

# Shropshire Union Canal Nantwich



This level canal towpath offers an elevated position for views over Nantwich town and the surrounding Cheshire plain countryside. You'll pass over the impressive aqueduct across the Chester Road and be able to 'gongoozle' at the narrowboats both moored and cruising - the active marina at Basin End is a great place for this! You'll also be able to watch the wildlife on the canal.



## VISITOR INFORMATION

**LOCATION:** On western edge of Nantwich, following the Shropshire Union Canal to Acton bridge.

**PARKING:** There is limited roadside parking at the start, approximate postcode: CW5 5TH. Please park with consideration for residents here. At the midway access point 2 by the aqueduct, there is an informal off-road parking area off Welshman's Lane, close to where it meets Water Lode, opposite Malbank School, approximate postcode CW5 6AB / CW5 5HD.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Bus route: GHA bus No. 53 Nantwich bus station to Millfields • GHA bus No. 72 Nantwich-Whitchurch • Arriva Bus No. 84 Crewe to Chester.

Bus stop: Marsh Lane/Queens Drive • Millfields, Queens Drive • Malbank School, Welsh Row, Nantwich; or, Basin End, Chester Road.

Distance to start of walk: You're practically at point 1 • 170m (186yds) to point 1 • 120m (130yds) to point 2 or 120m (130yds) to marina.

**TOILETS AND REFRESHMENTS:** There are none on the route, but facilities (which may not be accessible) are available for customers of the marina cafe, and in the town centre, where an accessible toilet is available for RADAR key holders, opposite the swimming pool.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** The towpath is managed by the Canal & River Trust.

Web: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) Tel. 0303 040 4040. Nantwich Marina operate the cafe and day-boats for hire, with provision for wheelchairs if notified in advance. Tel: 01270 625122.

## Suggested Route



Canal & River Trust

**DISTANCE:** Approx 2km (1mile) each way, or 4km (2miles) there and back.

**TIME:** Approximately 45 minutes each way.

**SURFACE:** Good, level and sealed surface throughout, of 1.5m (1½ yds) width. Over the aqueduct, just before point 2, the path is narrower at 96cm (38") between the railings and the surface is brick, with 5cm (2") ridges. This section can be bypassed by starting at point 2. Under Basin End Bridge at point 3, the path is narrower at 87cm (34") wide and the surface is brick, with 5cm (2") ridges. This section can be bypassed by the use of two ramps.

**GRADIENTS:** The towpath itself is level, with maximum cross slopes of 6% (1:15). Access to the canal towpath at point 1 is via a short path with a 13% (1:8) gradient over 8m (9yds). Access at point 2 by the aqueduct is by a 1.6m (1¾yds) wide 100m (100yds) long ramp of gradient 6% (1:18). The ramps at Basin End Bridge have a maximum gradient of 17% (1:6) over 10m (11yds), and can be bypassed by going under the bridge.

**GATES, STEPS, BENCHES AND BARRIERS:** No gates or steps. 7 benches with backrests at about 54cm (21") height. 4 picnic tables with BBQ stands, one with wheelchair space.

### DESCRIPTION:

1. The route starts at Marsh Lane, about 100m (100yds) north of Queen's Drive, via a short path from the road. Turn right (northwards) onto the towpath, and follow this throughout.
2. There is an alternative access point, via a ramp, half way along the route at the aqueduct. Continue north to Basin End bridge, marked as bridge number 92 and also known as Nantwich Junction bridge.
3. From here you can turn over the humpback bridge and walk the 200m (220yds) to the marina. If you've stayed on the towpath, the route goes either under the bridge (note the low headroom and ridged surface!) or over the ramps to continue along the towpath.
4. Continue on to bridge number 93 from where you can retrace your steps.

