

Key Information

A 35 acre lake set in the stunning scenery of Park in the Past, which is being restored to the natural environment as it would have been when the Romans arrived in the area in the middle of the First Century AD. Multiple access points and accessibility options.

Start and finish: Portages: 0

Park in the Past, **Time:** 0.5–1 hours

Fagl Lane, Hope, **Distance:** 1.25 miles (circular)

Wrexham **OS Maps:** Explorer 256 Wrexham/

LL12 9RB Wreccsam & Llangollen and

Explorer 266 Wirral & Chester/Caer



For more
information
scan the QR code
or visit:
bit.ly/3kd6GOI



A quiet lake open to adult paddlers and swimmers, suitable for skills practice or a peaceful paddle. Book in advance online for a small fee (currently £6) for a 2.5 hour session. Refer to the Park in the Past website for up-to-date information on access and opening times. The lake has some sheltered spots but is best paddled in calm conditions, or in a north wind as this will push you back to the access point.

On arrival volunteers will show you where to park and you will be asked to sign in at the visitor centre, where you will receive a wristband and a waterproof map/information sheet. There is a short walk (500m) from the car park to the lake, however, volunteers operate a shuttle for boats/boards as part of the booking fee, and will facilitate access for paddlers with additional accessibility needs. A third party company (Direct Kayaks) operates kayak, canoe and SUP hire on-site but these must be pre-booked.

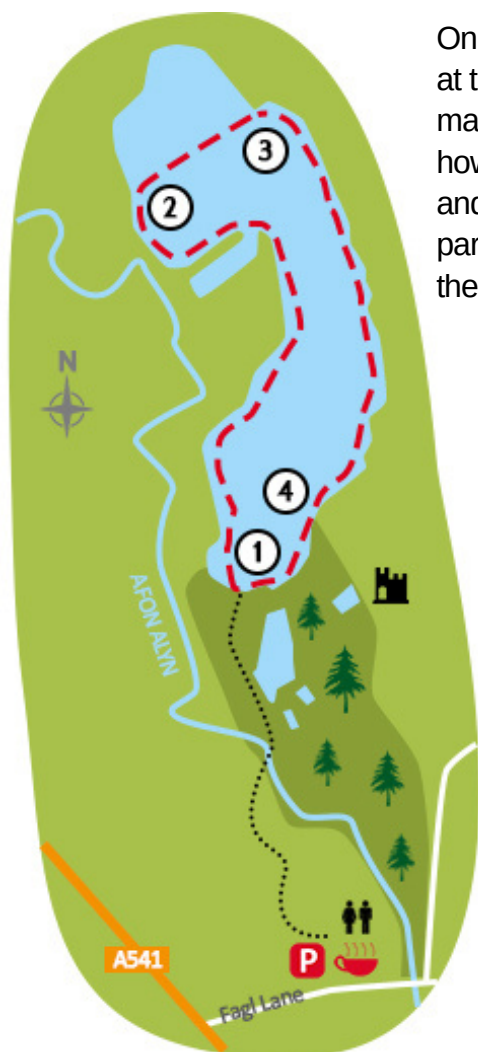
There are multiple access points, including a pontoon and gently sloping beaches. Paddlers can choose any route on the lake, but this guide describes an approximately 1.25 mile route around the perimeter, in a clockwise direction.

1. Launch from the beach at the south side of the lake. From here, paddle along the west side of the lake, which takes you parallel to the Afon Alyn and footpaths, which are a short distance from the lake.

2. Access to the north side of the lake is often restricted to varying degrees, dependent on the needs of the waterfowl population and other water users (e.g. diving school). This is always clearly marked with buoys.

3. Once you hit the buoys, cross to the east side of the lake and head south. On this side of the lake the footpath follows the lake very closely, and is an ideal position for family and friends to watch.

4. At the south of the lake you will reach the pontoon, where you will head southwest to the beach for egress.



Park in the Past is a community and heritage project which aims to restore the 120 acre Fagl Lane Quarry to its natural environment, as it would have been when the Romans arrived in the area in the First Century AD. This has been inspired by archaeological evidence from the site and surrounding area, and includes a fully functional Roman fort, Iron Age farmstead, and a lake sustainably managed for wildlife and a range of watersports (paddlesports, diving, wild swimming, and fishing). The lake is fed by the Afon Alyn.

Paddling is adult-only and numbers of lake users are managed by a pre-booking system, meaning that it is usually a peaceful place to paddle. For a small fee, non-paddling family members can enjoy the historic restorations, a walk around the park, or spectate from a number of locations around the lake. There is a coffee shop in the visitor centre. Dog-friendly.

The park is run entirely by volunteers, who are very happy to facilitate access to the lake for paddlers with accessibility needs or those who might find it hard to walk the 500m from the car park to the lakeside. Please get in touch with the park to discuss your needs.



View down the lake

Photo: Hannah Vineer

Further information can be found at the following websites:

www.canoewales.com

www.britishcanoeing.org.uk

www.gopaddling.info

www.parkinthePast.org.uk



Safety and Licences

We want you to enjoy a safe trip, so here are a few tips for staying safe and paddling responsibly.

Paddle Safe. Be prepared and take the right kit:

- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Mobile phone – in a waterproof case
- Whistle – to attract attention in case of emergency
- Map and/or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions + spares in a dry bag
- Food, drink & suncream!

Paddle Responsibly. Respect the natural environment and other users:

- Respect other waterway users #sharethespace
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Ensure you have the correct licence if required
- Observe navigational rules – keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean, Dry after every trip!

Licences: The waterway on this trail doesn't require you to have a licence to paddle on it. However if you paddle regularly you should consider becoming a member of Canoe Wales (or British Canoeing if you live in England). Membership gives you a whole range of benefits including a licence to paddle on 4500km of Britain's waterways and Civil Liability Insurance, worth up to £10 million. Not only will membership help save you money, it will give you peace of mind when out on the waterways. For more information on Canoe Wales membership please click [here](#).