


Netherton to Crosby Coastal Park – 6.4km

This combined cycling and walking route starts at the Aldrins Lane swing bridge on the Leeds–Liverpool Canal and proceeds westward along the canal towpath to link up with the tarmac pathway through Rimrose Valley Park. The route then crosses the Liverpool–Southport railway between Seaforth and Waterloo stations to finish on the banks of the Mersey at the new Crosby swimming pool.



Route distance 33.6km

ROUTE KEY POINTS

- Rimrose Valley Nature Reserve
(No toilet facilities)
- Leeds - Liverpool Canal
- Cooksons Bridge Pub
-  Part accessible - within Rimrose Valley

We start at the Aldrins Lane swing bridge to follow the towpath for the next 2km (1.25 miles) through the suburban housing estates of Netherton and Buckley Hill. The place name Netherton, comes from the Old English 'nether' (lower) and 'tun' (hamlet), being first listed as such in 1576 and was probably done so to separate it from the other local tuns, such as Thorntun, Seftun and Hightun.



Aldrins Lane, Photograph: Peter Hodge

On reaching the overbridge at Gorse Lane with the Cooksons Bridge pub to the right, we enter into Rimrose Valley, with its more open surroundings and greenery. The valley was formed 1.6 million years ago and always being liable to flooding was never settled or farmed extensively. During the 20th century much of the land was used for tipping and some areas were also used for allotments and recreation grounds.

It now forms part of the chain of nature reserves and amenity sites administered by the Sefton Coast & Countryside Service and the Brookvale Local Nature Reserve was set up in the wettest and wildest part of the valley to further enhance the wildlife value for residents and visitors.

After 250 metres we turn right to leave the towpath as the canal bends to the left and join the main pathway through the Rimrose Valley Park. After 1.5 km (0.95 miles) at the highest point, known as Whabbs Tip, most of northern Liverpool and Bootle is laid out before you. The panorama includes both cathedrals, St. John's Beacon and the Royal Seaforth docks, complete with container cranes and its modern 'windmills'.



Leeds Liverpool Canal, Photograph: Peter Hodge

As you drop down towards the entrance to the park at Beach Road, look out for some steps to your right just before the notice board, if cycling there is a sloping path just beyond. This narrow pathway has recently been surfaced and crosses the lowest point of the valley between allotments on your left and football pitches to your right,



Five Lamps war memorial

Exit right and turn into Brooklands Avenue, then turn left along the path at the side of number 94. Continue across the '5 lamps junction' into Great Georges Road and then left into Brunswick Parade.



Crosby Marina

Turn right into Cambridge Road and continue through the large car park at Crosby Marina. The newly constructed Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre gives an ideal opportunity to stop for refreshments and use of the toilet facilities. Continue on to the cycle track along the southern edge of the marine lake and then turn right onto the promenade and enjoy the sea views as you complete your ride at Crosby leisure centre.

An alternative route to see some of Bootle's industrial past, is to continue along the Leeds-Liverpool canal towpath at the footbridge over the canal just before Beach Rd. The canal passes under Princess Way, which is the main link road to the Port of Liverpool, replacing the old Litherland swing bridge and then a replacement footbridge.



100 years ago, both banks of the canal were crammed full of industrial wharves, sugar refineries, tanneries and the like. Huge numbers of horse-powered and steam barges jostled to pass through the swing bridge, no doubt causing severe disruption to road traffic. In 1934 a new lift bridge was installed which was removed in the 1970s, when the new road bridge was built.

Currently this route along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal towpath ends 800 metres further on at the Pennington Road overbridge, where there is easy access to both Hawthorne Road and Linacre Road/Stanley Road.



Crosby Leisure Centre