

The Future

The increased use of road and rail to transport goods signalled the end of the canal as a commercial operation. In 1954 the section from Lisburn to Lough Neagh was closed, while the remainder was abandoned in 1958. It is planned that the Lagan Canal Corridor will provide a restored and revitalised waterway and 'greenway' linking Belfast, Castlereagh, Lisburn, Craigavon and Lough Neagh. The Lagan Canal Restoration Trust is working to restore the canal as a focus for heritage, tourism and recreation. One day boats will pass through the historic locks and bridges bringing this historic gem to life once again. For further information see www.lagancanaltrust.org

Other towpaths open on the Lagan Canal can be discovered in the Lagan Valley Regional Park. For further details see www.laganvalley.co.uk

Also explore the towpath from Moira to Aghalee, access points are at Moira railway station, Soldierstown and Aghalee. See www.walkni.com for further details.

Towpath Code

This is a shared use path, please be aware of other users such as walkers, cyclists and those on horseback.

- Cyclists must give way to pedestrians.
- Dogs must be kept under control.
- Please take litter home with you.



Lock 12 Restored at Lisburn Civic Centre



Illustration of the Cranagh Bridge by Niall McShane, aged 11, St Patrick's Primary School Aghagallon

Location

Located in Co. Armagh, the nearest village is Aghagallon. This is a linear walk with a flat path covering 1.5 miles along the towpath of the Lagan Canal.

By Car: take the turn off for junction 10 on the M1 motorway and follow the B105 to Aghagallon. Take the Whitehall Road for car parking at Cranagh Bridge. Car park located on left directly after the Cranagh Bridge. The walk begins either at Annaghdroghal Bridge where there is limited on-road parking or from designated car park at Cranagh Bridge.

By Bike: Cycling: NCN Route 9 & 94.

By Bus: Bus links via Lurgan only. From Lurgan take service 53 to Aghagallon. From here it is a 15 minute walk to Cranagh Bridge via the Whitehall Road.

Local Amenities

The nearest village is Aghagallon where there are shops and amenities, there are no public toilets in the village.

Useful Contacts

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre

Annaloiste Road , Oxford Island, Craigavon
028 3832 2205

Lagan Canal Restoration Trust

Lough Neagh Discovery Centre , Oxford Island, Craigavon
028 3831 1675 www.lagancanaltrust.org

Lagan Valley Regional Park

3 Lock Keepers Lane, Milltown Road , Belfast
028 9049 1922 www.laganvalley.co.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Lagan Canal Towpath Walk

Aghagallon, Co Armagh



LAGAN CANAL TRUST

Working Together For Restoration

Welcome To The Lagan Canal

Located a short distance from the attractive village of Aghagallon, this short walk follows the towpath of the Lagan Canal. Take a gentle stroll in quiet countryside to discover flourishing wildlife and see at first hand the remains of a past way of life on Ulster's canals.

The Lagan Canal was built in the 18th century to transport goods to and from Belfast and Lough Neagh. This section opened on New Years Day 1794.

The whole canal is 27 miles long with 27 locks. The boats on the Lagan Canal were called 'lighters'. The lighters were pulled along the water by horses walking along the 'towing' path. In 1900 the journey from Lough Neagh to Belfast would take 2 days if all went well.

A Lagan Canal Poem

lighters and horses
bridges and towpaths
Aghagallon to Belfast
linen and grain
transporting and restoring
The Lagan Canal

By James Crossey (aged 11)
St Patrick's P.S., Aghagallon

Nature

As you explore the towpath discover the different types of animals and plants which flourish here. Native trees include the alder and willow. Look out for the shy tree sparrows which live here thanks to the special bird boxes erected to encourage breeding near the water.

The reed banks also provide habitats for nesting birds, and swans are often seen on the waters of the canal.

Tree Sparrow
Image courtesy of RSPB



Lock

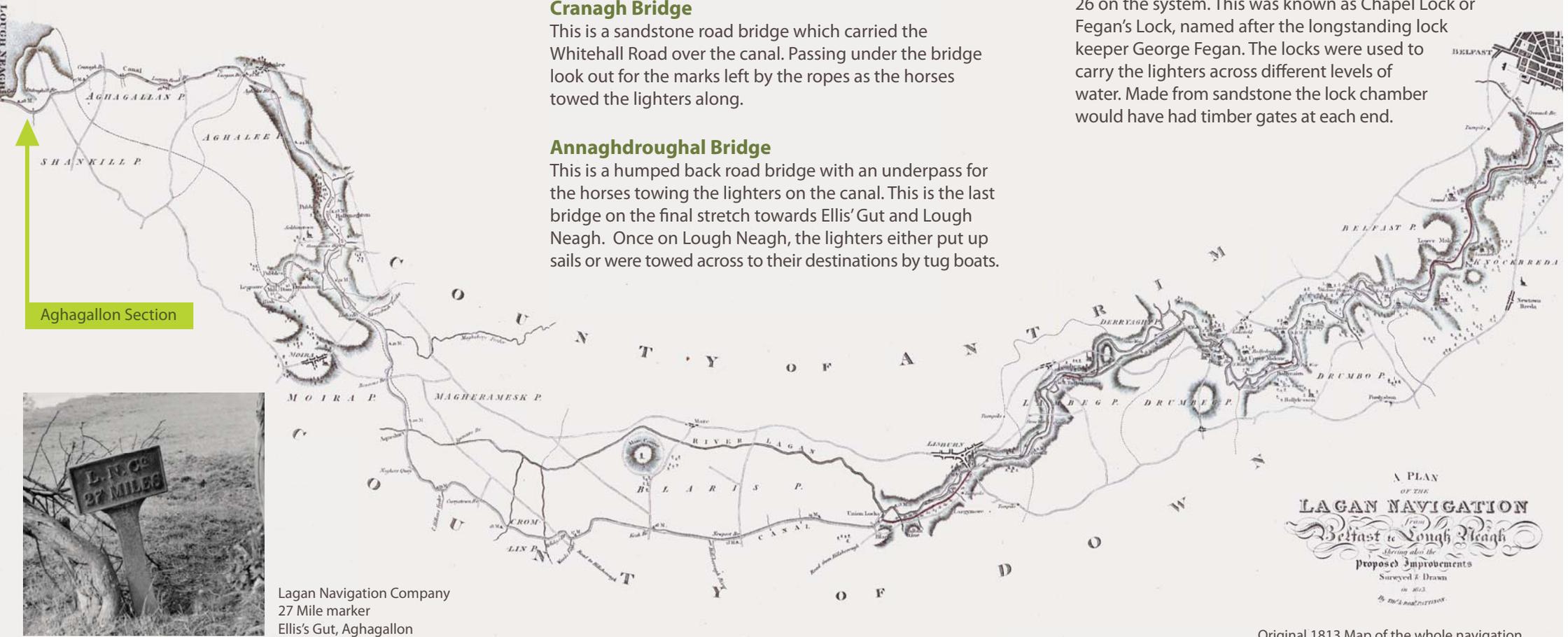
As you walk beyond Crannagh Bridge you will find Lock 26 on the system. This was known as Chapel Lock or Fegan's Lock, named after the longstanding lock keeper George Fegan. The locks were used to carry the lighters across different levels of water. Made from sandstone the lock chamber would have had timber gates at each end.

Cranagh Bridge

This is a sandstone road bridge which carried the Whitehall Road over the canal. Passing under the bridge look out for the marks left by the ropes as the horses towed the lighters along.

Annahdroughal Bridge

This is a humped back road bridge with an underpass for the horses towing the lighters on the canal. This is the last bridge on the final stretch towards Ellis' Gut and Lough Neagh. Once on Lough Neagh, the lighters either put up sails or were towed across to their destinations by tug boats.



Aghagallon Section

Lagan Navigation Company
27 Mile marker
Ellis' Gut, Aghagallon

Original 1813 Map of the whole navigation