

The River Severn Project

“Encounters with the Severn”

The River Severn is the longest river in Great Britain. It starts in the Welsh hills and follows a meandering route until it reaches the Bristol Channel and flows out into the Atlantic after 220 miles. For centuries it has been a source of water, food and employment. It has acted both as a barrier and a major route of travel. Much of the history of Britain is chronicled on its banks. Roman remains, battlefield sites, castles and abbeys are still preserved.

But the Severn offers far more than history lessons. Today it's home to vital resources such as water supply plants and power generation from hydro-electric installations. It supports a range of industries such as agriculture, fishing and tourism which are the lifeblood of local economies.

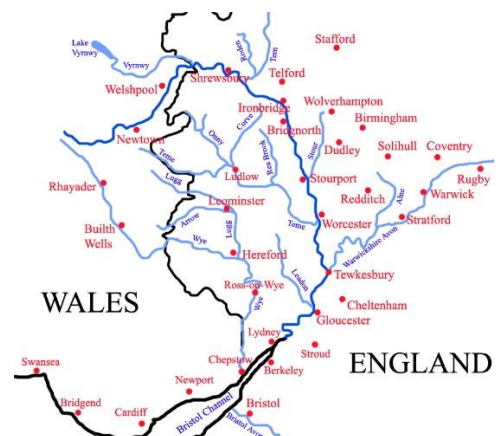
Cheltenham Camera Club is telling the story of the River Severn in striking photographs. The project will showcase all aspects of life which depends (or depended) on the Severn for its existence...towns and villages, communities and people, industries, wildlife, flora and fauna. The images will highlight the contrast...lively and bustling on the one hand, with oases of calm on the other. History and modernity side-by-side.

The collection will include all styles of photography: Colour, mono, Infrared, drone, smart phone, creative and street. A compelling image that says or engages the viewer more than just a record shot.

Not 'Another picture of Powick Bridge' but 'I've never seen Powick Bridge like that!'



The River Severn at Shrewsbury



The Aim -

Our aim is to produce one or more of

- A photobook
- An exhibition
- A web gallery
- A PDI slide show

Want to get involved?

Check out the current images: <https://cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk/gallery/river-severn-project>

Contact: severn@cheltenhamcameraclub.co.uk

Scope -

Not all images must have the River Severn in but they must be related to the River.

For example -

- A cathedral or other historic building in one of the towns or cities along the banks of the Severn,
- Locks, quays and ferry terminals related to the Severn, even if situated a short way away up a canal or tributary,
- A bird, creature or plant typical of the habitat formed around the River,
- A fair or market in a community historically linked with the Severn,
- An activity or industry dependent on the River.
- People and characters representing the communities, events and activities of the River Severn

All styles of photographic images are acceptable. A compelling image that says or engages the viewer more than just a record shot.

Some locations and destinations with good photographic opportunities -

- The various bridges and crossings, not just the major road and rail bridges but also the old farm track and foot bridges.
- The old, now largely disused ferry crossings
- Portishead
- Avonmouth
- Severn Beach/New Passage
- Around Sharpness, Slimbridge and Purton
- Old Passage, Arlingham and surrounding villages in the Horseshoe Bend
- Gloucester
- Upton-on-Severn
- Chepstow
- Lydney and Forest of Dean Severn edge
- Tewkesbury
- Worcester
- Stourport-on-Severn
- The Wyre Forest
- Bewdley
- Bridgnorth
- Wroxeter (Roman fort/town)
- Ironbridge/ Coalbrookdale
- Shrewsbury
- Welshpool
- Newtown
- Llanidloes
- Plynlimon and Hafren Forest

Resources (constantly updated) -

- Ourselves and fellow members
- **The most prolific documenter of the Severn i**
 - Chris Witts of Gloucester on <https://www.severntales.co.uk/> and he has many other booklets, YouTube and other social media sites. Just search <Chris Witts Severn>
- **General guides to the Severn**
 - A short guide from Gloucestershire Archives - https://www.unlockingthesevern.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Secrets-of-the-Severn_adjusted.pdf
 - Another good general background on the Severn https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/River_Severn
- **Bridges and Crossings**
 - A list of almost every bridge or crossing of the river on <https://www.severntales.co.uk/severn-bridges.html>
 - More on the crossings of the river https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_crossings_of_the_River_Severn
- **The Severn Way - official riverside path**
 - The Severn Way is a long-distance footpath covering the length of the Severn, though mainly on the “English” side, but both sides are worth exploring.
 - The definitive guide to walking the Severn is Terry Marsh’s book, The Severn Way. See www.cicerone.co.uk also on Amazon.
 - Here you will find information on walking the Severn particularly the western side through the various OS Maps that cover it and are listed here <https://www.walkingenglishman.com/ldp/severnway.html>
- **Information on the upper reaches of the river**
 - <https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/places-to-visit/mid-wales/hafren-forest/?lang=en>
- **Wild life**
 - Live streaming The Clywedog Ospreys webcam in Hafren Forest, Wales. The osprey nest is located in the area of the Llyn Clywedog Reservoir <https://www.mangolinkcam.com/webcams/birds/ospreys-hafren-forest.html>

We can add to this list as the project progresses.

Time scale:

The aim is to have images ready for selection early in the 2024/25 CCC season. With selection taking place mid-season. Images taken since January 2021 are acceptable. In some cases, older images may be accepted if the location has not substantially changed since recorded and the selectors agree on its merits to be included.

Trips to get images will still be organised over for the rest of this season and through the summer, though of course please seek out for yourself it doesn’t matter whether taken on an organised trip or a on your own initiative.

Selection of Images -

Towards the end of the project all participants will be consulted on how to form a selection group to choose those images that will feature in the final presentations.

Though the content recorded is not to be ignored, the aim is to add a personal insight into it via our images. Go beyond a simple record of what it looks like.

Opportunities for all genres:

- Landscape and architectural
- Wildlife and plants for the nature group
- Industries/traditional crafts encountered along the river.
- Festivals and events around the river
- Portraits/studies of characters and the community
- Discover the history and mythology around the river including creative images to explore the mythology and folk tales surrounding the river.