



River Mersey near to Eastham Country Park.

East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

The East Wirral route takes you from the start of the Manchester Ship Canal on the banks of the River Mersey, into the woodlands of Eastham Country Park and through the area of industrial heritage of the east coast to Seacombe.

Along the route you will pass near to the historic village of Port Sunlight, through the Victorian suburb of Rock Park, past Cammell Lairds Shipyard, and along to Woodside where you can see the world's first rail tram system.



From Woodside Ferry Terminal and the U-boat Story you will pass the docks, the Twelve Quays Irish Ferry Terminal and on towards Seacombe, where you will find Spaceport and the best views of the Liverpool Waterfront World Heritage Site.

The River Mersey was once renowned as a polluted river but now it's not unusual to see seals, porpoise and dolphin in the Mersey. Charter fishing boats regularly pass from the Mersey to Liverpool Bay which has become one of the best inshore cod fishing grounds in north west Europe.

East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

Eastham Country Park



1 *Eastham Country Park*

Eastham Country Park holds immense value and is a long-standing, major leisure and nature conservation area. It covers some 43 hectares and it is the last remaining substantial area of undeveloped land with

public access on the Wirral bank of the River Mersey between Birkenhead and Ellesmere Port. Its location gives it particular importance as a local amenity, wildlife and educational resource.

The site includes approximately 26 hectares of mature mixed deciduous woodland, 8 hectares of amenity grassland, 3 hectares of new plantation woodland and 3 hectares of natural grassland and scrub. The park also has over 1km of accessible riverside cliff top and commands superb views across the River Mersey.

There are many features of important historical interest within the park. The owners of the Eastham Ferry Hotel built a Pleasure Gardens and zoo in 1847 as a tourist attraction. Remnants of numerous features still exist, including a bear pit, boating lake, fountains, walls and paths.

The buildings surrounding the courtyard, which now house the Visitor Centre, ranger's office and toilets, are mostly constructed from local sandstone and date from the early 1900s. They were once the stables linked to the ferry service, where coach horses were kept.



View of Liverpool from Eastham Country Park.



② *Job's Ferry*

Job's Ferry at the northern end of Eastham Country Park is the remains of a jetty made from sandstone blocks cut from the adjacent cliffs. The original steps cut into the cliff stone, still lead down to the jetty. The exact

date of Job's Ferry is uncertain, but a ferry service across the River Mersey is believed to have operated from the site as early as the 12th century.



③ *Manchester Ship Canal*

Opened in 1894, the Manchester Ship Canal was one of the last major canals to be constructed in Britain. It stretches for 36 miles from Eastham, on the southern shore of the Mersey estuary 6 miles from Liverpool,

almost to the centre of Manchester.

The Ship Canal has the Barton swing aqueduct, seven swing road bridges, four high level road bridges, five high level railway viaducts and five sets of huge locks at Eastham, Latchford, Irlam, Barton and Mode Wheel.



East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

Eastham Country Park



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Anti-clockwise:

Eastham Village - Eastham Country Park

32 Having left Eastham Village behind, continue along Ferry Rd following the signs for Eastham Country Park.

33 Follow Ferry Rd for some distance until the junction with Torr Drive, where immediately after Torr Drive you are able to join the off-road cycle track on the left in Eastham Country Park (*please note that the start of the Manchester Ship Canal is across the field from this point*).

34 Follow the route to the Visitor Centre which you will find on your right. From the Visitor Centre turn left on the marked cycle track between the car park and the playing fields and the River Mersey to your right beyond that. Continue along this track exiting from Eastham Country Park past the small car park on your right and straight on along this riverside route. When this track comes to the road turn right into Riverview Rd and follow this along its length. At the end of Riverview Rd turn right into the end of Commercial Rd and then immediately left into Riverbank Rd.

Clockwise:

Eastham Country Park - Eastham Village

35 From the end of Riverbank Rd, turn right into the end of Commercial Rd and then immediately left into Riverview Rd. At the roundabout junction with Plantation Rd, turn left onto the riverside cycle track and follow the track passing the car park on your left and into Eastham Country Park. Continue straight along the riverside path to the Visitor Centre and all the facilities in that immediate area.

34-32 Leaving the Eastham Country Park Visitor Centre on your left, enter the woods and turn left. Continue along the track, through the woods past the bear pit fountain on your right across the open grass area and then keeping the road and houses to your left until the track joins the road.

33 Eastham Locks and the start of the Manchester Ship Canal are across the grassed area opposite.

Exit Eastham Country Park, turn right into Ferry Rd and continue along to Eastham Village.

East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

Bromborough Pool



① *Bromborough Pool Village*

Bromborough Pool faces Liverpool from the south bank of the Mersey. In the 19th century, two important companies moved to the area on either side of Bromborough Pool and in the 20th century Bromborough

Dock, which was the world's biggest private dock at the time, was built there. Price's Patent Candle Company built a factory and village for its workers next to the dock in 1854 because it did not have room to expand in London.



③ *The Old Power Station*

In 1918 Lever Brothers built Central Power Station on the banks of the Mersey to service their growing industry. By the 1950s the station was producing power for the various Lever's factories around Port Sunlight and Bromborough, both for the villages and for other

companies operating in the Bromborough Pool area. The station, named Merseyside Power Station, was commissioned in 1958 but was demolished in 1998. Pictured are the original pair of Art Deco gates for the entrance. The site is currently under development.



Bromborough Pool.



② *Port Sunlight Village*

Port Sunlight Village is a true delight. Built at the end of the 19th century, this garden village was originally built as a home for workers at the nearby Lever factory. The village is the work of over 30 architects, and the

variety of architecture and the beauty of the buildings are unique in the area. In 1922 the Lady Lever Art Gallery was opened, housing the magnificent personal collection of the first Lord Leverhulme. It was named in memory of his wife.



④ *Bromborough landfill site*

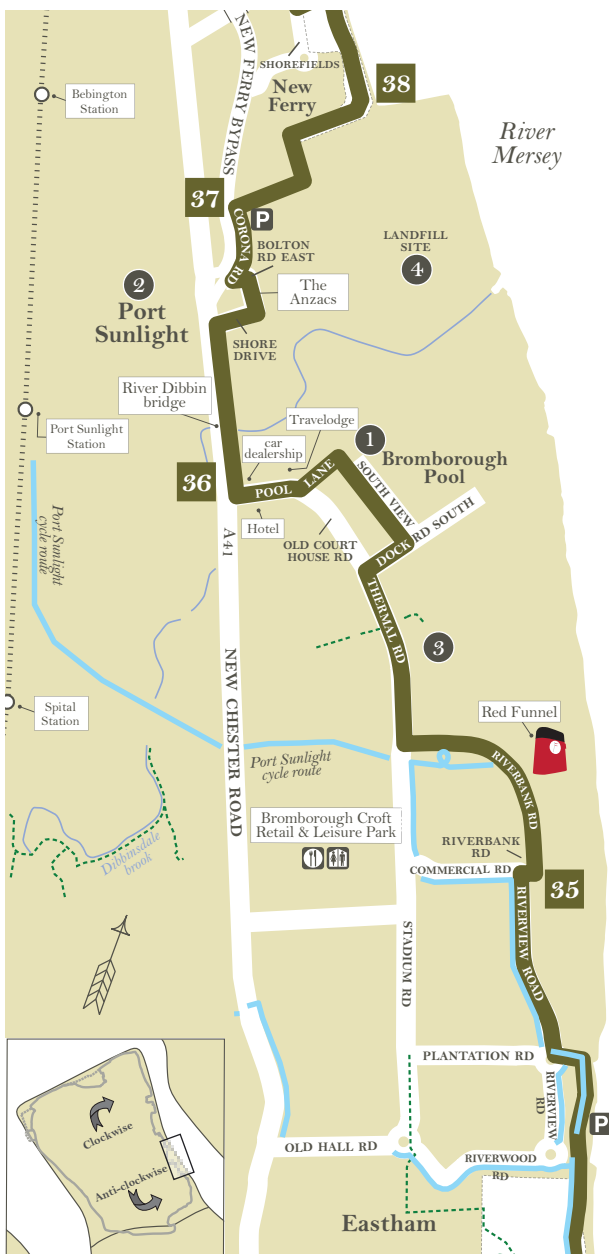
Tipping operations began here in 1991 and ceased in August 2006. During that time, the site and its operations had been acquired by BIFFA. Only the northern end of the site was not tipped on, this being allowed to develop

as a pond which is now home to a variety of wildlife.

The tip is currently being landscaped and capped with topsoil. When completed it is hoped that it will be opened for public access and the route of the circular trail will hopefully go across the site, allowing views over the Mersey estuary to be enjoyed by all.



East Wirral (Mersey Estuary) Bromborough Pool



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Anti-clockwise:

Eastham Country Park - Bromborough Pool

35 Continue to the end of Riverbank Rd. Opposite the red funnel is the start of the Port Sunlight cycle route. Turn right into Thermal Rd, go along to the traffic lights, turn right into Dock Rd South, and turn left along South View in front of the historic village of Bromborough Pool. Turn left into Pool Lane and continue up to the main junction with the A41 with the hotel on the left and the car dealership on the right.

36 Turn right, all users to use the wide pavement, please take note of shared use signs. Cross over the River Dibbin, take the first available right turn into Shore Drive, left into The Anzacs, left into Bolton Rd East and immediate right into Corona Rd.

37 - 38 Continue to the end of Corona Rd to the playing field car park, turn right to go on the right edge of the playing field following the fence line along until you get to the track on the right. Turn right along this track and follow it along to the cliff top path onto Shorefields.

Clockwise:

Bromborough Pool - Eastham Country Park

38 Follow the cliff top path into the woodland, keeping the cliff above the beach and River Mersey on your left. The Bromborough landfill site is ahead. Follow the path through the woods to the playing fields - turn left and follow the fence around to the car park across the fields, keeping the grey railing fence and the houses on your left.

37 Enter the small car park, turn left into Corona Rd, then left into Bolton Rd East and immediately right into The Anzacs, then right into Shore Drive. At the end, turn left onto the shared use pavement of the A41 over the River Dibbin, please take note of shared use signs.

36 Turn left into Pool Lane at the car dealership, turn left after the Travelodge hotel into Pool Lane, then turn right into South View between the playing fields and the houses of historic Bromborough Pool. Turn right into Dock Rd South, then left into Thermal Rd past the site of the Merseyside Power Station. Turn left into Riverbank Rd, opposite the red funnel is the link to the Port Sunlight cycle route.

35 At the end of Riverbank Rd, turn right into Commercial Rd and then immediately left into Riverview Rd.

East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

Shorefields - Rock Park



① *Shorefields*

Originally, in the late 19th century, all the Shorefields area was turned into a 'pleasure park' for rich merchants who had come to live in their expensive Rock Ferry villas. Today, the mudflats are a nationally

important feeding site for wading birds. In 2002, the beach was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), giving it protected status. It is also part of the Mersey Estuary Special Protection Area for birds. Throughout the winter, New Ferry shore supports numerous waders and wildfowl, feeding at low tide on the many invertebrates in the mud.



③ *Royal Mersey Yacht Club*

Founded in 1844 in the reign of Queen Victoria, who was its first patron. For almost 160 years the Club has promoted yacht racing on the River Mersey and adjoining waters. The Club focuses on one design keel-boat

racing and enjoys what is virtually the only stretch of sheltered deep water between Scotland and North Wales.



The Esplanade, Rock Park.



② *Rock Park*

Rock Park is in every way a remarkable example of early Victorian suburban planning. Its beginning aptly enough coinciding with the accession of Victoria in 1837. The most famous resident of Rock Park

was Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American author who lived there between 1853 and 1857, while serving as his country's Consul in Liverpool. Hawthorne, with his interest in the past, would have appreciated the fact that the aesthetic origins of Rock Park can be found in the naturalistic and informal landscape parks created by Capability Brown and William Kent in the 18th century.



④ *Cammell Lairds*

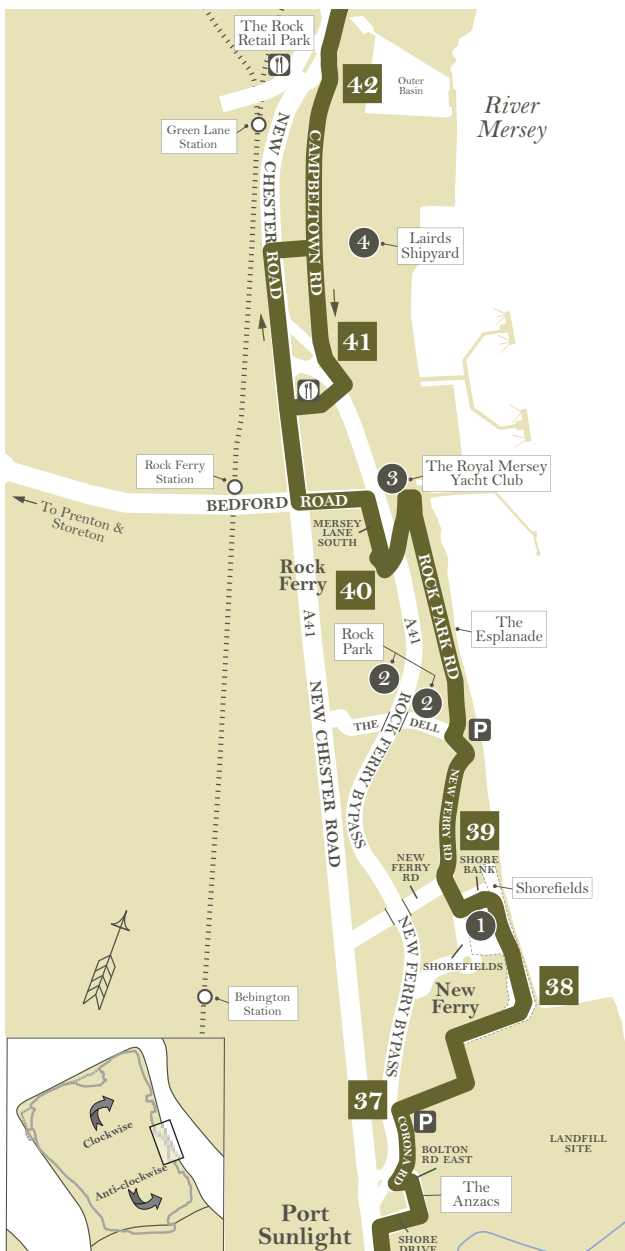
Cammell Laird was started in 1824 by William Laird, a Scottish entrepreneur, who moved to the River Mersey to seek his fortune. He set up a boiler making works on the south bank of the Wallasey Pool. In 1828 he was joined by his

son, John Laird, who realised the possibility of expanding into iron shipbuilding. The Cammell Laird of today still boasts one of the world's largest covered shipbuilding halls.



East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

Shorefields - Rock Park



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Anti-clockwise:

Shorefields - Rock Park

38 From the path in the woods, with the Mersey coastal beach on your right, enter onto the grassed Shorefields open space. Beware of the grassed cliff top. Continue across this grassed area to Shore Bank. Turn left in front of the houses ahead on the left and then at the top of Shore Bank turn right into Shorefields and then right into New Ferry Rd.

39 Continue along New Ferry Rd past the slipway and car park on the right at The Dell and turn right across the grassed area to Rock Park. Enter this historical estate through the pinch gate to the end of Rock Park (by turning right you will see the historic Esplanade, jetty and The Royal Mersey Yacht Club). Turn left and go over the Rock Ferry Bypass.

40 - 42 Having passed over the bypass turn right into Mersey Lane South and then soon after, turn left into Bedford Rd. At the main junction turn right into New Chester Rd and continue along past the large roundabout to the traffic lights. Turn right through to Campbeltown Rd. Turn left to go past Lairds Shipyard on your right then continue to the end of the road opposite The Rock Retail Park.

Clockwise:

Rock Park - Shorefields

42 - 39 Continue past Lairds Shipyard on the left to the end of Campbeltown Rd. Keep to the left of the roundabout and follow the path behind KFC into New Chester Rd. Take care crossing the Rock Ferry Bypass. At the park and children's playground on the left, turn left into Bedford Rd, then right into Mersey Lane South and take the first available left over the road bridge of the Rock Ferry Bypass. Turn right into Rock Park (the old esplanade, jetty and The Royal Mersey Yacht Club are ahead). Pass through this historical estate of houses, through the gated barrier, to the slipway and car park at the Dell.

39 - 38 Continue along New Ferry Rd, forking left into Shorefields, and then shortly after left into Shore Bank. This goes down to the grassed cliff top where you turn right. Follow the cliff top of Shorefields to the woodland, keeping the cliff above the beach and River Mersey on your left. The Bromborough landfill site is ahead and may become accessible in due course. In the meantime, continue on the path to the playing field.

East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)

Rock Park - Seacombe via Woodside & Birkenhead Priory



① *Hamilton Square*

A town square surrounded by Georgian terraces, no two sides of the square are identical.

Building work started in 1826 to the design of Edinburgh architect James Gillespie

Graham. It is second only to

Trafalgar Square in London for having the most Grade I listed buildings in one place in England.



③ *Birkenhead Priory*

The oldest standing building on Merseyside, Birkenhead Priory encapsulates so much of the town's history within a small, enclosed site. Founded in 1150, the monks of this Benedictine monastery looked after

travellers for nearly 400 years and supervised the first regulated 'Ferry 'cross the Mersey'. The tower of St Mary's, the first parish church of the town, shares the site which is now dedicated as a memorial to those lost in the 1939 disaster aboard the Laird's built submarine, Thetis.



Ferry on the Mersey.



② *Woodside Ferry terminal & U-boat Story*

There is no better way to experience Wirral than from the deck of the famous Mersey Ferry. Woodside is one of two sites within Wirral from which you can sail, the other being

Seacombe. Also at Woodside, is the very popular U-boat Story, a £5m attraction telling the story of World War II German submarine U-534.



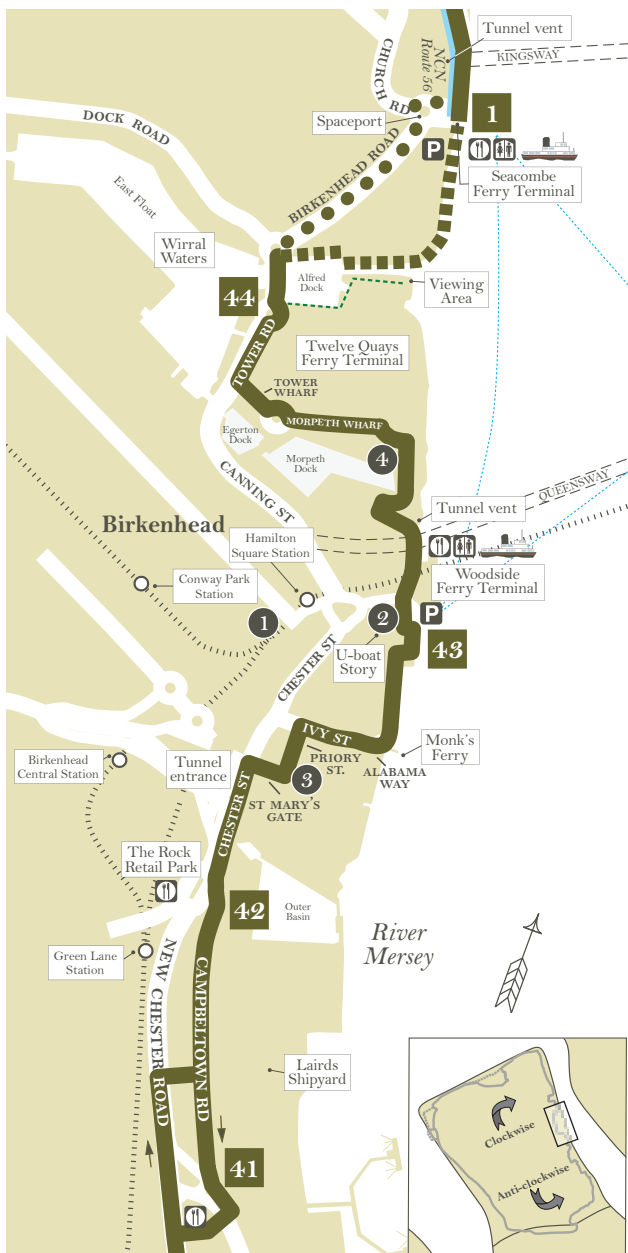
④ *The One O'Clock Gun*

From 1867 up to 18 July 1969, at exactly 1.00pm each day, the 'One O'Clock Gun' overlooking the River Mersey near Morpeth Dock, Birkenhead, would be fired electrically from the Observatory at Bidston Hill.

It was decided to discontinue the tradition of firing the One O'Clock Gun on the grounds of efficiency. The clock used for the firing of the One O'Clock Gun went to the Observatory (now known as the Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory).



East Wirral (Mersey Estuary)
Rock Park - Seacombe via
Woodside & Birkenhead Priory



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Anti-clockwise:

Rock Park - Seacombe

42 - 43 At the end of Campbeltown Rd turn right onto the shared use footway of the A41, please take note of shared use signs. The Mersey Tunnel entrance is over on your left. Turn right into St Mary's Gate to Birkenhead Priory. Turn left into Priory Street right into Ivy Street, Alabama Way down to the slipway at Monks Ferry. Turn left onto the promenade. The River Mersey is on your right, continue along to Woodside Ferry Terminal and the U-boat Story.

43 - 44 Leave the Woodside Ferry Terminal and the U-boat Story behind, keeping the River Mersey on your right. Continue along the promenade, past the Mersey Tunnel brick vent on your left. You are now over the Mersey Tunnel. Continue around the old entrance of Morpeth Dock, past The One O'Clock Gun onto the new public footpath towards Twelve Quays. Turn left and keep the ferry terminal on your right.

44 From Morpeth Wharf, go straight over into Tower Wharf, up to the traffic lights with Tower Rd and turn right and go over the bridge.

At the roundabout for the ferry terminal entrance, there is an additional footpath to the new viewing area that can be accessed along the footpath starting on the left of the main ferry terminal entrance.

From the ferry terminal entrance roundabout, continue over the bascule bridge to the Alfred Dock and its entrance to your right.

Cyclists to take great care on this section.

It is recommended that cyclists dismount.

Cyclists to fork right at the roundabout and follow the A554 to Seacombe Ferry terminal.

Walkers: Enter the marked public footpath with Alfred Dock on right. Pass the end of East Street and keep left of Dockmaster's gated entrance and past his office on your right. Views of Liverpool re-emerge.

Continue onto the promenade towards the Seacombe Ferry Terminal.

Clockwise:

Seacombe - Rock Park

1 - 44 Initially, walkers and cyclists will have to take a separate route.

Walkers: Exit from the Seacombe Ferry Terminal and turn left out onto the promenade keeping the river Mersey on your left. Follow the promenade along until it turns right to go alongside Alfred Dock. Please keep to the designated footpath at this location. Exit from the dockside at the roundabout and turn left to go over the bascule bridge.

Cyclists: Exit from the Seacombe Ferry Terminal and follow the walkway passing Spaceport on the left. At Birkenhead Rd turn left and follow this road to the roundabout and fork left to go over the bascule bridge.

Cyclists must take great care on this section.

It is recommended that cyclists dismount.

44 At the roundabout for the ferry terminal there is an additional public footpath to the new viewing area. It can be accessed along the footpath to the left of the main vehicle entrance. If you go to the viewing area, stay on the marked path keeping Alfred Dock on your left, past the River Mersey entrance to Alfred Dock to the viewpoint. Please return the same way to the ferry terminal entrance roundabout. Opposite is the Birkenhead Docks, as pictured, the location of the proposed Wirral Waters scheme.



Birkenhead Docks with the River Mersey and Liverpool in the background.

44-43 From the ferry terminal entrance roundabout, go over the next bridge and then turn left at the traffic lights into Tower Wharf. Then go straight over the next roundabout into Morpeth Wharf keeping the ferry terminal on your left. Continue to the sea wall promenade and turn right. Continue along the new public footpath past the One O'Clock Gun. This path leads around the old entrance to Morpeth Dock, past the end of Pacific Rd and up to Woodside Ferry Terminal and the U-boat Story.

43-42 From Woodside Ferry Terminal and the U-boat Story, continue along the promenade keeping the River Mersey on your left. Follow the route to the slipway at Monks Ferry. Turn right into Alabama Way towards Birkenhead Priory. Continue straight over the crossroads into Ivy Street. Turn left into Priory Street and the historic Birkenhead Priory is along on the left. Turn right into St Mary's Gate opposite Birkenhead Priory and to then left at the end - the Mersey Tunnel entrance area is ahead - onto the shared use footway of the A41. Please take note of the shared use signs. Turn left into Campbeltown Rd and past the Lairds Shipyard on your left.

