

095

# YHA Chester Trafford Hall Shropshire Union Canal and Chester City Walls

Country lane, canal and historic city walk

**Distance:** 17 miles (27.3km) **Ascent:** 179m (587ft)

**Time:** Allow 6h 30m to 7h 30m  
(caution slow walkers, over 10h)

**Map:** OS Explorer 1:25k (266) Wirral & Chester / Caer

**Start/Finish:** OS Locate SJ 451 721 **what3words** ///routs.mock.chairing

Following country lanes and canal to Chester's historic city walls. From the hostel driveway turn left onto Ince Lane, right along the main road and right onto Hassals lane. Follow the lane to Gowy Woodland Park. Take the path through the trees, head down the steps to cross the footbridge. Follow the river bank under pylons, turn left and follow parallel to the pylons to a second bridge. Continue to a stile in the left corner which is not immediately visible. Follow a clear, signed, path to the road. Turn left, then right to follow Ash Hay Lane to Fox Covert Lane. Turn right, cross the motorway, left onto Acres Lane, left onto Caughall Road, right onto Oakfield Drive, right onto Flag Lane North and follow pink cycleway signs through the zoo. Turn left on the canal towpath to Chester. Leave at bridge 126 onto Wharf View. Turn right onto Raymond Street, left onto Canal Street and right to cross the canal at Northgate Street. Follow around the city walls and return to this point. Turn right onto George Street, left onto Victoria Road, cross St Oswalds Way to continue along Victoria Road, right onto Northgate Avenue and to the old railway line. Follow pink cycleway signs towards Upton, then Chester Greenway signs to Mickle Trafford and Chester Cycleway signs back to the A56 to the hostel.



## Hazards

Caution required on the road sections, no footpath alongside Ash Hay Lane, Fox Covert Lane or Acres Lane. Long section along main road, with footpath. Large steps of 50cm both sides of first footbridge. Animals in fields.

## Accessibility

There are stiles and steps on the route and paths and gates less than one metre wide. Terrain is mostly tarmac or good path. Some rough and grassy sections. Reduce to 14 miles by missing the city walls, join the old railway from the canal after Abbot's Mead. Or walk one way by catching the X30 bus between Chester and Mickle Trafford. Check times before leaving.

## Points of interest

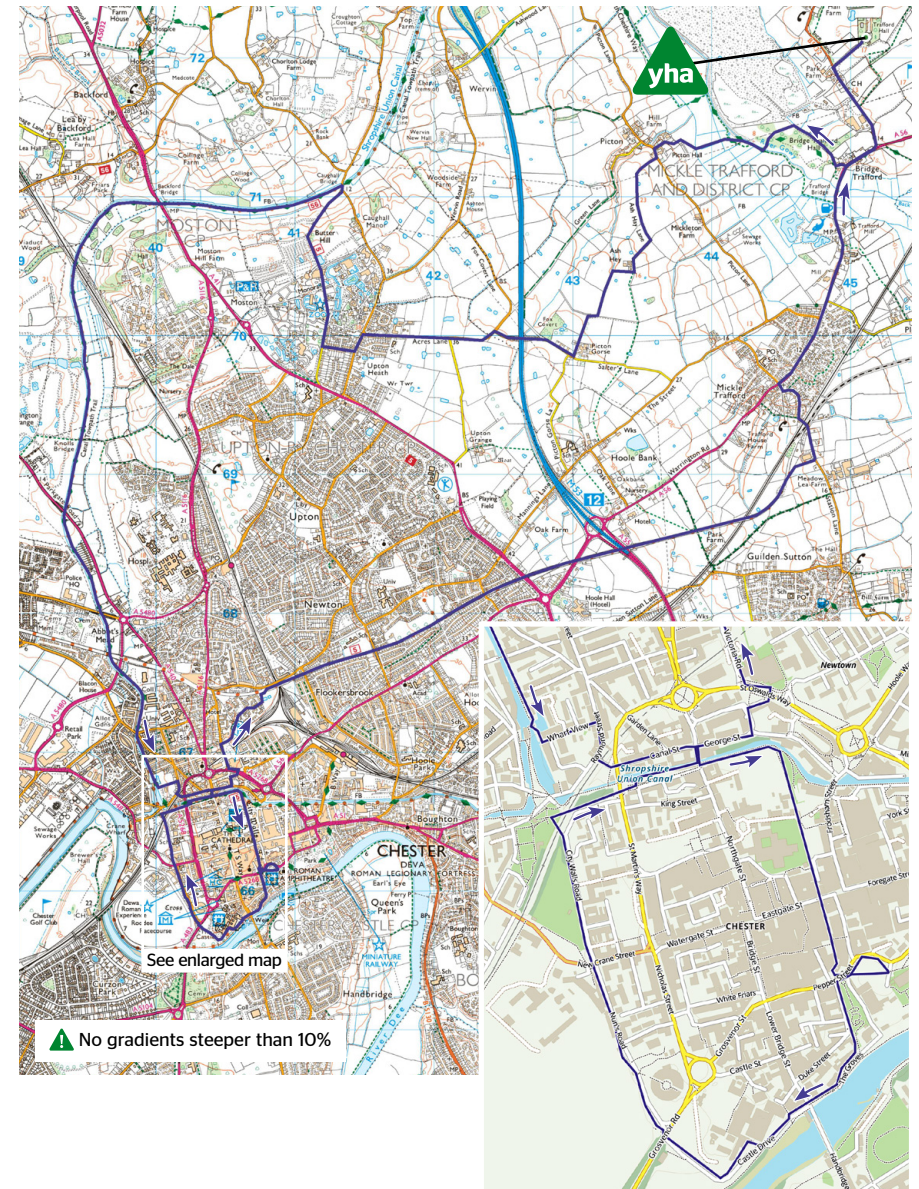
The walk follows lovely country lanes and towpath with great scenery and includes Chester Zoo, Chester canal and basin and the city walls.

## Facilities

Toilets and many shops, pubs and cafés in Chester. The zoo has toilets and a café without paying for admission. Pub at Trafford Bridge.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for an OS Map or the OS Maps App to navigate your walk safely. Digital maps are a guide and do not always reflect the conditions on the ground, ensure you are aware of your immediate surroundings.

Scan or click to view this route on the OS Maps App – also a route profile and GPX



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Route: Matt Overd, Paul Eden & Paul Langridge



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.  
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

### Before you go:

- Check the local weather forecast ([metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes ([tidetimes.org.uk](http://tidetimes.org.uk)).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate and what3words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) ([relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms](http://relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms)).
- Plan your walk by completing the YHA route notification card it helps Emergency Services if you get into difficulties or fail to return from your walk when anticipated ([yha.org.uk/route-card](http://yha.org.uk/route-card)).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.
- For further information on how to stay safe visit [adventuresmart.uk](http://adventuresmart.uk)

For more walks or information on route grading and timings go to [yha.org.uk/walks](http://yha.org.uk/walks)

If you encounter problems with this route contact [walking@yha.org.uk](mailto:walking@yha.org.uk)



Scan or click to shop  
for OS maps online  
[osmaps.com/yha](http://osmaps.com/yha)

Share your walks



## What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.

## Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

## You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

## In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or what3words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.