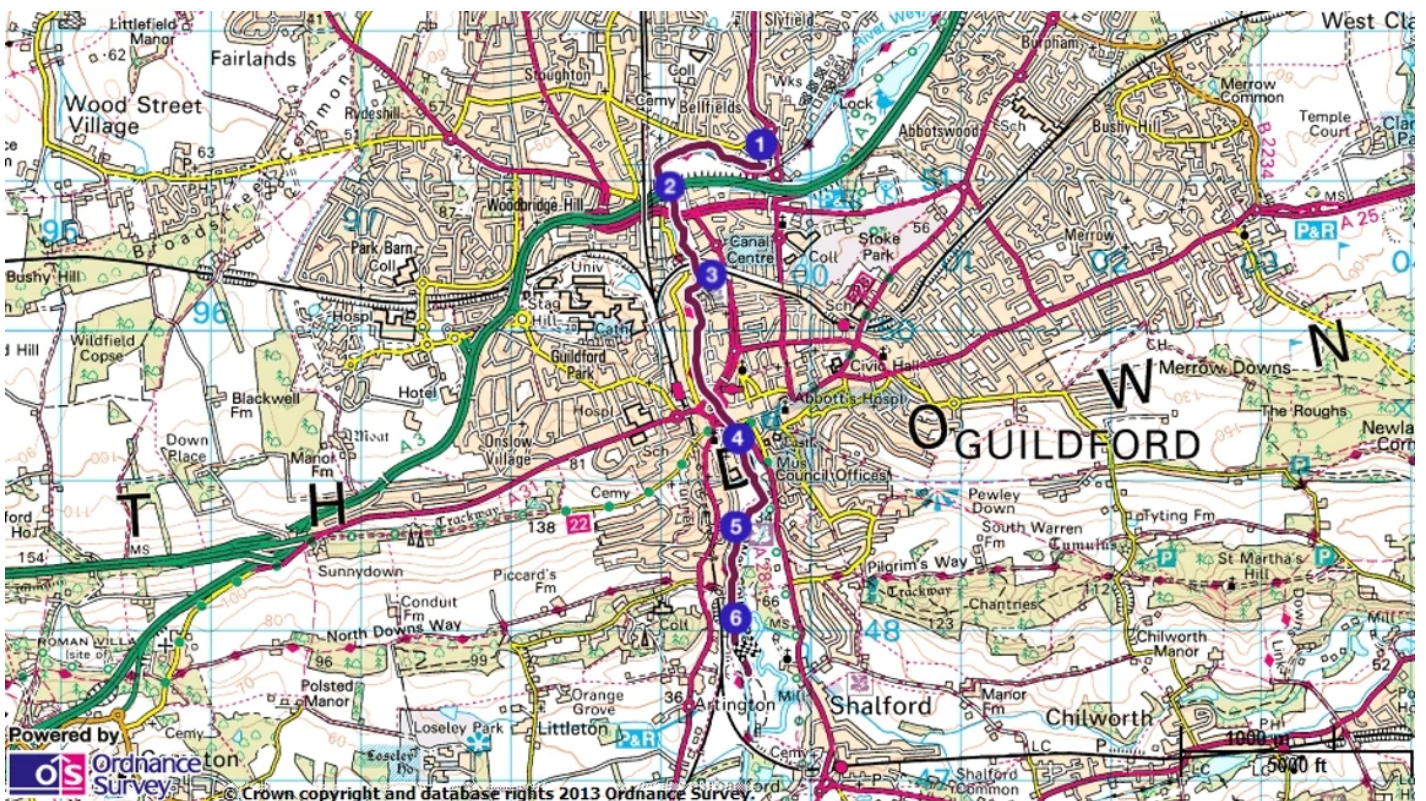
SURREY

Guildford to St Catherine's Lock canoe trail

Discover a different side of Guildford and the surrounding countryside on this easy canoe trail along the River Wey. Cutting through the town centre, this route takes you past meadow sculptures, old railway bridges, a historic wharf, and geological formations. It also offers the chance to spot cattle in nearby fields and pretty damselflies on the river's edge. It's a linear trail, but an optional return route is provided. Make sure you have the right skills and equipment, and have checked the water and weather conditions.

i Remember your licence

A licence to paddle on the River Wey is included in a Canoe England membership so don't forget your membership. Alternatively, a portable craft licence can be bought from the National Trust online.



Information

Address: Wey Kayak Club, Riverside, Guildford, GU1 1LW

OS map: Explorer 145

Activity: Canoeing

Water type: River

Easy

Not suitable for dogs

Full trail: Miles: 6 (km: 9.6)

Duration: 3 hours

Launch and recovery

Park down by the river to the left of The Row Barge pub. Don't launch or land from the fenced pub grounds, but instead use the small triangular area of land nearest the road bridge. Alternatively, walk down to Wey Kayak Club and put on and off from there.

Total steps: 6

Start point: Wey Kayak Club, Riverside, Guildford, GU1 1LW. Grid ref: SU996511

1. Start by paddling west upstream, with the countryside on your left and a variety of houses on your right. Keep paddling as the river meanders gently towards Guildford town centre.
2. The first bridge you'll pass under is the A3, soon followed by the A25. Keep paddling towards a railway bridge.
3. A little way after the railway bridge, you'll see Dapdune Wharf off to your left on the bend. Be wary of other boats on the blind bends at this point. Pass under several more bridges as you continue paddling into Guildford centre.
4. As you come into the middle of Guildford, with St Mary's Wharf on your left, the river appears to fork left and right. Keep right and then head under the footbridge and up to the sluice. This is your first portage by Millmead Lock. Portage across the island and put in clear of the lock. Shortly after returning to the water, the river bends sharply right. Guildford Rowing Club is on the opposite bank so look out for rowers.
5. From here, you leave Guildford and meander on the river into open countryside.
6. After paddling under a wooden footbridge and around a bend, you'll reach a fork. Keep right on the main channel for about 350 yards (320m) to reach St Catherine's Lock. This is portaged on the towpath side. Back on the water, continue until you see a weir on the left. This is where the trail ends. Optional route: To return to Guildford, land on

the bank between the weir and the railway bridge. Portage below the weir and into the natural river course. Follow the river back into town.
End point: Wey Kayak Club, Riverside, Guildford, GU1 1LW. Grid ref: SU996511
