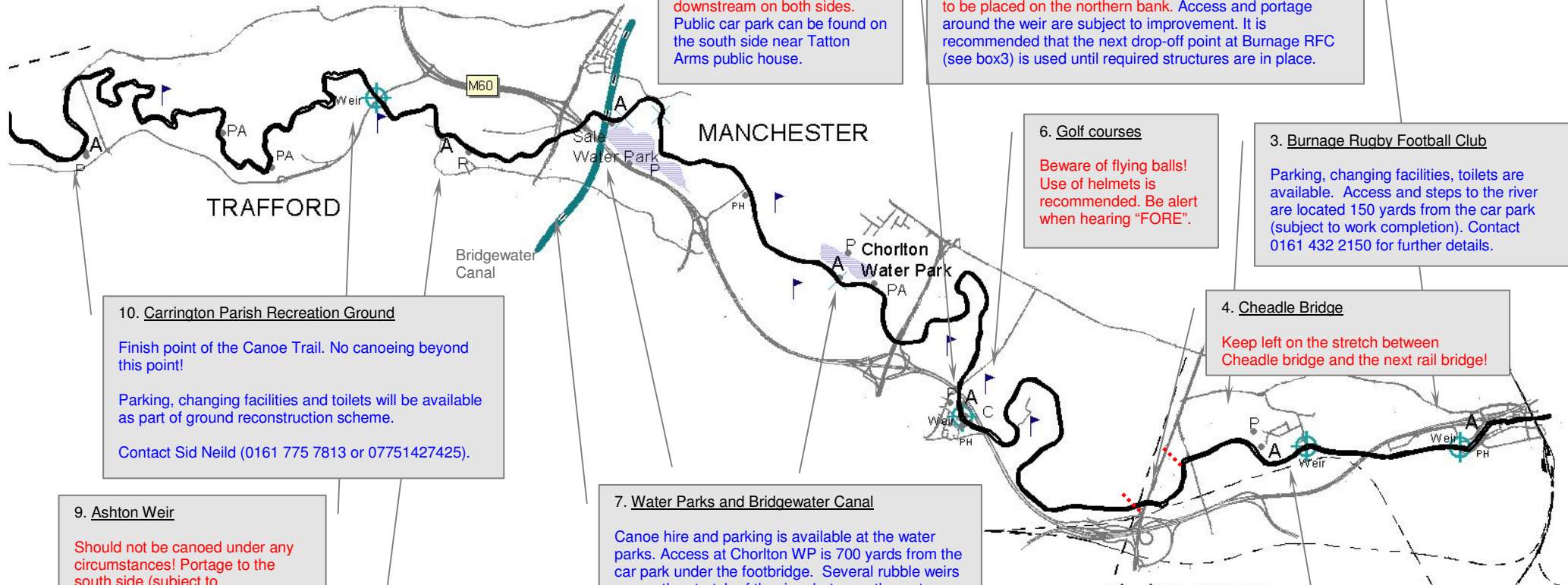


Canoe trail on the River Mersey

Stockport Town Centre – Carrington



5. Northenden Weir
 Portage /steps are located upstream on the northern side. Canoe re-launching is possible downstream on both sides. Public car park can be found on the south side near Tatton Arms public house.

1. Ford Street and Brinksway Weir
 Access is possible under Hollywood Way Bridge. On-street parking only is available. Brinksway Weir is 300 yards downstream. Portage platform to be placed on the northern bank. Access and portage around the weir are subject to improvement. It is recommended that the next drop-off point at Burnage RFC (see box3) is used until required structures are in place.

6. Golf courses
 Beware of flying balls! Use of helmets is recommended. Be alert when hearing "FORE".

3. Burnage Rugby Football Club
 Parking, changing facilities, toilets are available. Access and steps to the river are located 150 yards from the car park (subject to work completion). Contact 0161 432 2150 for further details.

4. Cheadle Bridge
 Keep left on the stretch between Cheadle bridge and the next rail bridge!

10. Carrington Parish Recreation Ground
 Finish point of the Canoe Trail. No canoeing beyond this point!
 Parking, changing facilities and toilets will be available as part of ground reconstruction scheme.
 Contact Sid Neild (0161 775 7813 or 07751427425).

9. Ashton Weir
 Should not be canoed under any circumstances! Portage to the south side (subject to construction).

8. Trafford Metrovick RCC
 Parking, refreshments and toilets are available. Access is possible at Little Ees Lane, 200 m walk from the car park, along the riverbank. Construction of steps is underway. Contact 0161 973 7061 for parking arrangements.

7. Water Parks and Bridgewater Canal
 Canoe hire and parking is available at the water parks. Access at Chorlton WP is 700 yards from the car park under the footbridge. Several rubble weirs are on the stretch of the river between the water parks creating mild white water. Contact 0161 881 5639 for canoe hire and further information.
 To access the river at Sale WP, walk around the lake from west. No crossing is permitted between lake and the river unless canoes have been decontaminated. Call Trafford Water Sports Centre, Sale (0161 962 0118) to obtain key and arrange to drop off/pick up from river bank to west of Sale WP. Steps are subject to improvement.
 Steps to Bridgewater Canal are located near Barfoot Bridge. BCU licence is required to canoe on the canal.

2. Bleach Works Weir
 Portage to be provided on the north side. It is recommended that the next drop-off point at Burnage RFC (see box3) is used until required structures are in place.

- River Mersey
- A - Access Point
- P - Car Parking
- PH - Public House
- PA - Picnic Area
- Canoe Portage
- Weir
- Rubble Weir
- Water Parks
- Bridgewater Canal
- Golf Courses
- Roads
- Railway



RIVER MERSEY: TERMS OF AGREEMENT FOR CANOEING

You can canoe on the River Mersey between Ford Street, Stockport and Carrington Recreation Ground, Carrington. Access and egress points are marked on the map. **These are the only places at which you can enter and leave the river (or moor up against the bank) other than in the case of emergencies.** There are also designated portage points to get around obstructions. Directions should be followed and the portages used solely for this purpose.

Part of this stretch of the river is dedicated as access land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The stretches covered by the Act are indicated on the map and also on relevant OS maps. On these stretches you are subject to the provisions of the Act. On the remaining stretches of the river covered by this agreement, you may canoe by permission of the land and riparian owners. On these stretches you are subject to the provisions set out below, and to the code of conduct currently in force on the river (see opposite).

By using the river, you agree that:

- Boating (including canoeing, rowing and the use of any self-propelled watercraft) is an assumed risk activity. The degree of risk may be related to factors such as water conditions, your experience and ability, and to unrecognised hazards in the river channel.
- This agreement does not imply that the river is safe; you must make your own assessment of the river's dangers before accessing the water.
- Riparian owners cannot be held responsible for any accident or incident that may result from boating on the River Mersey.

You should only use the river for boating if you accept these conditions.

This document is not to be taken as evidence that there is, or is not, a public right of navigation on this section of the river. Use of the river for boating cannot invoke such a right.

Boating should only take place where there is sufficient water to avoid damage to the river bed.

Riparian and fisheries owners and tenants and their agents agree that they will not knowingly obstruct the course of the river.

Riparian and fisheries owners can close their parts of the river on the following grounds: Public health; Pollution and dangerous obstructions; Protection of fauna and flora; Engineering works; Events. In all cases the duration of the restrictions or closure will be set by the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Disclaimer: No organisation, their representatives nor individuals involved in the development of this agreement can be held responsible for any loss, damage or accident. You park and canoe/row at your own risk. Please accept and respect this.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Countryside Code applies to this agreement. It is available as a leaflet, or via www.countrysideaccess.org.uk.

In addition to the Countryside Code, you should observe the following provisions when canoeing on the River Mersey:

- Boating should normally take place only during daylight hours;
- You should be a member of a recognised club or association;
- It is recommended that you have personal liability insurance; this may be included in your club or association membership, otherwise you should contact your insurer;
- It is good practice to display a registration or other mark on your craft.

Before Entering and After Leaving the Water

- Be friendly and polite to local residents and other water users;
- Park sensibly without causing any obstruction. Use designated car parks where available (this may involve unloading equipment and parking at a distance from the river);
- Be as quiet as possible;
- Unload kit tidily;
- Get changed out of public view;

On the Water

- Safety is paramount; boaters must use the river in a safe fashion and must have appropriate safety equipment. At all times on the River Mersey this should include protective headgear.
- It is good practice to canoe in a group of at least three.
- Weirs are dangerous and you should keep clear of them at all times;
- Consideration must at all times be given to landowners and users of the river and on no occasion should any use take place that may impair the river environment or the enjoyment of other legitimate users. All people using the river have a duty of care to themselves and others, and will be responsible for any damage caused to private property;
- Keep away from the banks (except at access and portage points) and keep disturbance to the river bed to a minimum;
- You should not tie up or moor to any apparatus, kit or infrastructure in the river or on the banks, except in an emergency or where it has been provided for access to and from the water;
- Remain quiet whilst approaching and passing anyone on the river;
- Normally pass on the far side of the river from someone fishing from the bank, or as directed by that person;
- If and when it is necessary to stop or to land in an emergency or at one of the approved landing places, keep reasonably still and quiet and in a small area;
- If in any doubt about where to pass or on any other point, group leaders should make their presence known to those fishing and ask for guidance;
- All river users should do their best to avoid arguments.

USEFUL CONTACTS

BCU contacts:

General Enquiries: 0115 9821100 or www.bcu.org.uk
BCU North West Local River Advisor: Chris Cleaver (01625 878838)

Canoe Hire:

Chorlton Water Park (0161 881 5639)
Trafford Water Sports Centre (0161 962 0118)

Car parking and access:

Burnage Rugby Football Club, Heaton Mersey (0161 432 2150);
Chorlton Water Park, Didsbury (0161 881 5639);
Trafford Water Sports Centre, Sale (0161 962 0118);
Trafford Metrovick Rugby and Cricket Club, Sale (0161 973 7061);
Carrington Parish Council Recreation Ground (Sid Neild 0161 775 7813 or 07751427425).

Call in advance to arrange long-stay parking