

River TRENT

Non-chronological report



Located in the England's North Midlands, the River Trent is England's third largest river and the only one in the country to flow mainly in a northerly direction. Known for its dramatic floods, which occur after heavy storms and as a result of snowmelt, one theory is that the river's name derives from an ancient word meaning 'strongly flooding'.

Tributaries

Of the 42 rivers that feed the Trent along its course, 12 are considered to be main tributaries. These include the Derwent, Sow and Leen. The largest tributary is the River Tame, which confluences with the Trent in Alrewas.

Course

Formed from several small streams, the River Trent gathers in Knypersley Reservoir, which is the only reservoir along its course. After leaving the reservoir, it runs north through Stoke-on-Trent and gathers water from the Lyme, Fowlea and other small brooks that drain the Staffordshire Potteries — an area famous for making pottery. A little further on, the Trent enters Trentham Gardens. After the confluence with the River Sow, the Trent changes course and heads south-east. Later, it bends north-east and is joined by its biggest tributary, the River Tame. Interestingly, the Tame is the larger of the two at this point. For some distance, there are wide floodplains on both sides. Near Shardlow, the Trent and Mersey Canal begins. The river continues through Nottingham, the second city on its route. Below Cromwell Weir, the Trent becomes tidal and meanders across a wide floodplain. Downstream of Keadby, the river gets wider. Near the border with Yorkshire, the Trent joins the River Ouse to form the Humber, which flows into the North Sea.

Source

The Trent rises in Staffordshire on moorland close to the village of Biddulph Moor. Here, numerous sources, including the Trent Head Well, join and flow south.

298 KM >>>>

ENGLAND'S
THIRD LARGEST
RIVER

Stoke-on-Trent



Burton upon Trent



discharge:
85 M³/S

Scunthorpe



Gainsborough



Newark



Nottingham



Significant settlements

Along its six-county course, the Trent passes through five large settlements: Stone, Rugeley, Burton upon Trent, Newark-on-Trent and Gainsborough. The cities of Stoke-on-Trent – home of the Titanic's captain – and Nottingham – famed for the folktale character, Robin Hood – are also located on its banks.

Development

Approximately 115 bridges of various kinds cross the Trent. Floodplains help to manage the risk of residential areas and valuable farmland flooding, but with extreme weather events on the increase, plans for improved defences are ongoing. For example, Burton upon Trent now has 9km of upgraded flood defences (costing £30 million), which have already proven effective.

Statistics

Length: 298 km

Basin size: 10,435km²

Discharge: 85 m³/s

basin size:

10,435KM²

WILDLIFE:

Salmon and eels navigate upstream to their spawning grounds. In addition, native birds, such as harriers, bitterns and avocets, are returning to the River Trent area after centuries of absence.

FASCINATING FACTS:

- The Trent has been navigated since the Roman era.
- In 867AD, Danish Vikings sailed longships up the Trent to Snotingham (now Nottingham)
- It is recognised as being one of Britain's most important trade routes.



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