

Chester to Connah's Quay



This could be the ideal undemanding ride. It is fairly flat, the railway stations at either end are directly linked (not Hawarden Bridge), and it's traffic-free.

The railway path (National Route 5), a tranquil green corridor through Chester, begins at Fairfield Road, just off the A56 Hoole Road. The route was formerly the Mickle Trafford to Dee Marsh railway line, which carried passengers as well as serving the Hawarden Bridge steelworks. Now it is a much-appreciated haven for local walkers and cyclists.

If you are starting from Chester railway station, a pleasant alternative to the main roads is to cross Station Road and continue straight on down City Road to the

end, where you can join National Route 45 along the towpath of the Shropshire Union Canal. This will take you through the centre of the Roman city of Chester in style, right past the 13th century cathedral. The city itself has many claims on your attention: it is the most complete walled city in the UK, and as well as its wonderful old buildings it is also home to England's largest zoo, and it was recently voted the best shopping city in the country.

The railway path and the canal towpath converge near the water meadow at Abbot's Meads, and the ride continues along the railway path (National Route 5) through Blacon and out into the Wirral's rich farmland, with the Clwyd Hills as a backdrop. The route for cyclists and

walkers across the Dee at Hawarden Bridge has recently benefited from £400,000 worth of improvements funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The ride ends at the quayside.

National Route 5 continues on a mix of roads and traffic-free routes to the eastern outskirts of Flint, then resumes on the western side of the town with an interim on-road route to Prestatyn, where it continues traffic-free to just beyond Rhôs-on-Sea. Plans to extend the railway path eastwards from Chester to Mickle Trafford await the outcome of a decision about a scheme to put a guided busway along the old railway line.

Chester to Connah's Quay Railway Path

The Route

National Route: 5

Distance: 8 miles

Terrain: traffic-free and flat

Public transport: railway stations at Chester, Shotton, and Hawarden Bridge

Maps: route leaflet available locally or from Sustrans

OS maps: Explorer 266, Landranger 117

Tourist information:

Chester - 01244 402111,

Mold - 01352 759331

Places to search for on Sustrans website mapping:

Chester, Shotton (Flintshire)

