

The Leeds & Liverpool Canal, with a total length of 127 1/4 miles, was opened in 1816. It links the sea port of Liverpool with the Aire and Calder Navigation at Leeds so forming a through route between the Irish Sea and the North Sea. Although no longer vital to local industry it is now an important attraction for the leisure industry.



Pendle Canal Walks

Circular Walk 2

Wanless Bridge & Barrowford Locks

ON THIS WALK

HOW TO GET THERE

2.5 miles approx 1hr 30 minutes - Easy/Moderate
Suitable footwear as can be muddy

Points of interest:

Stag House – the lodge for the ancient Alkincoates Estate

Wanless Bridge – the major unloading point for goods in this area

The ancient Blakey House and farm – seen on the left of the towpath after passing Wanless Bridge

Barrowford Locks – one of only 2 sets of locks along the whole length of the canal

Alkincoates Park – once a major part of Alkincoates Estate and now providing a leisure facility for all

Flora and Fauna:

The area is home to a wide diversity of life. Watch out for: Chaffinch, Tits, Jay, Goldfinch, Mallard and Kestrel. Stoat, Water Voles, Squirrels and Rabbits. Cow Parsley, Wild Rose, Speedwell, Vetch and Bluebells The beautiful Holly, Spruce, Elder and Hazel. Peacock and Tortoiseshell Butterflies, Damsel and Dragonflies

From end of M65 turn left onto Vivary Way, ahead at traffic lights to the roundabout. Take first exit left onto Harrison Drive, continue to the top, going straight across at next roundabout, until the road forks right up to the rugby club car park.

Alternatively...

Walk up to the top of Alkincoates Park, onto the lane past Rookery Cottage until you reach the woodland entrance on the right. On entering the woodland follow the path until you reach the first way marker pointing left.

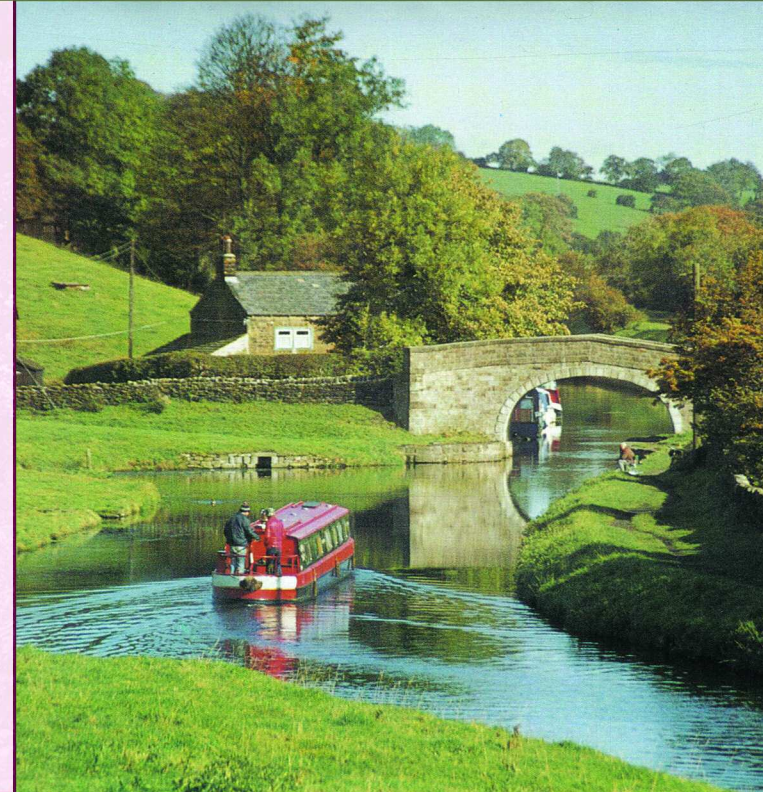
Please Note: There is no parking adjacent to the woodland on Red Lane.

Further Information

Contact tourist information on 01282 661701 for answers to queries or to be put in touch with members.

Alkincoates Woodland Nature Reserve Group are supported by: PCN, PEN, Groundwork, Pendle Borough Council, Forestry Commission/ ELWOOD, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Green Partnership Awards and Canal Corridor/ Big Lottery. Photographs kindly donated by group members, Peter Laycock, Camera club and Sacred Heart School.

Funding for this leaflet



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Arrive Rugby Club car park and walk directly across rugby field to access woodland. Follow stone way markers through the woodland to Red Lane.

Turn left onto Red Lane for approx 50 metres and take the stile on your right - immediately opposite the white house - Stag House (please take care as this is a narrow and often busy road). Follow the well defined footpath which crosses 4 stiles until you reach Slipper Hill Lane. Turn left following the road for a short distance then turn left again just before the stream.

Continue through an A frame stile and join the canal towpath at the Mile Tunnel entrance. Continue along the towpath to the first bridge - Wanless Bridge - once a major unloading point for commercial goods.

Continue along the towpath to Barrowford Locks. After the first set of lock gates take the gate on the left into the field. At the fork in the footpath take the left path and follow through into Barrowford Road.

Turn left up Barrowford Road, cross the old railway bridge until you reach Alkincoates Road on your left. Follow this road up directly into the park, follow the footpath on the right of the park, exiting with the Rugby Club on your right.



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

The mighty Leeds and Liverpool Canal was constructed during the last years of the eighteenth century and is today still a wonderful waterway which is 127 1/4 miles long.

The 'Navvies' (Navigators) were brave men indeed (many from Ireland) and their engineering skills in building the canal brought new wealth to our town aiding both commerce and local industries.

The Wharf at Wanless Water became a docking bay for many of our cotton mills during the mid eighteenth hundreds and the horse drawn short boats carried the huge cotton bales from the sea ports to Wanless Wharf which were then transported through the Alkincoates Estate and into the town by horse and cart to keep the cotton mills running round the clock. Limestone and coal were the canals major traffic but many other goods were carried: wool, grain, machinery, groceries, beer and spirits, cement etc.

Where possible the canal follows the contours of the land with only 2 sets of locks - one at Barrowford, the other at Barnoldswick.

The railway bridge on Barrowford Road crosses the old Colne to Skipton Line - opened in 1848 and closed in 1970.

At the Parish Church Colne, The Peal of 8 Bells (Tenor 14cwt.), were cast in 1814 at Mears and Stainbank Bellfounders, Whitechapel, London. There is historic reference to them being carried on the canal.

