



The **Penny Ferry** at Thelwall has been in operation since the Ship Canal opened in 1894 and is the last hand ferry on its entire length. It replaced a pontoon system that was used to ferry livestock as well as passengers. The quaint ferryman's shed and carefully maintained lawns are worth seeing even when the ferry is not operating.

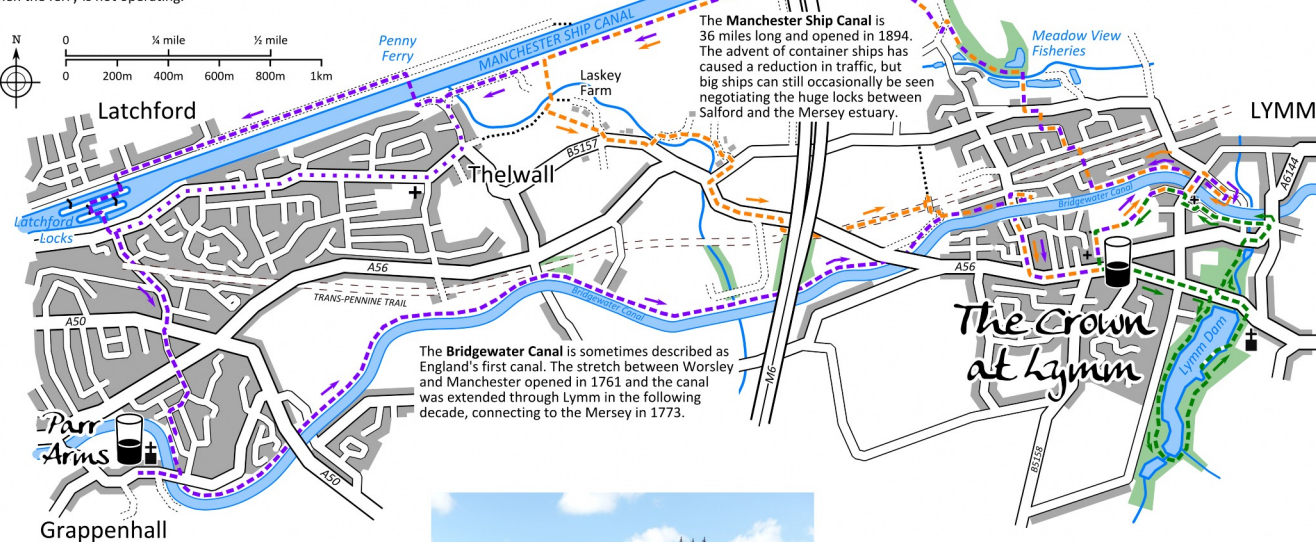
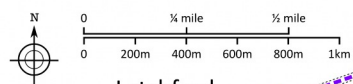


In stark contrast to their quaint and peaceful neighbour a mile to the west, the **Thelwall Viaducts** carry thousands of M6 motorists noisily across the Ship Canal every day. The northbound bridge (left) was built in 1963 and was the longest motorway bridge in England at the time. The southbound bridge (right) was added in 1995.

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Lymm Cross (right) is a Grade I listed building. The cross itself dates from the mid-17th century and is surrounded by a square pavilion in red Cheshire sandstone with bronze sundials (added 1897) on three of its gables. The adjacent stocks are Grade II listed and share the cross's natural sandstone plinth.



The **Parr Arms** stands in a fine position next to **St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall**. A carving on the church tower is said to have inspired Lewis Carroll's grinning Cheshire Cat in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



Lymm Dam was created in 1824 when a turnpike road was built between Warrington and Stockport. The area, previously part of the Lymm Hall Estate, is now a local beauty spot and much-loved amenity. Kingfishers and Cormorants are among the wildlife on view.

Walkers are always very welcome at The Crown at Lymm, but we ask that visitors with dogs or walking boots limit themselves to the garden and hard-floored areas. Large groups are advised to contact us in advance and those planning to dine may wish to book a table to avoid disappointment.



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Three circular walks from the Crown at Lymm



Lymm Dam 2.2 miles: Easy

An easy stroll round Lymm's best-known beauty spot, plus a visit to the historic village centre.

Two Canals Walk 4.5 miles: Fairly easy

Varied rural walking including contrasting sections of canals that are among England's youngest and oldest.

Penny Ferry & Grappenhall 7.5 miles: Moderate

Much of interest, including an (optional) crossing of the historic Penny Ferry and a visit to pretty Grappenhall.

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OPEN: Mon to Sat 12 noon-11pm
Sun 12 noon-10.30pm
FOOD SERVED: Mon to Sun 12 noon-9pm
Parr Arms, Grappenhall tel 01925 212120

Lymm Dam (2.2 miles: Easy)

Allow 1½ hours. A few uneven woodland sections and steps, but mostly level and well surfaced and suitable for all-terrain buggies.

1 From the front door of the Crown, turn right and walk down the main road towards the centre of Lymm. **2** At the junction with Eagle Brow on the left (signposted “Village Centre” and “Library”), keep straight on along the A56. **3** After quarter of a mile, at the start of Lymm Dam and opposite the wrought-iron arch to the Dingle, turn right along a path beside the lake. **4** Follow the Waterside Path for 500 yards or so, always taking the left-hand option at every major junction in order to keep as near the water as possible. **5** When a boardwalk joins from the right, and below a wooden footbridge, bear left below a low mossy cliff and follow the path to cross the Wishing Bridge. **6** After a second footbridge, bear left. **7** The path climbs a little to round an inlet; after this, keep left down some wooden steps to meet a boardwalk that runs right along the edge of the lake. **8** When the boardwalk ends, climb past some worn sandstone rocks by a geological interpretation board. **9** Walk out to the main road and turn left to cross the dam. **10** At the far end, turn right under the wrought-iron arch and follow a surfaced path down The Dingle to emerge by the Lower Dam. **11** Turn right and walk up to Lymm Cross. **12** Bear left to the canal bridge, but do not cross: turn left along the near bank after the Golden Fleece. **13** Follow the canalside path across the Bridgewater Street aqueduct and skirt a car park, before exiting via Davies Way, passing the library and United Reformed Church to emerge in Brookfield Road. **14** Turn right then immediately left into Maltmans Road. **15** At the end of the road enter the Ridgway Grundy Memorial Park and walk past the children’s play equipment. **16** Follow the metalled path between two football pitches, then follow the path to the left to emerge opposite the Crown.

Penny Ferry & Grappenhall 7.5 miles: Moderate

Allow 4–5 hours. Several suburban interludes with some road walking. The Penny Ferry (11p per head as of summer 2017) operates 7 days a week from 7–9am, 12–2pm and 4–6pm, but may not run in even quite moderate winds. An alternative route avoiding the ferry is described below. Some short sections may be muddy after rain or slightly overgrown in summer.

1 From the front door of the Crown, cross over and follow the tarmac path to the right of St Winefride’s Catholic Church. **2** Walk down the side of a football pitch then follow the path to the right between pitches beyond a litter bin. **3** Follow the path through a play area and exit the park into Maltmans Road. **4** At the end of the road, opposite the United Reformed Church, turn left, cross the canal, then turn right into Whitbarrow Road. **5** After 150 yards, turn right onto the towpath, and follow it to the right to pass under the bridge you crossed

earlier. **6** After 450 yards, turn right onto a narrow signposted path between gardens. **7** Cross Statham Avenue and follow the path opposite. **8** Cross the Trans-Pennine Trail (here following a disused railway) and again follow the path opposite. **9** On reaching Albany Road, turn left past a parade of shops and then right into Whitesands Road. **10** Pass The Farthings on the right, and follow Whitesands Road round to the left. **11** Fifty yards beyond the bend, turn right down another narrow path between houses. **12** Cross and turn left along Whitbarrow Road. **13** After 140 yards, turn right down another narrow path blocked by a bollard. **14** After a gate, pass between fishing lakes and cross a broad ditch, beyond which the path bends left by another overgrown pool. **15** Follow the winding path through trees until it emerges in the corner of the field, where you bear right and follow the field edge to a gate into a track. **16** Turn left then immediately right, into a hedged green lane that leads to the Ship Canal. **17** A permitted bridleway follows the canal and passes under the two Thelwall Viaducts. **18** Continue in similar vein along the canal, passing through a waymarked gate, and then a further gate a little way on. **19** Follow the path as it leaves the canalside and climbs slightly before returning close to the water’s edge. **20** Continue along the canal until you join a metalled track, which leads to the bottom of Ferry Lane, Thelwall. **21** Turn right to reach the Penny Ferry. *(If the ferry is not running, turn left along Ferry Lane, then turn right by the Pickering Arms and follow Thelwall New Road for a mile to Latchford Locks; turn left into Bradshaw Lane and jump to step 26, below.)* **22** If the ferry is operating, use it to cross the Ship Canal then turn left along a broad track that runs parallel to the canal. **23** Pass an industrial estate on your right, then continue along the potholed entrance road before turning left in front of a house to cross the enormous lock gates at Latchford Locks (take care: deep water). **24** Walk between the locks to the second lock-gate crossing, then wind your way as directed to the other side of the canal. **25** On reaching the road, turn left then immediately right into Bradshaw Lane. **26** Pass under the disused railway and continue along the road until you meet the A50 Knutsford Road. **27** Cross at the crossing and follow East View, opposite. **28** Cross the A56 Chester Road into Lindi Drive opposite. **29** Follow the road round to the right by the end of Portola Close, to St Wilfrid’s Drive. **30** Cross the road and turn left, looking out for a path on your right after 50 yards that leads to the Bridgewater Canal. **31** Turn left along the towpath. At the next bridge, you have the opportunity to cross into cobbled Grappenhall for refreshments at the Parr Arms, next to the church. **32** Otherwise continue along the towpath to pass under the A50. **33** An aqueduct carries you discreetly over Cliff Lane, and the next landmark, after a further half-mile, is Pickering’s Bridge. **34** Continue over another aqueduct after a further 400 yards, then after another three-quarters of a mile pass under the M6. **35** 600 yards further on you pass under the A56 and the towpath briefly follows a driveway. **36** You finally leave the canal after passing over Barsbank Lane Aqueduct: double-back left down a track, then turn left under the canal. **37** Climb Barsbank Lane to the A56, and turn left to return to the Crown.

Two Canals Walk 4.5 miles: Fairly easy

Allow 2–2½ hours. Generally level; some paths may be muddy after rain or slightly overgrown in summer.

Follow steps **1** to **19** of the **Penny Ferry & Grappenhall** walk, above.

20 At a junction of hedged paths, turn left, leaving the Ship Canal firmly behind you, and shortly cross Thelwall Brook. **21** Below Laskey Farm, ignore the bridleway on your left, instead bearing right to meet a footpath by a wall. **22** Go through the gate on your left and cross a paddock, emerging in Laskey Lane opposite a white-painted cottage; turn right and walk out to the road. **23** Turn left for 150 yards, passing a half-timbered cottage and brick-built stable, then turn left into a driveway with a footpath sign. **24** Before reaching a business premises, the path bears right through a garden to the right of a line of laurels. **25** When you emerge in front of a paddock and barn, bear right then left through a gate. **26** The official line of the path continues straight on across a garden, but the occupiers would probably prefer you to turn right out to the road. **27** Turn right and pass a thatched cottage to reach the A56. **28** Cross and follow the pavement to the left, passing Camsley Grange Farm, until you reach the M6 overbridge. **29** Follow the Trans-Pennine Trail (on your right) under the motorway, then drop left under the A56. **30** Leave the Trail at the next footbridge and cross the bridge; the path winds in front of some cottages and then out to the Bridgewater Canal. **31** Turn left and follow the towpath for 300 yards until you pass over an aqueduct. **32** Beyond the aqueduct, double back down a track to Barsbank Lane, and then left under the canal. **33** Walk up Barsbank Lane to the A56, then turn left to return to the Crown.

The Crown at Lymm



The Crown is easy to find on the main A56 and there is plenty of parking available, though we ask that you let us know if you wish to leave your car while you walk.

We pride ourselves on offering a range of quality cask ales and beers, an extensive selection of wines along with a menu packed full of mouth-watering dishes and daily specials for you to enjoy (booking advised).

We hope you enjoy these carefully chosen and described walks (one of which features our sister pub, the Parr Arms at Grappenhall) and look forward to quenching your thirst or satisfying your appetite on your return.