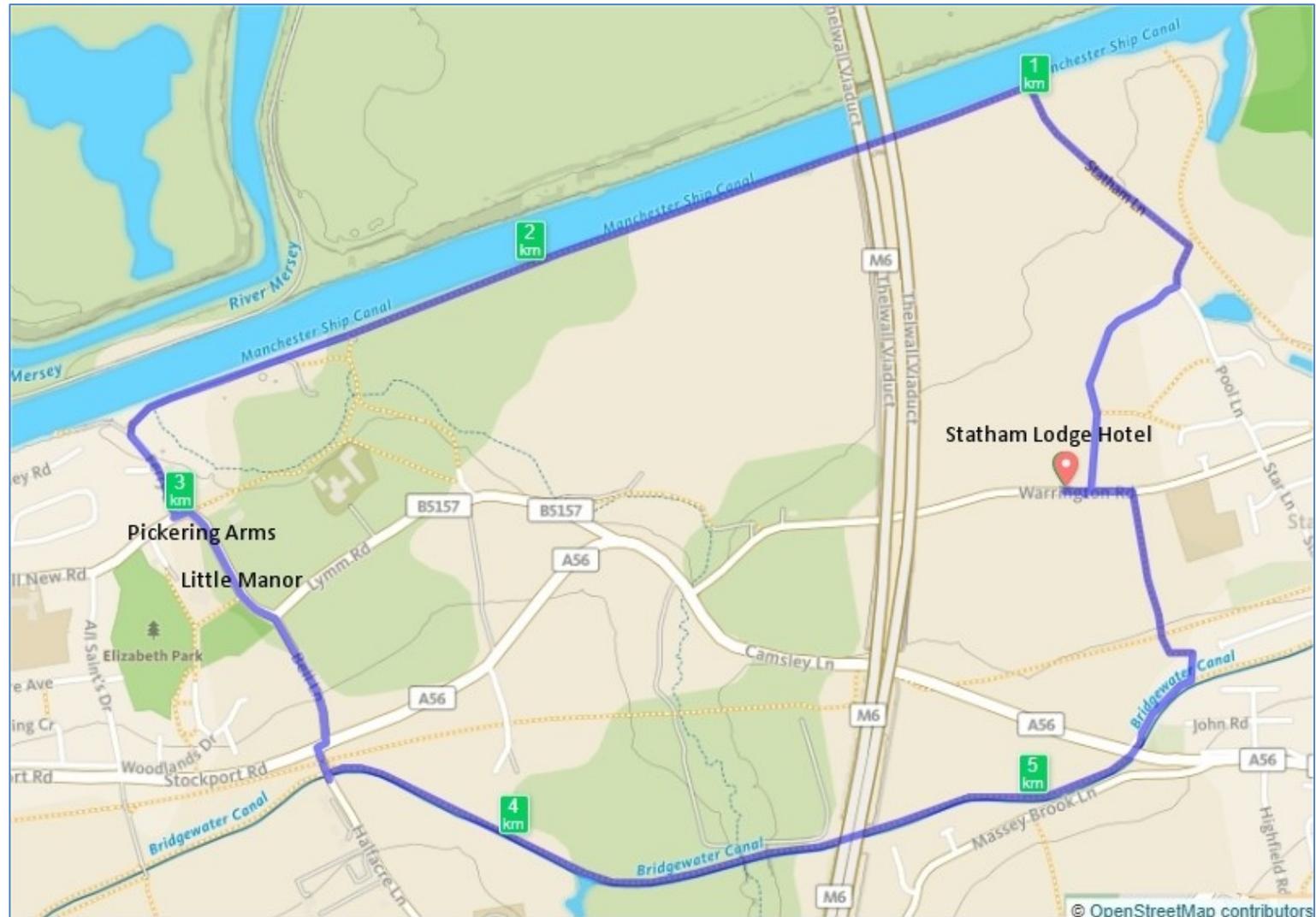


## The Two Canals Walk from Statham Lodge Hotel

A circular route, of about 6 km (4 miles), along the Manchester Ship Canal and the Bridgewater Canal, via Thelwall village. The route follows footpaths, the canal towpath and minor roads. There are a few steps and the path can be muddy in places in the winter.

The outward route is alongside the Manchester Ship Canal, opened in 1894, providing access to shipping from the Mersey Estuary all the way into Manchester and is still used today by large ships transporting goods. The return route follows the smaller Bridgewater Canal, Britain's first purpose-built canal dating from 1761, built to transport coal and goods between Merseyside and Manchester, used today mainly by pleasure boats.

About half way, the pretty village of Thelwall offers two pubs, Pickering Arms and Little Manor, both serving cask ales and providing good pub food (and toilets).



# The Two Canals Walk from Statham Lodge Hotel

From the front of Statham Lodge Hotel, turn left and almost immediately left again into Pool Lane. As Pool Lane turns right, ahead of you is a track, and a metal gate. Go through the gateway and a little way ahead take the track on the left. Follow this track to the Manchester Ship Canal. Follow the path left alongside the Ship Canal (keeping an eye out for large ships passing by).

After a while the path, and the Ship Canal, pass under the M6 motorway, which is carried by the Thelwall Viaduct. If you have ever sat in traffic on this stretch of the M6 it is interesting and reassuring to check out the structure of the viaduct holding up the road.

You'll come to a tarmacked lane, follow this straight on for about half a mile until you reach the kissing gate onto Ferry Lane.

The route turns left here towards Thelwall, but you might like to take a look at the Penny Ferry by turning right and following the path to the ferry quay. The Penny Ferry (costing 11p) carries up to 4 passengers across the Ship Canal and runs at set times each day, weather

permitting (7am to 9am, 12pm to 2pm and 4pm to 6pm).

Return to the gate and walk straight on, towards the centre of Thelwall. You will walk past Thelwall Old Hall on the left, which dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and is Grade 2 listed.

At the road junction, by the Pickering Arms, keep left and follow the road out of the village past the playing fields. Turn right onto Bell Lane opposite the war memorial. Continue to the main road (A56), Stockport Road. Cross carefully and take the small road, Halfacre Lane, opposite and slightly to the right. The single arch bridge ahead is an aqueduct, known as Thelwall Underbridge, which carries the Bridgewater Canal over Halfacre Lane. Take the steps on the left up to the canal. At the canal, turn left and follow the towpath.

Walk along the towpath, looking out for ducks and kingfishers, and pass once more under the M6 motorway. After the next road bridge, carrying the A56, look for the footpath sign on the left at the end of what appears to be a private drive. Walk down the drive and turn left in front of the cottages on the cobbled path. The path turns right, over a wooden

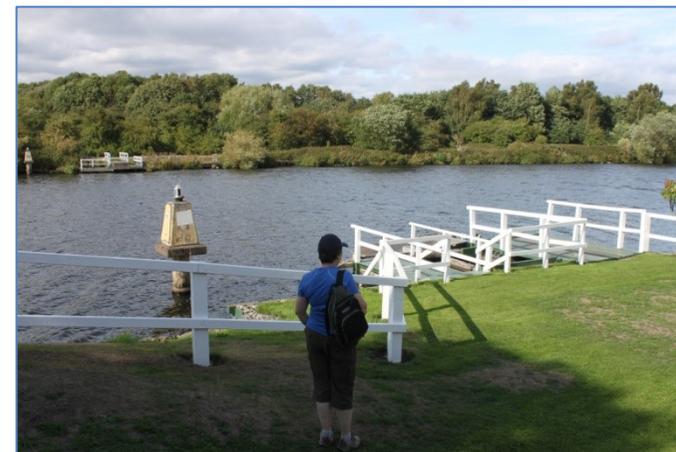
footbridge and down into a field, where sometimes horses graze.

Walk down the side of the field towards the kissing gate, and you can see Statham Lodge Hotel ahead on the left. Go through the kissing gate, cross the road and turn left back to the hotel.

This route is on Runkeeper, find it by searching Lymm, walking routes or by the following link:

<https://runkeeper.com/user/2634177758/route/4844482>

We hope you enjoy the walk,  
Lymm Footpath Volunteers



If you have any comments or suggestions about this walk, please contact us on [footpaths@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:footpaths@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk)