



Making life better by water
Canal & River Trust

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canalrivertrust.org.uk

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(Lines open 8am to 6pm – Mon to Fri, 9am to 5pm – Sat, 10am to 4pm – Sun)

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Visit Canal & River Trust website to find out more information.

The only exception is for current members of British Canoeing and Canoe Wales who get to use our waterways for free as part of their membership.
Our 2,000 miles of canals and rivers need a lot of TLC to keep them in great shape for everyone to use and enjoy – no matter the size of craft. As well as maintaining things like canal walls or water flow, your licence fee goes towards making sure there are enough easy access points, ramps and slipways for example.

It's not just narrowboats and barges that need a licence on our waterways. All portable, unpowered craft such as canoes, kayaks, dinghies, rowing boats, paddleboards and even light inflatable craft do too.

Licensing

1 Eldonian Village Hall, Vauxhall to Cooksons Bridge, Ford

This is on the Leeds-Liverpool canal as it winds away from Liverpool through various towns in Sefton.

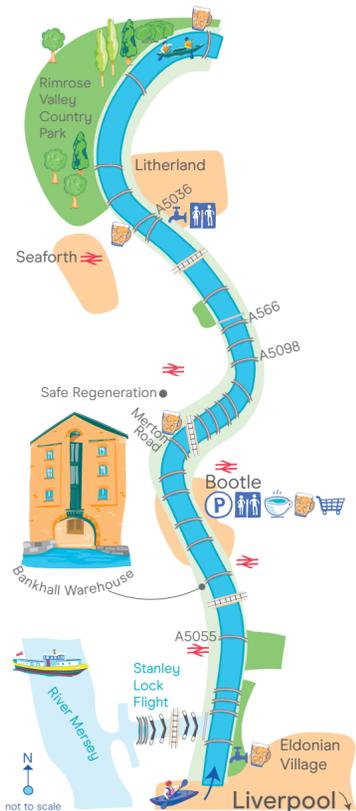
Start	Eldonian Village Hall, Burlington Street, Liverpool L3 6LG
Finish	Cooksons Bridge pub, Gorse Lane, Ford L21 0EJ
Distance	6 miles
Time	1½ – 3 hours
Portages and Locks	1 swing bridge approx. 100m walk.
OS Map	OS Landranger 108

Local Facilities

- Lock & Quay, Irlam Road, Bootle
www.facebook.com/lockandquaybootle/
Dog-friendly community canal side pub

Description

- Park at Eldonian Village Hall and start your journey along the trail.
- Paddle past the Stanley Lock Flight, taking boats in and out of the Liverpool waterfront docks.
- Continue past warehouses and factories as the trail runs parallel to the River Mersey.
- Start to head inland and paddle past the green spaces of Rimrose Valley Country Park.
- Finish at Cooksons Bridge.



Safety

Canoeing, kayaking and paddle boarding can be fun, however, any activity on water brings its own hazards and dangers, please ensure you have the correct equipment and level of experience for your planned trip.

Equipment

ALWAYS wear a Buoyancy Aid ensuring a correct fit for everyone in the party. Carry a mobile phone in a waterproof case as well as a whistle.

Clothing

Wear footwear you don't mind getting wet, and clothing suitable for the weather conditions, carry suitable spare clothing in a waterproof dry bag, especially in colder weather conditions.

Navigation rules

Ensure you stay to the right where possible, take care around bridges and other canal infrastructure where visibility can be impaired. Portage at all bridges and locks. Powered craft have right of way over unpowered craft so leave as much space as possible.

Locks and swing bridges

It is best practice to portage all locks and swing bridges, portaging past and leaving the bridge as you approach. Portage at all bridges and locks can save both time and conserve water. Most swing bridges are required to be unlocked and either manually or electronically operated therefore saving time by portaging.

For more tips visit British Canoeing website.

Environmental Good Practice

The diverse natural environment of our canals and rivers is one of the reasons they are such special places to canoe. Take to the water and you'll get right up close to some of the country's finest and rarest wildlife.

After your paddle

Our waterways are home to many invasive species and we need to stop them spreading wherever possible. When you're out and about on the water your boat and clothing can pick up fragments of plants and tiny creatures that we don't want in another stretch of canal or river. When you've finished your paddle please make sure to thoroughly clean all your equipment and clothing. You'll save us time and money battling invasive species, meaning we can spend more on making our canals and rivers even better places to be.

Useful contacts

Please report any pollution, fly tipping or fish in distress to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060. If you see any birds or animals in distress please call the RSPCA on 0990 555999 (24 hours).

On the water

Where possible please keep to any designated paths or launching points. Water.

Launching and landing

Our canal and river banks are home to some of the country's rarest wildlife, including the endangered water vole. Please don't 'seal' launch or drag boats into the canal as it can damage the bank. When landing and carry it to and from the water.

For more information Download British Canoeing's 'You, your canoe and the environment leaflet.'

Safety



map not to scale

- 1 Wigan Lock Flight (23 locks)
- 2 Gannow Tunnel (559yds)
- 3 Burnley Embankment
- 4 Foulridge Tunnel (1640yds)
- 5 Bingley 5-Rise Locks & 3-Rise Locks



KEY			
	aqueduct		shopping
	lock		parking
	tunnel		railway station
	swing bridge		water point
	railway bridge		café
			pub
			toilets

Trail information

This guide follows the development of the trail as it journeys from West to East and is the recommended direction of travel considering prevailing wind direction and river flows.

The trail combines the Leeds Liverpool Canal and Aire & Calder Navigation to create a canoe trail stretching 162 miles across the North of England connecting Liverpool and Goole. Passing through villages, towns and cities that played a major role in the industrial revolution and textile industries as well as enjoying the stunning scenery as you travel over the Pennines in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The Leeds Liverpool Canal and Aire & Calder Navigation offer a different experience along the trail.

The Leeds Liverpool Canal wanders its way connecting the two major cities of Liverpool and Leeds, recently celebrating its bicentenary and is enjoyed by boaters and paddlers alike.

The Aire & Calder Navigation is a commercial waterway transporting goods and materials between the town of Goole and city of Leeds.

The Navigation brings its own unique set of challenges, combining both canalised navigation and river sections, large locks and high walls.

PLEASE NOTE: It is recommended that only more experienced paddlers or groups of paddlers with experienced leaders or coaches paddle on the river sections of the Aire & Calder Navigation.

River sections are liable to flooding please check water levels at navigation junctions before proceeding.



Eldonian Village to Reedley Marina



Welcome to the Desmond Family Canoe Trail, connecting the west and east coasts via the Leeds Liverpool Canal and Aire & Calder Navigation. Paddle through the villages, towns and cities across northern England and enjoy stunning scenery from a whole new viewpoint. Enjoy. Volunteer. Donate.



2 Cooksons Bridge, Ford to The New Scarisbrick Arms, Ormskirk

This is on the Leeds-Liverpool canal as it winds away from Liverpool through various towns in Sefton out onto the West Lancashire plain.

Start	Cooksons Bridge, Gorseley Ln, Ford L21 0EJ
Finish	The New Scarisbrick Arms, Black-A-Moor Ln, Ormskirk L39 7HX
Distance	10 miles
Time	3 – 5 hours
Portages and Locks	13 swing bridges & 1 lock. All approx. 50-100m portage
OS Map	OS Landranger 108

- Local Facilities**
- The Running Horses, 25 Bell's Ln, Lydiate, Maghull, Liverpool L31 4EN www.runninghorseslydiate.pub/index
Canal side pub
 - The New Scarisbrick Arms, Black-A-Moor Ln, Ormskirk L39 7HX www.thenewscarisbrickarms.co.uk/our-menus/
Canal side restaurant

- Description**
- Starting at Cooksons Bridge this section takes you from city to countryside.
 - Paddle past the Canal Turn at Aintree Racecourse home of the world famous Grand National Steeplechase.
 - Start to feel more remote as you leave the hustle and bustle behind and look out over open countryside.
 - Continue through Maghull and paddle on a short way past some of the swing bridges along the trail.
 - Exit at The New Scarisbrick Arms.

Discover More
You will pass the historical Aintree Racecourse, home of the Grand National – for more info visit www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/aintree



3 The New Scarisbrick Arms, Ormskirk to Appley Bridge

This trail takes you through the West Lancashire plain – you will pass through towns such as Burscough and Parbold on your way to Appley Bridge.

Start	The New Scarisbrick Arms, Black-A-Moor Ln, Ormskirk L39 7HX
Finish	Appley Bridge, Wigan WN6 9AW
Distance	14 miles
Time	4 – 7 hours
Portages and Locks	4 swing bridges & 1 lock
OS Map	OS Landranger 108

- Local Facilities**
- The Inn, 6 Rosemary Ln, Downholland, Ormskirk L39 7JP www.theshippinnhaskayne.com/
Canal side pub & garden
 - There are also several cafés & pubs/shops in towns of Burscough and Parbold.

- Description**
- Starting at The New Scarisbrick Arms paddling north will take you past a choice of canal side pubs and restaurants.
 - Paddle past Scarisbrick Marina as you start to head east again.
 - Keep your eyes to the skies as you look out for the 'local' residents of Martin Mere Wetlands Centre.
 - Arriving in Burscough you have the chance to stop at the wharf, refresh and reload in many of the local shops before paddling past the first major junction of the trail at the Rufford Branch, continue straight ahead to stay on the trail.
 - Paddle through small villages and open countryside, as you pass through Parbold, see if you can see the old windmill.
 - Arriving at your first lock, portage the short distance and then paddle the last few hundred metres to the finish.



4 Appley Bridge to Trencherfield Mill, Wigan

This section of the trail meanders from the West Lancashire plain into the industrial town of Wigan.

Start	Car park, Appley Bridge, Wigan WN6 9AW
Finish	Trencherfield Mill, Wallgate, Wigan WN3 4BF
Distance	5 miles
Time	1½ – 2 hours
Portages and Locks	3 swing bridges and 3 locks
OS Map	OS Landranger 108

- Description**
- Start at Appley Bridge.
 - Portage Deans Lock and take a glimpse into the development of transport as the canal is crossed by both railway and motorway.
 - You start to enter the outskirts of Wigan, passing by Croke Marina.
 - Entering the town centre keep a look out for Wigan Pier, you don't want to miss it.
 - Exit at the pontoon next to Trencherfield Mill, this is the start of the Wigan flight portage 23 locks and 90 minutes later you will have reached Wigan Top Lock.

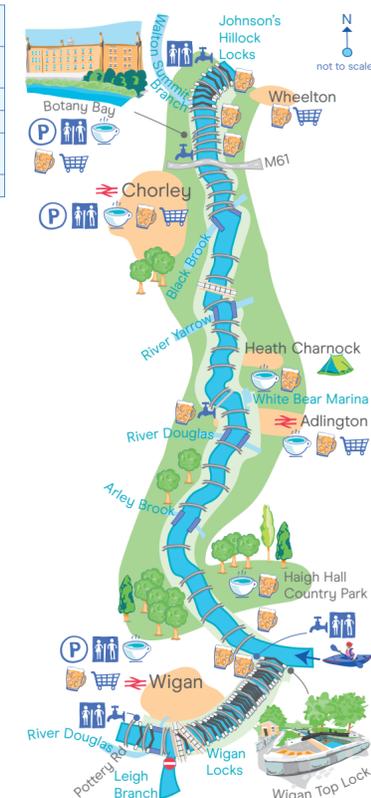


5 Wigan Top Lock to Walton Summit Branch, Chorley

Leave the hustle and bustle behind as you paddle onwards to Pennine Lancashire.

Start	Wigan Top Lock, WN2 1JE
Finish	Walton Summit Branch, PR6 8AL
Distance	9.2 miles
Time	Approx 3½ hours
Portages and Locks	None
OS Map	OS Landranger 108

- Local Facilities**
- Kirkless Hall pub at start for food and drink.
 - Frederick's Ice Cream shop PR7 4AL.
- Description**
- Leaving Top Lock behind you paddle through farm land and golf courses.
 - Keep your eyes peeled ready for a canal side ice cream stop at Fredericks.
 - Passing under the M61 you will see the site of Botany Bay.
 - Continue paddling towards Johnsons Hillcock lock flight and take a short paddle to the top of the Walton Summit Branch and exit here.



6 Johnson's Hillcock Top Lock, Wheelton to Riley Green, Hoghton

Enjoy open countryside and wonderful views as you approach the town of Blackburn.

Start	Top Lock Wheelton PR6 8LS
Finish	Riley Green, Hoghton PR5 0SP
Distance	3.2 miles
Time	1 – 1½ hours
Portages and Locks	None
OS Map	OS Landranger 108 & 102

- Local Facilities**
- The Top Lock Pub, Wheelton.
 - Canal Cruisers of Riley Green.
- Description**
- Access the trail at the Top Lock and paddle north.
 - Paddle through open countryside and farmland.
 - Passing under the M65 for the first time and continue on passing under the A675 and finishing at the moorings at Riley Green.



7 Riley Green, Hoghton to Eanam Wharf, Blackburn

Take in the changing scenery as you paddle through Blackburn.

Start	Riley Green, Hoghton PR5 0SP
Finish	Eanam Wharf, Blackburn BB1 5BY
Distance	4½ miles
Time	1 - 2 hours
Portages and Locks	Blackburn 6 locks
OS Map	OS Landranger 102

- Description**
- Depart from Riley Green moorings.
 - Keep your ears ready to listen for the River Darwen as it passes under the trail.
 - Portage the locks at Blackburn 6 locks (20 minutes) and continue paddling for a short while.
 - Exit at Eanam Wharf.

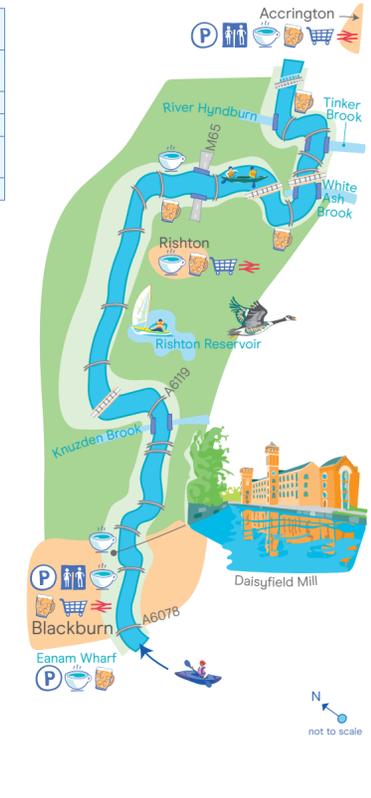


8 Eanam Wharf, Blackburn to Church, Accrington

Enjoy a different viewpoint as you watch the traffic below on their slightly faster journeys.

Start	Eanam Wharf BB1 5BY
Finish	Church Swing Bridge BB5 4JX
Distance	5¼ miles
Time	1½ – 3 hours
Portages and Locks	No locks
OS Map	OS Landranger 103

- Description**
- Starting at Eanam Wharf pass by Daisyfield Mill as you paddle through Pennine Lancashire.
 - The trail starts to weave its way along, passing under bridges and over streams.
 - Once again you come to the M65 this time paddling over it and looking down to the traffic below.
 - Continuing your journey the trail meanders left and right, keep looking ahead for the swing bridge at Church and exit here.



9 Church, Accrington to Reedley Marina, Burnley

Paddle through Burnley and take in the elevated view over the town centre to the west and the rolling hills of the Pennine's to the east as you journey along the straight mile.

Start	Church Swing Bridge BB5 4JX
Finish	Reedley Marina BB12 0DX
Distance	12 miles
Time	3 – 6 hours
Portages and Locks	3 swing bridges, no's 114, 115 & 116
OS Map	OS Landranger 103

- Local Facilities**
- Rosegrove Wharf, Canal & River Trust depot has facilities for boaters including toilets and shower as well as a water point, a trust key is needed to access all trust facilities. Burnley town centre is not far from the route and caters for all needs, near to the trail is the Bobbin café, Wiseman Street and Banny's fish and chips as well as restaurants, further along the trail at Reedley Marina is the Kingfisher Café.
- Description**
- Parking on Church Hall Road a short walk will take you to the trail (<100m) at Church Swing Bridge.
 - Pass by Knotts Bridge moorings.
 - Rosegrove Wharf, Canal & River Trust depot.
 - Gannow tunnel at J10 on M65.
 - Pass along the 'straight mile' embankment overlooking Burnley town centre and the South Pennine hills.
 - Exit at Reedley Marina visitor moorings.

