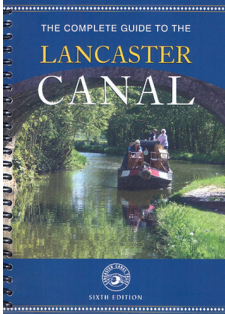


# BOOKS

## Complete Guide to the Lancaster Canal



*John Laws*  
*Lancaster Canal Trust, c/o Lancaster*  
*District CVS, The Cornerstone, Sulyard St,*  
*Lancaster LA1 1PX*  
 978 0 9514146 5 1  
 A5  
 92 pages, paperback  
 1989. 6th edition Mar 2017  
 £6.50

Apart from the Ribble Link and the Glasson Branch, both of which are included in this guidebook, the only locks on the Lancaster Canal are at Tetwield, immediately above which is the first of the M6 severances. Thus, the Lancashire section is one of the longest lock free canal reaches in the country while the Cumbrian Northern Reaches section is almost free of boats unless they can be portaged.

The canal is taken south to north and the book is aimed at all users, predominantly cruisers at the southern end and walkers at the northern end into Kendal where only the towpath remains as a footpath. Canoeists are included in the users.

The first quarter of the guide is an introduction to every aspect of the canal, its history, geography, engineering, ecology and advice for each category of user. The rest is a route guide covering everything related to the canal. Each section is accompanied by a 1:25,000 section of map to show what is relevant and exclude what is not. Unusually, this includes powerlines, obvious landmarks in the countryside but rarely included on canal maps. Map symbols are on a fold out rear flap.

The maps are accompanied by reference panels including restaurants, pubs and attractions, giving exact locations. Advertisements for facilities are included, each with its own location marked.

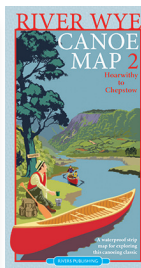
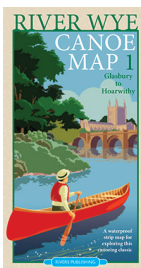
The last few pages include details of public transport, maps, books and useful addresses, even vets near the canal for pet owners. All that is missing is captions for the photographs, the locations of not all of which are obvious.

Overall, this is an excellent and most informative resource, no less because all the relevant books listed in the reference section are out of print.

## River Wye Canoe Map 1

978 0 9957513 0 9

## River Wye Canoe Map 2



*Peter Knowles*  
*Rivers Publishing, Gower,*  
*Blencathra St, Keswick*  
 CA12 4HE  
 978 0 9957513 1 6  
 570 x 350mm folding to  
 180 x 100mm  
 2017  
 £8.95

The Wye is Britain's most popular canoe touring river and has been since the 19th century. At last there is high quality mapping available for paddlers.

These two maps cover the river from Glasbury to Hoarwithy and then on to Chepstow. On tough waterproof paper which floats if blown into the river, each map is printed on both side with two panels per side. At 1:36,000 scale, the maps have extensive detail including contours, woods and footpaths. It is easy to fold them to display the required part of a map.

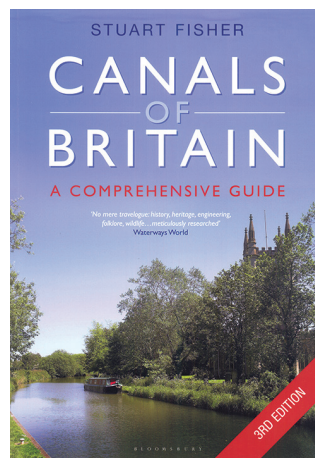
## Reviews of new books and publications

Information boxes give details of the many canoe hire centres and launch points, campsites, toilets, places to eat and drink, places of interest to see and safety issues, warning of limited facilities, noisy locations or difficult landing being spelled out. Contact details for hire centres, pubs and restaurants are given. Assorted small pictures are shown, including one of author Peter Knowles paddling a coracle. Distances are given in the information boxes and the river is shown in fine detail with minor channels and all the islands included.

For inexperienced paddlers there are panels of general advice on use of the river, especially the difficult tidal section, sources of further information, access and planning notes.

These take mapping for paddlers to a whole new level, not just for the Wye but for rivers in general.

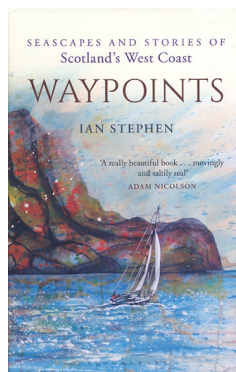
## Canals of Britain



*Stuart Fisher*  
*Adlard Coles Nautical, 50*  
*Bedford Sq, London WC1B 3DP*  
 978 1 4729 2972 3  
 A4  
 336 pages, paperback  
 2009. 3rd edition 12th Jan 2017  
 £30.00

The best selling *Canals of Britain* has been developed from the *Canoeist* guides for a wider readership. The third edition has been revised extensively and includes hundreds of new photographs. It is also available in ePDF and ePub formats.

## Waypoints



*Ian Stephen*  
*Adlard Coles Nautical*  
 987 1 4729 3963 0  
 280 x 160mm  
 298 pages, hardback  
 23rd Feb 2017  
 £18.99

Waypoints may mean electronic join up the dots navigation of sailing boats to you but there is limited evidence of it in this book.

The author, a Stornoway resident, is a poet who has had 15 years' experience as a coastguard and has a love of repairing old boats and sailing them, especially open working vessels with some history to them.

Each of the ten chapters can be read independently and features a different boat and a trip undertaken in it, usually around the Minch or beyond from Lewis. Accompanying is some of the author's verse, the reworking of an old folk tale and a map and painting by his wife, Christine Morrison. For readers not used to such boats or their handling, some explanations of terms are slipped in quietly and so are some aspects of the weather and the marine environment, assisted by the author's coastguard insights. You can learn from this without admitting it.

Mentioned briefly is his first boat, a small Wharram catamaran canoe, and there is brief mention of the construction of a coracle, 'One up from a pair of waders'. He was not a paddler himself but both sons were members of Stornoway Canoe Club, elder son Sean joining a party crossing the Minch with a group when he was 16 and later becoming an international white water expedition paddler. Some of the club's expeditions, especially to remote islands, have featured on our pages.

Aspects of the book may not be new. The gannet collecting trip to