



Equipment – Canoes

The River Severn, below Welshpool, is an increasingly wide waterway with a steady flow. There is 1 weir, which has to be portaged, plus 6 Locks which may need to be portaged. The weirs alongside these Locks may NOT be shot.

Thus many Kayaks or Open Canoes could be used. However, there a number of considerations which should influence your choice.

The main consideration which may determine choice is that the boat will be used for 6 or more hours per day.

Plus you must be able to carry with you in waterproof containers:

- Lunch
- Any Snacks
- Spare Clothing & Towel
- Drinking Water
- Any hot drink

Kayak

The ideal specification for a Kayak (single or double) would thus be one designed for “expeditions” or Touring. That is a boat with a Hatch and Bulkhead. E.G. Dagger 10, Pyranha Fusion RT. These boats will also usually have a sked which will ease directionality whilst “drifting” downstream.

Many Kayaks without a Hatch space will still have quite a big space behind the seat which can be used for storage. The problems which might then be experienced are:

- Difficulty of access
- Need to more carefully secure against possible loss if boat capsizes
- Space already filled with buoyancy bag/s.

Short “White Water” or “Playboats” are not really suitable for long journeys of this nature.

Open Canoe

All designs of Open (Canadian) Canoe would be suitable.

Must have suitable lashing points for stowage of kit.

You will need either waterproof bags or a waterproof barrel.

Sit-on Kayak

Provided they have adequate storage, we have no reason to suspect they would not be suitable.

Older Fibreglass Boats

There are a couple of “ripples” where the river flows faster descending a few feet in a short length, although these give a bit of “excitement” they cannot be described as rapids.

There is one Grade 1 / 2 level rapid below Iron Bridge. Whilst this presents a minimal challenge to paddlers it may be a consideration if you propose to use an old fibreglass boat.