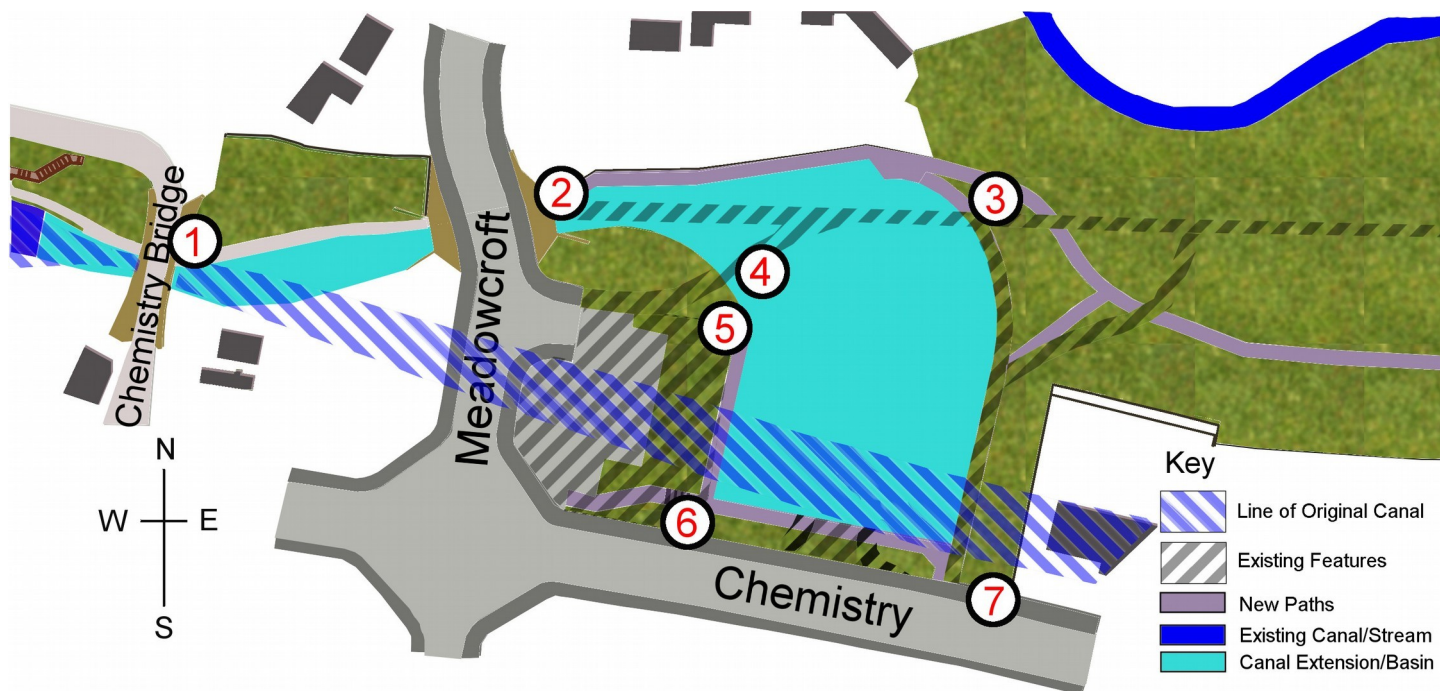


# Self-Guided Tour of Whitchurch Canal Extension and New Basin Site



The Whitchurch Waterway Trust plan to build a canal extension and new basin as shown above (the nearest postcode is SY13 1BZ), to bring visitors from the canal nearer to the town of Whitchurch to boost the town's economy and provide an attractive feature for Whitchurch residents.

This self-guided tour is intended to help people visualise where the basin will be and the eventual land levels, which are very deceptive. The tour visits the 7 locations shown in the plan above.

**Start under Chemistry Bridge (the old bridge) by the current end of the Whitchurch Arm.**

## Location 1 Under Chemistry Bridge

This is the view looking towards town. You can see the old coping stones which indicate where the canal used to go. The original canal used to go pretty well straight on here, but the route of the canal extension will diverge from the original route after a short distance, in order to pass under Meadowcroft Bridge. Virtually all of the old canal route into town has had residential housing built on it, so the original line is no longer available.



**Follow the path towards town**

## Location 2 At the town side of Meadowcroft Bridge (the newer concrete bridge)



A small mark has been made on the wall underneath the bridge to indicate where the towpath level (90.6 metres above sea level) will be. This will leave about 2 metres headroom under the bridge on the path.

*Continue on along the path towards town and then turn back*

## Locations 3 and 4 At the Drain Covers on the Existing Paths



The drain cover (3) in the bottom right of the picture above is about 2 metres below the towpath level. Standing here, the towpath would be a bit above the top of your head (unless you are extremely tall !).

*Go up the slope leading to the car park, and look for a sewer drain cover on your left part way up*

The drain cover (4) to the left of the slope going up to the car park is a little above the eventual towpath level. If you were standing here after the basin was built, your feet would be considerably lower and you would be wet, as you would be standing in the basin.

*Continue up to the car park and turn left at the top*

## Location 5 At the North East Corner of the Existing Car Park



The edge of the basin will pass below where you are now. Your feet are at 93.141 metres above sea level, which is 2.5 metres above the towpath level. Some soil has already been moved from the land shown above in 2017 by a project funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which also improved the paths and created a picnic area. A lot more will be moved when the basin is dug out.

***Go to the other corner of the car park next to the pavement***

## Location 6 At the South East Corner of the Existing Car Park



Here you are at 92 meters above sea level, so only 1.4 metres above towpath level.

***Go along the pavement in the direction of town***

## Location 7 On the Pavement at the South East Corner of the Site

It's hard to believe, but the pavement here is at towpath level !

### About The Canal Extension and New Basin



The eventual level of the water in the canal extension and basin and therefore that of the new towpath as well is dictated by the existing level of the water in the Whitchurch Arm and the Llangollen Canal from Grindley Brook to New Marton, since there will be no locks in the extension. The level of the new towpath will be 90.6 metres above sea level, with the water level being a little below that. To achieve this, some adjustment of existing land levels and some path realignment will be required.

Funding to build the entire project by professional contractors has so far not proved possible to come by in the current economic climate. Although large scale funding will still be pursued if opportunities arise, rather than do nothing WWT are exploring how to make progress by building the project in stages which could be funded by smaller amounts. The first stage was completed in 2017 with funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.



### **The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**

Europe investing in rural areas

### **Comments, News and Membership**

Hope you enjoy your tour, and, if it got you thinking, the Whitchurch Waterway Trust welcome comments, which you can email to [comments@whitchurchwaterway.uk](mailto:comments@whitchurchwaterway.uk), or phone 07850 336007, or write to The Whitchurch Waterway Trust at 25 Smallbrook Road, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1BT.

You can see the latest news online and find out how to become a member of the Trust (it's only £10 a year for an individual) by visiting our website [www.whitchurchwaterway.uk](http://www.whitchurchwaterway.uk).

We also have a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/whitchurchwaterwaytrust](https://www.facebook.com/whitchurchwaterwaytrust).