

## By Train

Regular, fast mainline connections from Manchester, London and Scotland to Lancaster Station. From Lancaster you pick up a scenic local train stopping en route around Morecambe Bay to Barrow-in-Furness, and takes you over the Kent and Leven Estuaries.

**National Rail Enquiries** 08457 484950

**Trainline** [www.trainline.com](http://www.trainline.com)

**Traveline** 0871 200 2233

## By Car

40 minutes drive from Junction 36 off the M6.

## By Bus

From Kendal or Barrow on X6 service (Mon – Sun) to Ulverston.

For timetable [www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/buses)

## Access to the canal

You can access the linear walk from either end of the walk. The route starts from the A590 which is convenient for public transport. If starting from The Bay Horse at Canal Foot use OS Grid Ref: SD 313 777, Post code: LA12 9EL.

## Places to visit / facilities

Ulverston is the birthplace of Stan Laurel and to celebrate this, the town houses the world's only Laurel and Hardy Museum. There's also a Laurel and Hardy statue in County Square.

The Sir John Barrow Monument stands on Hoad Hill overlooking Ulverston and Morecambe Bay. It was erected in 1850 as a tribute to Sir John Barrow, a naval administrator and traveller born in Ulverston.

Conishead Priory, just outside Ulverston, is home to one of the largest Buddhist Communities in Europe. The Buddhist Temple and historic mansion are set in 70 acres of woodlands and gardens on the shores of Morecambe Bay.

Ulverston marks the start of the Cumbria Way, a 70 mile walk through the Lake District to Carlisle.

**More to Explore** is brought to you by **Morecambe Bay Partnership**, a local charity that celebrates and conserves; connects and collaborates. Our supporters are making the Bay a better place by sharing skills, volunteering and donating. By working together we make great things happen. Support us at [www.morecambebay.org.uk/donate](http://www.morecambebay.org.uk/donate).

## Further information - accommodation, food/drink

Ulverston Tourist Information  
Tel/Fax: 01229 588994

Bay Tourism Association  
[www.baytourism.co.uk](http://www.baytourism.co.uk)

Grange Now - local paper  
[www.ulverstonnow.co.uk](http://www.ulverstonnow.co.uk)

Go Lakes website  
[www.golakes.co.uk](http://www.golakes.co.uk)

Visit Ulverston  
[www.visitulverston.com](http://www.visitulverston.com)



MORECAMBE BAY  
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# Ulverston Canal ALL-ABILITY ROUTE GUIDE



 ROUTES  MAPS  HIRE

Project led by:

**MORECAMBE BAY  
PARTNERSHIP**

Funding Partners:



For information about hire, routes, itineraries and maps visit

[www.moretoexplore.uk](http://www.moretoexplore.uk)

# Ulverston Canal

## ROUTE GUIDE

### ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

#### 📍 START POINT

The route starts from the car park near the Bay Horse Inn at Canal Foot. Parking is available and public transport is also available.

#### Public transport 🚌

Canal Foot is served by bus route 60 (limited service). It is not a low floor vehicle. Ordnance Survey Map: Outdoor Leisure 7,



#### Accessible toilets ♿

Public toilets: The Bay Horse Restaurant and Booths Supermarket,



#### Refreshments 🍽️

The Bay Horse and Restaurant or Booths Supermarket.



## Ulverston Canal: from town to sea

### History of Ulverston Canal

The tides have caused railways, canals and harbours to be built for moving materials out of the Bay area. The Ulverston Canal is claimed to be the deepest, widest and straightest canal in the UK. It is entirely straight and on a single level. Designed by the architect John Rennie, famous for building the first Waterloo Bridge in London, the canal was completed in 1796, in order to provide the town of Ulverston, one and a half miles from the coast at Morecambe Bay, with a port. At 15 feet (4.6 m) deep and 66 feet (20 m) wide, it was intended to take very large ships.

The first vessel to enter was the "Sally", a London trader. In the following few years, canal offices, warehouses and yards were built. The stone pier at Canal Foot was constructed in 1815. Initially, a few hundred vessels entered each year, peaking at 944 vessels in the year 1846. The vessels were transporting goods such as coal into the Furness area, and taking away large quantities of locally mined iron ore and slate. In addition, a substantial shipbuilding industry developed on the canal.

In the days before the construction of the Furness Railway, Furness was cut off by the mountainous Lake District on its only landward side; the region was accessed only by crossing the sands of Morecambe Bay.

The opening of the Furness Railway in 1846 seriously damaged the profitability of the canal, which was eventually bought by the railway company. It was used commercially until the First World War, and was officially abandoned at the end of the Second World War, in 1945. It has since been maintained by Ulverston town council. There is a public footpath on its eastern side, but the western side is industrialized, being the location of a large GlaxoSmithKline factory.



The Furness railway on route between Grange-over-Sands and Barrow-in-Furness crosses the canal on a viaduct, and a dismantled branch line also crosses the canal on route to the Glaxo works.

### Views

From Canal Foot there are panoramic views across the Leven Estuary and Cartmel Sands to Morecambe.

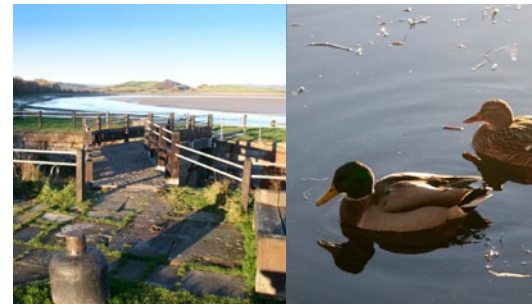
Inland views stretch over industrial heritage and agricultural land to the Barrow Monument on Hoard Hill and the Coniston Fells in the far distance.

### Sounds and Sights

Though only a mile long there are several different species of fish in the canal, including: carp, bream, tench, roach, rudd, perch and pike. Listen out for the splash of fish leaping and landing in the water.

Whether poised motionless by the water's edge or flying laboriously on those enormous wings, herons are a regular and welcome sight along the canal. Though they mainly eat fish, herons are very adaptable when it comes to diet and methods of hunting. Herons will eat everything from beetles to mice.

The GlaxoSmithKline factory is on the opposite side of the canal. The heavy industry of the pharmaceutical plant provides a contrast to the greenery and wildlife of the canal. It's also a reminder of Ulverston and the canal's industrial past.



### Ulverston Canal and accessibility 📍

4.5 km / 2.8 miles ⌚ 2 hours GRADE 📉

Although now disused, Ulverston Canal is claimed to be the deepest, widest and straightest canal in the UK. Now partially restored as a recreational corridor, it is a haven for wildlife. There is usually some temporary public artwork along the canal. The towpath is a very popular walking route, so there is usually a good deal of human interest to observe.

This linear route follows the canal side path, and provides enjoyable access for walkers, wheelchair users and those with pushchairs and young children. Apart from two short gradients of 3° the route is level, but there are slight crossfalls in places. It's suitable for manual wheelchairs, as well as pushchairs, powerchairs and scooters.

The start point at Canal Foot is on the coast and offers panoramic views across the Leven Estuary and Cartmel Sands to Morecambe. Inland views stretch over industrial heritage and agricultural land to the Barrow Monument on Hoard Hill and the Coniston Fells in the far distance.

Parking is available at both ends of the route with disabled parking at the start of the route. The route is close to Sandside Lodge SEN School.

