

# OLD ROAN TO AUGHTON

This level, 11 mile (17.7Km) liner route is ideal for families to walk or cycle and is another of our routes that starts and finishes at a railway station. This one starts at Old Roan railway station and takes in large sections of the Leeds Liverpool Canal. It passes through Aintree, Maghull, Melling, Lydiate, quiet picturesque country lanes of West Lancashire and pleasant tree lined roads in the Parish of Aughton before ending at Town Green railway station.

Exit Old Roan railway station and walk under the bridge on the left and then turn right onto the cycle path adjacent to Ormskirk Road. Continue to the top of the bridge, on the right are Wally's Steps, go down the steps (a wheeling channel on the right edge of the steps will help if you have your bike) to the Leeds Liverpool Canal and turn left on to the tow path to go under the bridge.

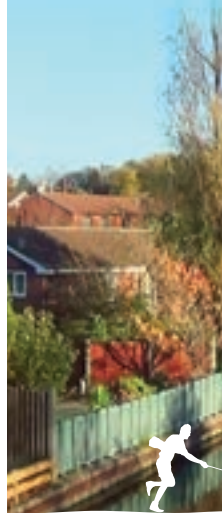
The canal was built during the 1700s at the height of the industrial revolution and parts of the towpath can become muddy when wet.

Continue along the canal, after about half a mile (800m) the world famous Aintree Racecourse, home of the Grand National, comes into view on the right. After a further 1.5 miles (2.4Km) you pass under the M57, where there is the wide open countryside of Melling on both sides. After a further 1.2 miles (1.9Km) you reach Melling Stone Bridge and St Thomas Church comes into view, the site of a medieval chapel with origins dating back to 1190.

The canal then takes you through Maghull which is famous for its links to the inventor of Dinky Cars, Hornby Trains and Meccano, Frank Hornby. His former house on Station Road carries the first ever Blue Plaque to be unveiled outside of London.

With a short detour refreshments and public toilets facilities are available in Maghull town Centre. Leave the canal at West Way Bridge, turn left and follow the road, the town centre is less than 550 yards (500m). (Return to the canal via the same route).

The route leaves the canal towpath at Jacksons Bridge (bridge No. 19), turn right into Pygon's Hill Lane, over the canal bridge, then take the first turning on your left into Sudell Lane. The final 2.5 mile (4Km) rural section through to Aughton opens up into quiet roads bordered by farm fields.





## Keypoints

Distance - 11 miles (17.7km)

- 1** Aintree Race Course
- 2** Melling Stone Bridge
- 3** St Thomas Church (site of a medieval chapel)
- 4** The Stanley Arms & St Michaels Church

During summer months the crops display an array of vivid colours.

Continue along Sudell Lane, over the bridge, until you reach the T junction at Back Lane, turn right then first left into Swan Lane. Go straight along Swan Lane until you reach the A59, turn left onto the cycle track adjacent to the A59 and after 330 yards (300m) cross the A59.

If cycling, after crossing St. Michaels Road, then turn left, follow the road to the junction with St. Michaels Church and Stanley Arms pub. At the junction turn right into Church Lane. At the junctions fork left into Bold Lane. If walking turn right into St Michaels Road then first left into Smithy Lane. Continue along Smithy Lane then go straight on into Bold Lane, leading into the town centre of Aughton. Aughton is an historic Market town that has retained its rural charm. Follow Bold Lane and turn right at the junction of Town Green Lane and Middlewood Road, the railway station is on your right.



Melling Stone Bridge



Leeds Liverpool Canal at Maghull

