

## ACTIVITIES AT RIVERSWAY



The former Port of Preston, which closed in 1981, has been redeveloped as a multi-use estate. Industrial, commercial, residential and leisure facilities have been interwoven together with footpaths and landscaped areas of bushes and trees to provide an area in which people are happy to work, rest or play.

Ocean going boats and yachts can be seen in the Marina and boatyard. Fourteen miles downstream from Preston the river estuary enters the Irish Sea.

Water ski-ing takes place on the river from a jetty on the riverside path near the swing bridge.

Canal craft visit the marina having travelled up river from the Leeds Liverpool Canal and River Douglas or via the newly opened (2002) Millenium Ribble Link from the Lancaster Canal which joins the river at Savick Brook.

The path to Savick Brook takes you past Riversway Park where an "off road" motor vehicle centre provides thrills and excitement for all ages on a large variety of activities.

A number of paths cross or lie alongside the Docklands Railway. This carries both freight and from 2002 steam passenger trains. An Industrial Railway Museum at the end of Chain Caul Road, is the centre for railway operations.

Both the Dockside Walkway and the Riverside paths are suitable for wheelchair access.

Seating is provided at various locations and light refreshment facilities are available around the dock.

It is hoped that use of the paths, routes and information given will enable you to spend a few hours enjoying both the heritage and vibrant future of Riversway.



## WILDLIFE TO LOOK FOR The Estuary

Rivers always carry sediment, dead leaves and animal remains to the estuary, building mudflats, providing home and food for invertebrate animals and saltmarsh plants, and food in turn for large flocks of waders and wildfowl.

From the dock entrance Heron can be seen feeding in the river. The occasional seal may be seen having moved up river with the incoming tide.

Most of the Ribble Saltmarshes have been reclaimed as arable land but the National Nature Reserve at Banks Marsh on the south bank has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest by the Nature Conservancy Council.



## The Dock

The dock basin is home to a variety of birds, with ducks, coots and cormorants in residence. Swans and a variety of species of gull spend time on the dock.

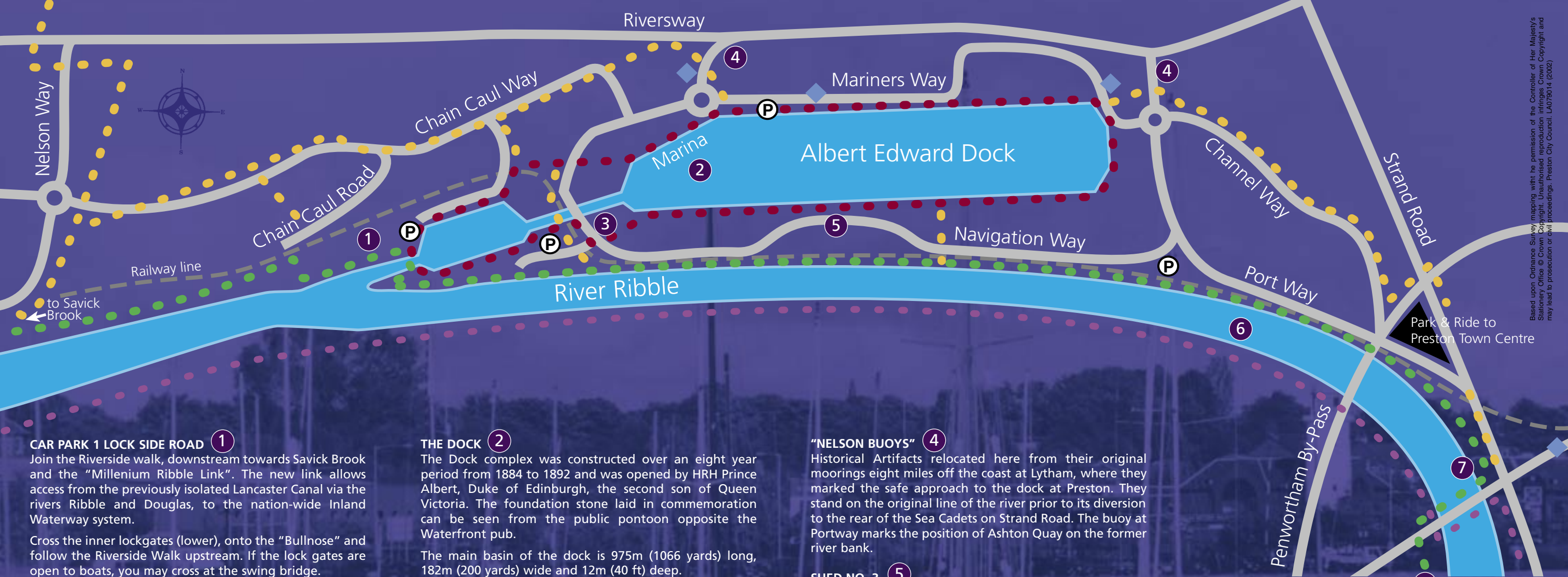
Fish inhabiting the dock include eels and flounder. Freshwater species such as roach, chub and bream have been caught as have sea trout and salmon.



Preston City Council  
In case of enquiry contact:-  
Riversway Manager  
Riversway Control Centre  
Navigation Way  
Ashton-On-Ribble  
PRESTON PR2 2YP  
Tel: 01772 726711  
Tidal Enquiries: 01772 726871

# TRAIL GUIDE riversway





**CAR PARK 1 LOCK SIDE ROAD 1**  
Join the Riverside walk, downstream towards Savick Brook and the "Millenium Ribble Link". The new link allows access from the previously isolated Lancaster Canal via the rivers Ribble and Douglas, to the nation-wide Inland Waterway system.

Cross the inner lockgates (lower), onto the "Bullnose" and follow the Riverside Walk upstream. If the lock gates are open to boats, you may cross at the swing bridge.

**ROUTES, CAR PARKS AND BUS STOPS**  
From the Car Parks shown on the map you may easily join any of the trail routes.

- ..... Ribble Way
- ..... Linking Footpaths
- ..... Riverside Walk
- ..... Dockside Walk
- ◆ bus stop
- Ⓟ car park

**THE DOCK 2**  
The Dock complex was constructed over an eight year period from 1884 to 1892 and was opened by HRH Prince Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, the second son of Queen Victoria. The foundation stone laid in commemoration can be seen from the public pontoon opposite the Waterfront pub.

The main basin of the dock is 975m (1066 yards) long, 182m (200 yards) wide and 12m (40 ft) deep.

**SWING BRIDGE AND OVERHEAD CRANE 3**  
The unique swing bridge, weighing 1000 tonnes and the lockgates are controlled from the pyramid shaped control room and allow various craft to enter the marina, or venture out onto the river and the seas beyond.

The over head crane specifically constructed (1958) to lift the 100 tonne lock gates is now only used for the occasional boat lift. It serves as a stark reminder of the estates industrial heritage upon which the foundations of the modern luxury development now stands.

**"NELSON BUOYS" 4**  
Historical Artifacts relocated here from their original moorings eight miles off the coast at Lytham, where they marked the safe approach to the dock at Preston. They stand on the original line of the river prior to its diversion to the rear of the Sea Cadets on Strand Road. The buoy at Portway marks the position of Ashton Quay on the former river bank.

**SHED NO. 3 5**  
The original 1905 warehouse (shed no. 3), now converted into luxury flats, is one of only two buildings that remain from the docks historic past. The other is the Dock and Marine Office on Riversway opposite the Nelson Buoy on Portway, an outstanding example of 1930's architecture.

**STRAND ROAD TO DOCK ENTRANCE 6**  
This length of river to the dock entrance is man made, constructed to divert the river away from Ashton Marsh, allow the construction of the dock on reclaimed land, and provide a temporary quay where trading vessels of the day were safely moored, loaded and unloaded.

**SHIPBREAKING AND SHIPBUILDING 7**  
Unlikely but true, they both have left their historic mark on the River Ribble.

A little upstream from the pedestrian crossing over the rail lines, over 400 ships, warships and liners were scrapped, the White Star liner Adriatic, a sister ship of the Titanic being the most famous.

The 1915 stone built Penwortham Bridge split the shipyard site of Allsup's. Ships built here included tugs for Preston and ferry boats for the Mersey. This shipyard at the bottom of Fishergate Hill closed in 1908. Downstream of the Sea Cadets a slipway, visible only at low water is a reminder of industrial times past.