

## **ACTON BRIDGE & SANDON DOCK**

**Cruise the Weaver Navigation, Manchester Ship Canal, River Mersey and Liverpool Docks.**

### **On the Weaver Navigation you will see**

- **Acton Swing Bridge** (1934) which is located on Acton Bridge island.
- **Dutton Locks** (1880) and the large flood control sluices.
- **Dutton Horse Bridge** a unique twin span greenheart timber bridge (1919).
- **Dutton Viaduct** (1836) which carries the West Coast main railway line.
- **Frodsham cut** - now silted up led to the disused Frodsham Lock.
- **Weston Canal** which joined the Weaver Navigation to Weston Point Docks (Runcorn)
- **Sutton Weaver Swing Bridge** (1926), which carries the A56, adjacent to the Danny's Sutton Weaver berth.
- **Frodsham - railway viaduct** (1850) and **M56 viaduct** (1970).
- **Ineos Chemical Complex** (formerly Rocksavage Works) but under redevelopment.
- **Marsh lock** (1895) - provides access between the Weaver Navigation and the Manchester ship canal.

### **Along the Manchester Ship Canal (opened in 1894)**

- Farmland and grassy salt marshes with great bird life with views of **Frodsham and Helsby Hills** to the south.
- **Stanlow Refinery** built in 1924 and now owned by Essar Energy has its own berths where ocean going tankers are quite likely to be seen.
- **Ellesmere Port** – National Waterways Museum and docks built by the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company, for whom the Danny was built in 1903.
- **Mount Manisty** – named after canal engineer Edward Manisty
- **Eastham** – before entering the locks we pass the “crane” or “sheer legs” berth where vessels proceeding to/from Manchester had to have tops of masts and funnels removed to do under the fixed bridges. The Danny uses the 80ft wide western lock into the Mersey.

### **Once in the Mersey we proceed down river using the Eastham Channel passing**

- **Queen Elizabeth Oil Dock** with its 100ft wide lock handling tankers <40,000 tonnes.
- **Eastham Ferry** – now two pubs woods and a country park
- views across the river to **Garston Docks, Liverpool Airport** and **Hale Head**.
- **Rock Ferry** tank cleaning jetty and slipway – home to **Royal Mersey Yacht Club**.
- **Tranmere Oil Terminal** (1960) used by tankers up to 300,000 tonnes.
- **Cammell Laird** shipyard and dry docks – where the Danny was built in 1903.
- **Woodside Ferry** terminal and U-boat (currently under renovation)
- **Twelve Quays** Ferry Terminal used by Stena Line Irish services
- **Alfred Lock** – entrance to the Birkenhead dock system.
- Mersey Ferries' **Seacombe** landing stage

### **Looking across to the Liverpool side:**

- The **two cathedrals** and **St John's Beacon** are visible inland
- and along the waterfront **The M&S Bank Arena** and Conference Centre, **Royal Albert Dock** complex, **Canning river entrance**, **Museum of Liverpool**, and the **Dock Office**, **Cunard** and **Royal Liver** Buildings.
- The Mersey ferry and Cruise terminals are in this area, with the new IOM Terminal slightly further down river.
- The new **Everton football stadium** at Bramley-Moore dock – and **Anfield** on the sky-line.

According to tidal conditions and other traffic the **Danny** will go through either **Gladstone or Langton Locks** and pass through several docks and passages en route to her lay-up berth in **Sandon dock** where the cruise ends.