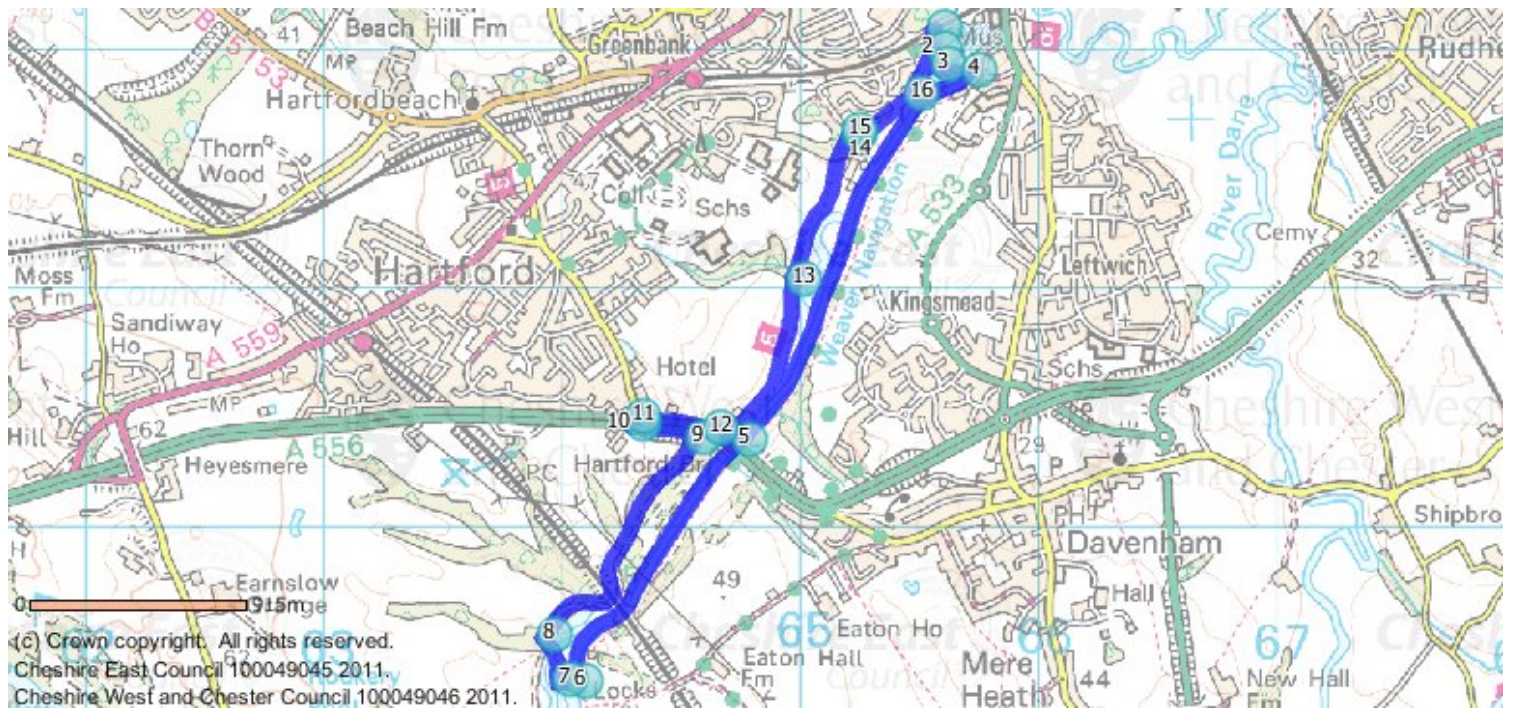


Two Locks Walk

Beautiful waterside walk taking in the historic Hunts Lock and Vale Royal Locks.

Grade	Moderate
Distance	4.6m/7.5km
Time	2½ hours
Start	Car park off Yarwoods Close
Map	OS Explorer 267
Terrain	Easy
Barriers	6 gates
Toilets	N/A
Contact	01606 271931



Route Details

This is a beautiful waterside walk that takes in the historic Hunts Lock and Vale Royal Locks. Walkers will be enchanted by the number of bird species that can be seen and heard along the way, with a list of 'recent sightings' on display at the Vale Royal Locks Office.

The route beyond the Blue Bridge to Vale Royal Locks can be a little muddy during winter but surface improvements are being looked into during 2011.

Vale Royal drive does have vehicle access so care should be taken along this stretch.

The return route takes you through the tranquil Marshalls Arm Local Nature Reserve and back past Hunts Lock to the car park.

Directions

Start at the car park off Yarwood Close

1. Take the riverside path from the car park towards Hunts Lock
2. Cross over the locks
3. Take the path that runs alongside the lock keepers office, and walk over Riversdale Bridge
4. Turn right onto the River Weaver tow path.
5. Remain on the tow path, go under Hartford Blue bridge and continue straight on, under the railway bridge and on to Vale Royal locks.
6. Cross over the locks
7. Bear to your right and take the path over steel footbridge
8. Turn right onto Vale Royal Drive, take care as this drive also carries vehicular traffic.
9. At the end of Vale Royal drive turn left and walk along the bypass (A556) to the traffic lights
10. Cross over to the other side of the bypass
11. When you are on the other side walk back along the bypass towards Hartford Blue Bridge
12. Take the path to your left just before the Blue Bridge down towards the river and through the kissing gate, continue along the riverside path
13. Go through the gate and enter Marshalls Arm Nature Reserve, continue along the path
14. Exit the reserve through 'Herons gate' and bear to the left for 10m
15. Then cross the road and go through the squeeze gate and continue straight ahead
16. Go through the gate and continue along the riverside path towards Hunts Lock and back to the car park