

The 31st British Rowing Tour

Rivers Weaver and Dee

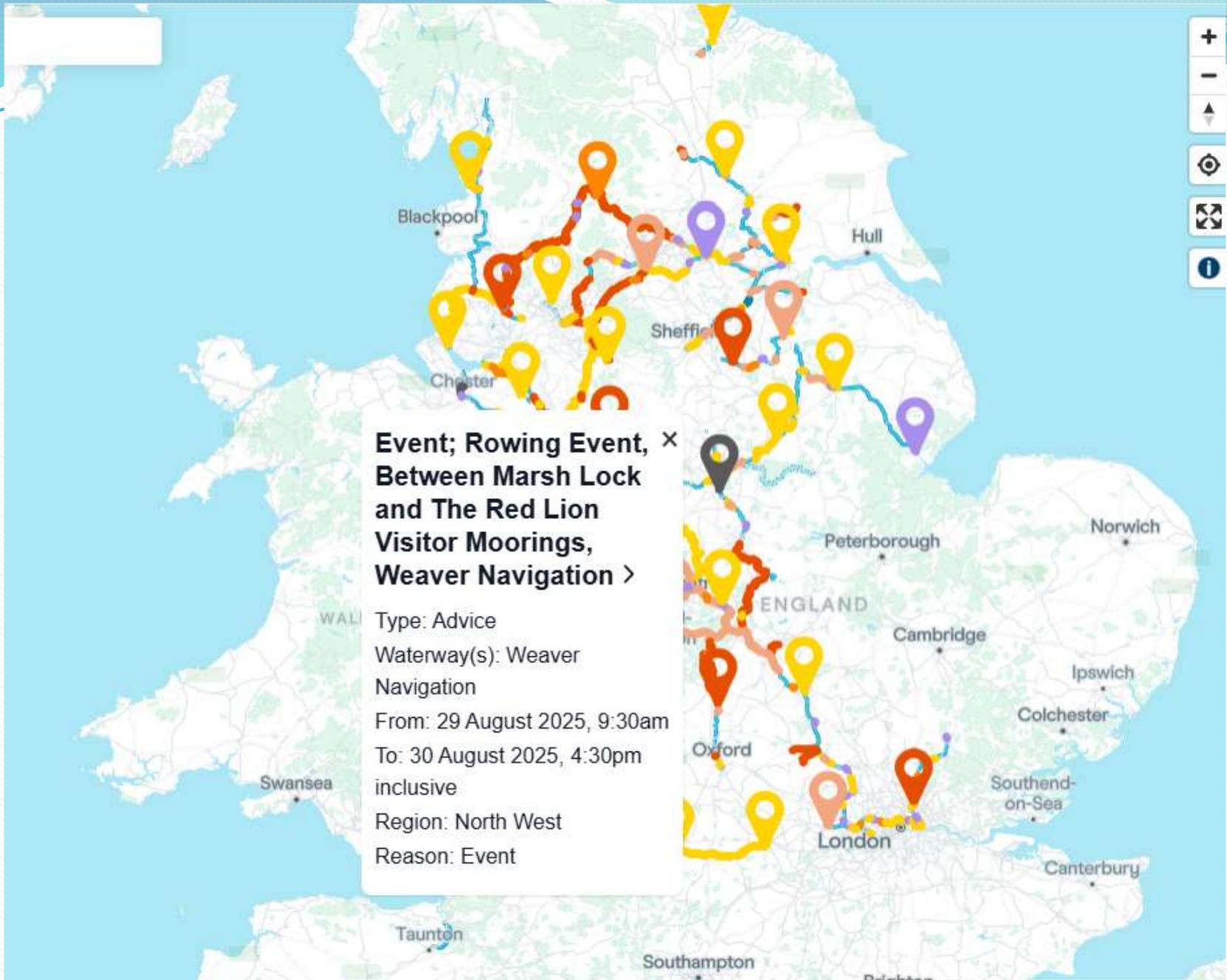
28th – 31st August 2025

Briefing for participants

- Outline timetable
- Boat rigging
- Essential equipment
- Navigation rules
- The route

Where are we going?

- Days 1 and 2 on the River Weaver/Weaver Navigation
 - Friday morning Winsford to Northwich
 - Friday afternoon visit National Waterways Museum (no rowing)
 - Saturday Northwich to Runcorn
- Day 3 on the River Dee
 - Chester to Aldford Iron Bridge and back



Event; Rowing Event, Between Marsh Lock and The Red Lion Visitor Moorings, Weaver Navigation >

Type: Advice
Waterway(s): Weaver Navigation
From: 29 August 2025, 9:30am
To: 30 August 2025, 4:30pm inclusive
Region: North West
Reason: Event

Outline timetable

- Thursday 28th August
 - 14.00 – 6 people needed at Runcorn to help load 2 boats on our trailer
 - 15.00 onwards - check in at Forest Hills Hotel, Frodsham.
- Friday 29th August
 - 07.45 – on the bus! Unload trailers and rig boats at Winsford.
Row to Northwich RC, lunch at club.
Coach to National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port.
- Saturday 31st August
 - 08.30 bus departs from hotel.
Row from Northwich to Runcorn with picnic at Grange School.
Derig boats and load trailers.
 - Gala dinner at hotel (blazers/ties for gents, cocktail dresses for ladies)
- Sunday 31st August
 - 08.30 bus departs to Chester. Unload trailers and rig boats.
Row as far as you want (suggest turning at Aldford Iron Bridge 7 km from Chester).
 - Derig boats and load trailers, then lunch. End of tour.

Before we start...

- Apologies to those of you who are expert boat riggers!
- Points to remember:
 - There will be 3 trailers. Find the trailer with your boat on and rig that boat. Help each other to lift boats.
 - Riggers are specific to each boat. When unloading the trailer, keep the riggers with their boat and don't mix them up. If in doubt, check the serial numbers
 - Riggers are numbered 1 to 4, 1 being bow and 4 stroke
 - Which way round? The fixed stay (front stay) points towards the stern (rudder end).
 - Back stays, if present, should only be fitted in the bow position as they prevent the sculls from being swung round in the locks.

Nuts and washers

- Before you put the riggers on, take the nuts and washers off the boat and **PUT THEM IN A SAFE PLACE**, e.g. in the heel traps or on the hatch covers.
- Fit the rigger onto the boat, then add the washers, then the nuts.
- If there are several hole positions (e.g. top, middle, bottom), make sure they are all the same.
- Check that you have put the riggers on the right way round, then tighten the nuts
- Check the top nuts are tight if back stays are fitted.

And at the end of the trip...

- Remove the nuts and washers and PUT THEM IN A SAFE PLACE as before
- Remove the riggers and tie or bind them in sets of 4 (i.e. bow side and stroke side)
- Replace the washers and nuts and ensure they are tight
- Tighten the stretcher nuts and tie down/bungee the seats.
- Check that the hatch covers are tight.
- Remember – if it can come off in transport, then it will!
- Ensure that each boat and its riggers and rudder, plus the sculls, go on the right trailer.

And off we go....

The captains' morning briefing

- Have you got a route map?
 - Where do we start?
 - Which direction?
 - What are the hazards?
 - Weather forecast
 - What do we do if we have a problem?
 - Where can we stop (for loos, refreshments etc.)?
 - Where should we change coxes?



The cox's essential equipment – Paddle and boat hook



What's it for?

- Manoeuvring into and out of locks
- Pulling into the bank
- Getting out of tight spaces
- Remember you can paddle backwards as well as forwards!

Lifejackets / Buoyancy aids required to be worn in locks



Manual – not automatic as it may inflate when splashed! Should have a crotch strap.



Buoyancy aid – acceptable but not ideal as it won't keep your head out of the water



Waist worn buoyancy aid – designed for swimmers not rowers!

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN!

Navigation Rules

- Keep to the right (as seen from the cox's seat)
- Pass oncoming traffic port to port (strokeside to strokeside)
- Overtake towards the middle of the river
- Commercial traffic may need to be in the centre of the river and will not get out of your way!
- Watch for navigation signs round islands, junctions and particularly approaching locks, e.g. **CHANNEL** **LOCK** or **DANGER**

The Route

Winsford to Northwich

Northwich to Grange School (Acton)

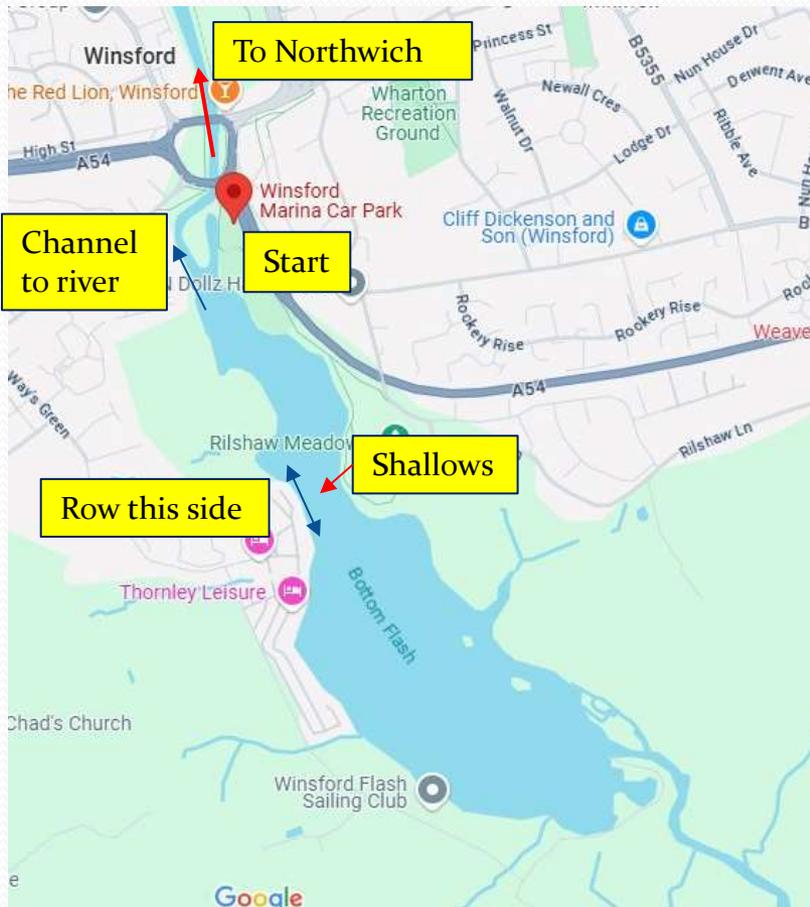
Grange School to Runcorn

River Dee Chester to Aldford

Locks on the Weaver

- There are only 4 locks on the Weaver (plus Marsh lock onto the Manchester Ship Canal, which we will not go through).
- In theory all the locks on the Weaver are manned.
- The locks all have a large chamber and a small chamber – some use the large one and some the small one. These should all be big enough for 4 – 6 boats.
- The Weaver lockkeepers may not be familiar with rowing boats (unlike the Thames).

Day 1 a.m. Winsford to Northwich 8.4 km. 1 lock (plus circuit of lake)



Launching is from a slipway.
You will need water shoes!

Before setting off down river,
do a circuit of Winsford
Bottom Flash (lake) but
watch out for shallow areas.



Winsford Marina



Newbridge Swing Bridge



Vale Royal swing bridge



Vale Royal Lock



In the lock



Water outflow – keep clear



Stay upstream of ladder

Safe area

Keep away

Northwich Rowing Club

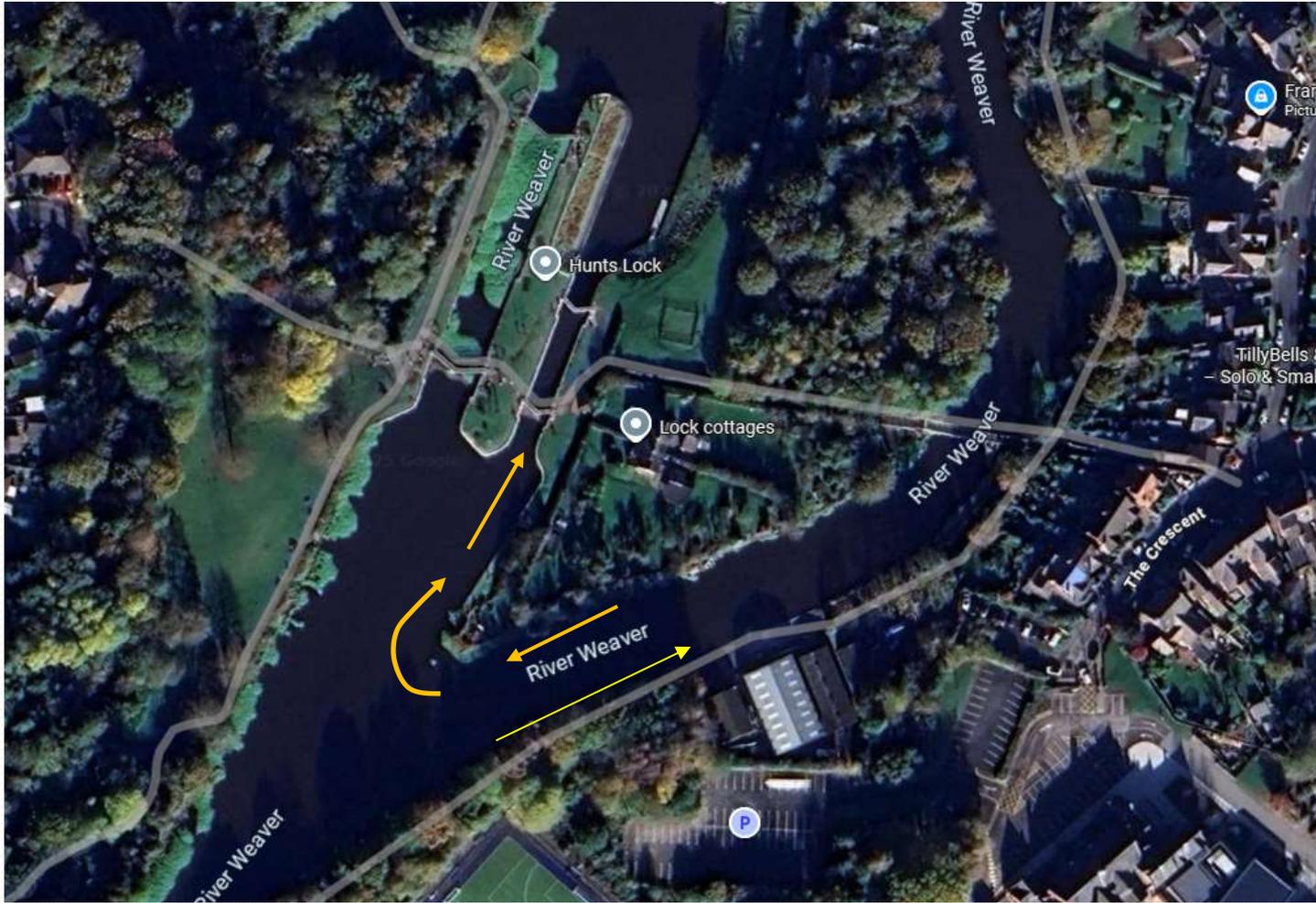


Take boats out at Northwich RC and store in car park

Lunch at Northwich RC

Coach to National Waterways Museum at Ellesmere Port

Northwich RC and Hunts Lock



Day 2 a.m. Northwich to Grange School, Acton 9.8 km. 2 locks



Town Swing Bridge

Anderton Boat Lift



Saltersford Locks



Grange School, Acton

Picnic at Grange School
BC.

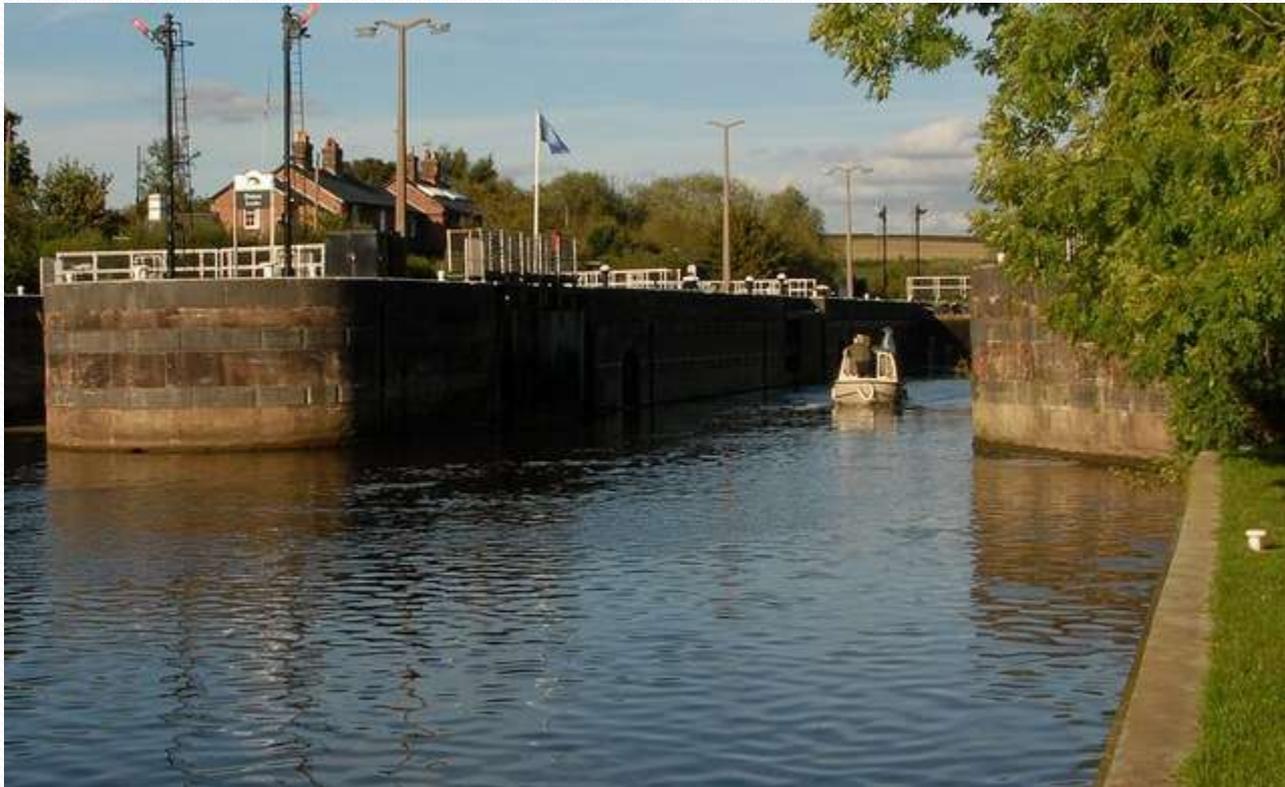
Optional visit to the
Leigh Arms pub



Acton Swing Bridge



Day 2 p.m. Grange School to Runcorn RC - 10.3 km. 1 lock



Dutton Locks

Journey's end!

Take boats out at Runcorn RC, derig and load trailers

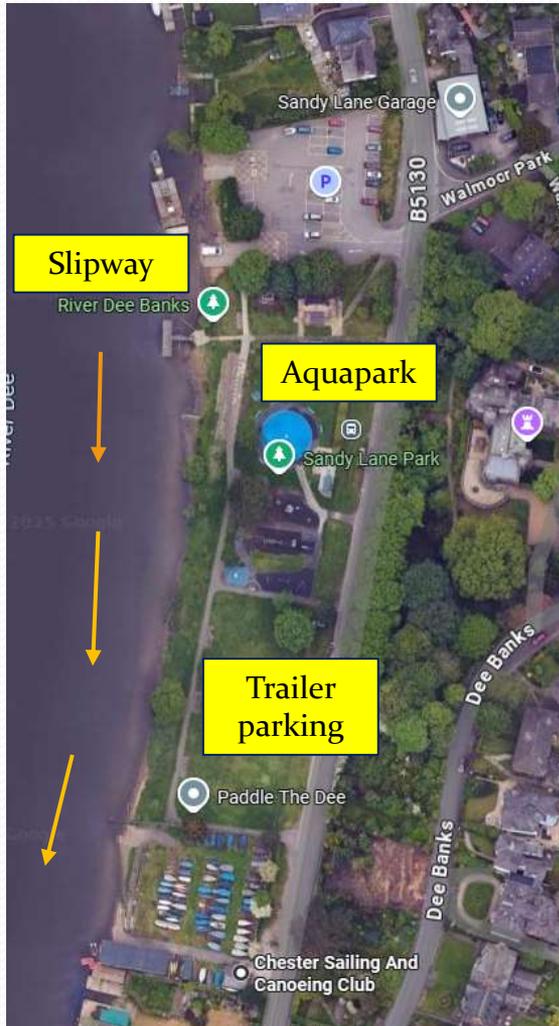


Optional Extension to Marsh Lock

Early arrivals could continue past Runcorn RC to Marsh Lock where the Weaver Navigation joins the Manchester Ship Canal, then return to Runcorn RC



Day 3 River Dee Chester to Aldford approx. 7 km. each way, no locks



Unload trailers and rig boats on grass area adjacent to Sailing Club. Then carry boats to the slipway next to the car park.

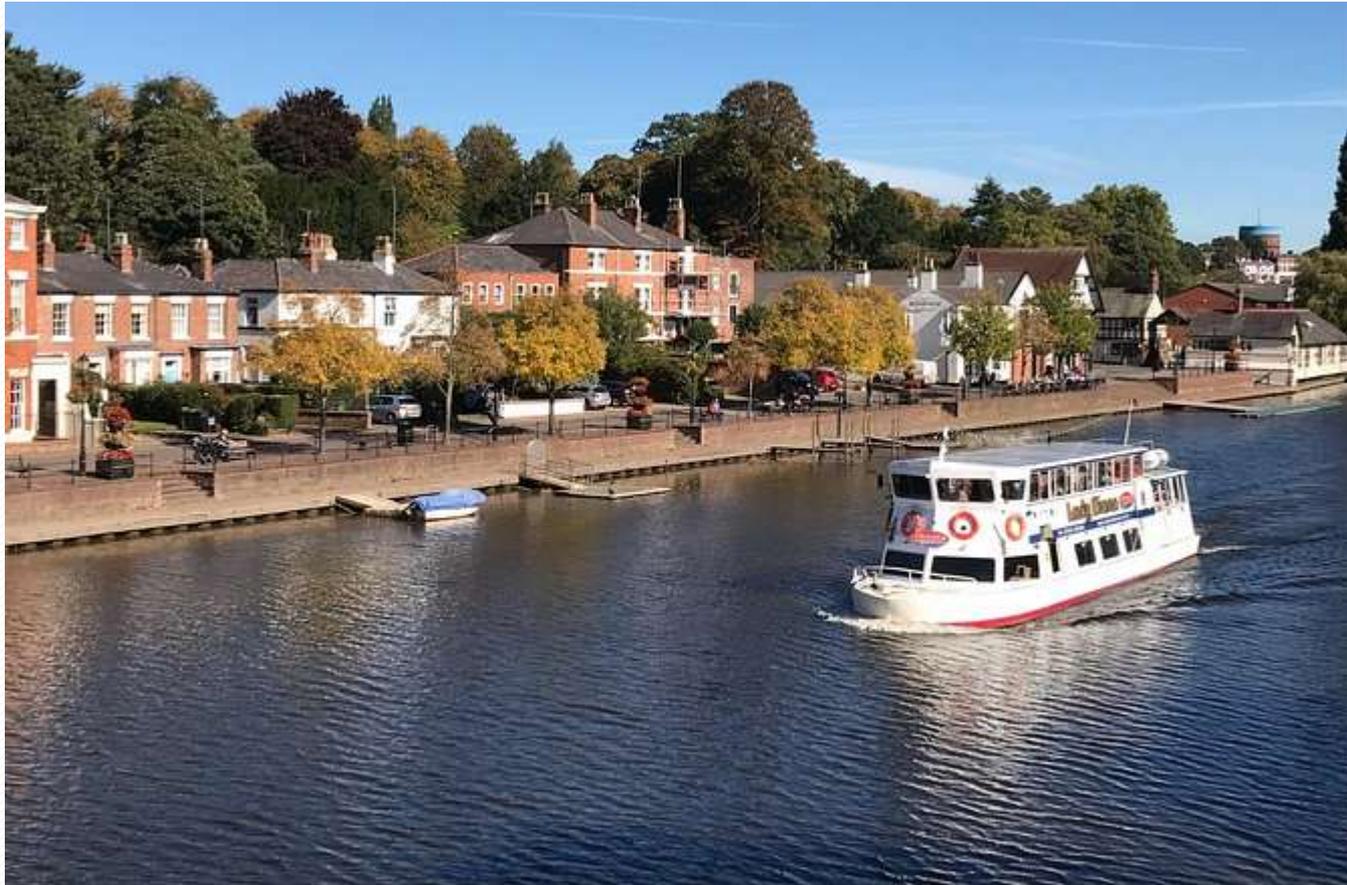
Row upstream as indicated, turn at Ironbridge or earlier if you want

Loos (we hope) beside Aquapark

We will be joined by rowers from Royal Chester RC

Picnic lunch on grass beside trailers

Watch for cruiser traffic!



Aldford Iron Bridge

