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## 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.

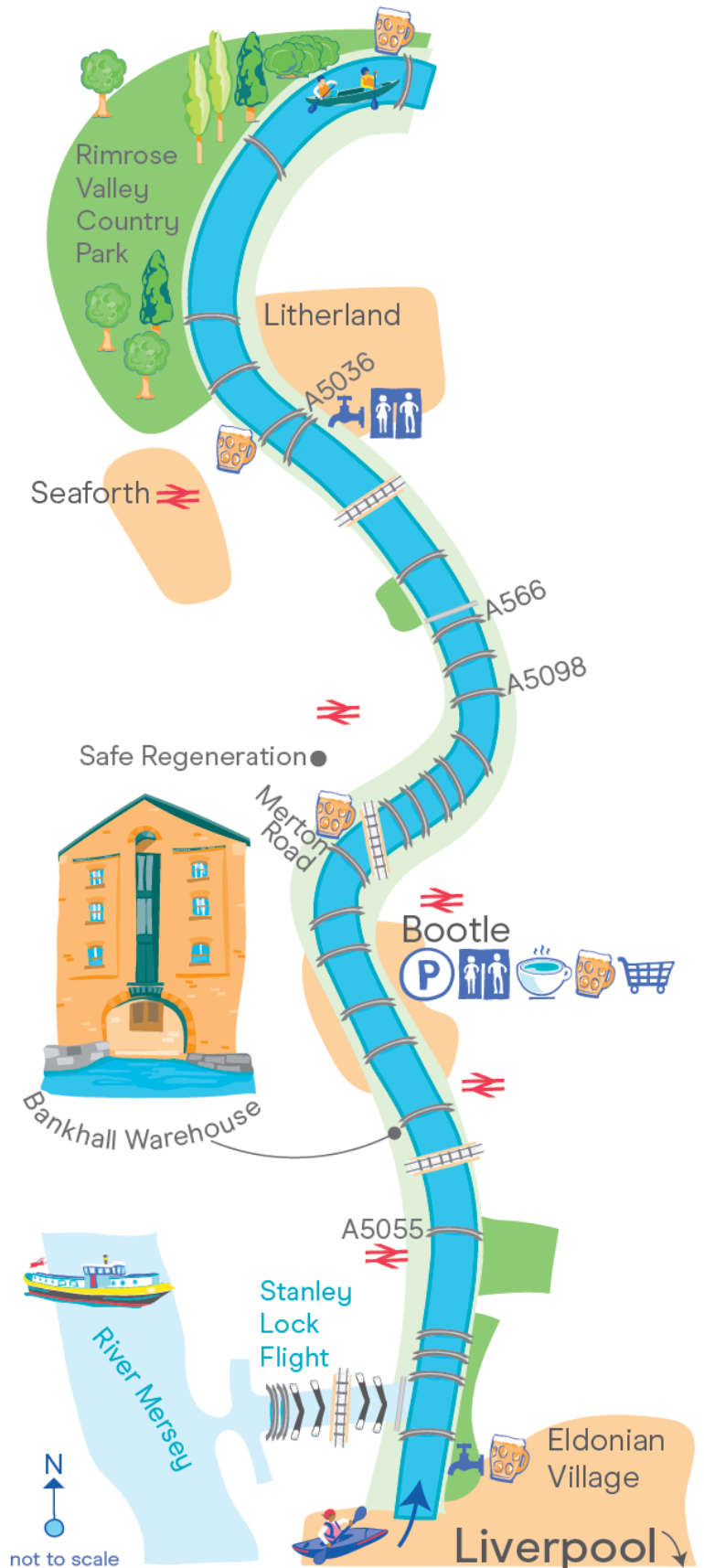
<b>Start</b>	Eldonian Village Hall, Burlington Street, Liverpool L3 6LG
<b>Finish</b>	Cooksons Bridge pub, Gorsey Lane, Ford L21 0EJ
<b>Distance</b>	6 miles
<b>Time</b>	1½ – 3 hours
<b>Portages and Locks</b>	1 swing bridge approx. 100m walk.
<b>OS Map</b>	OS Landranger 108

### Local Facilities

- Lock & Quay, Irlam Road, Bootle  
[www.facebook.com/lockandquaybootle/](http://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.



# 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.**



# 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.

## Tunnels

There are two tunnels along the trail, Gannow at 511m and Foulridge at 1 mile in length, all paddlers are required to wear a buoyancy aid, display a bright white forward facing light and carry an alternative means of attracting attention with an airhorn recommended. When at any tunnel entrance's please follow any powered craft at an appropriate distance.

The Foulridge tunnel operates on a one-way traffic light system please follow all instructions at the entrances to the tunnel and **DO NOT ENTER WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE RED.**

## Locks and swing bridges

It is best practice to portage all locks and swing bridges, portaging past 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](#).



# Licencing

**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.**

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.

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

 **0303 040 4040**

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

 [customer.services@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:customer.services@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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