



**25th october 2025**  
**Risk Assessment**  
[www.theghostships.co.uk](http://www.theghostships.co.uk)

# Event Details & Contents

**Event Start:** Long Sandall Lock marina - From 5pm

**Parade Start:** Long Sandall - 6:20pm

**Points of Interest:** St Oswalds Church, Kirk Sandall, Barnby Dun Lift Bridge, Bramwith Lock & Low Lane Swing Bridge

**Event Finish:** The New Inn - From (8:00pm)

**Boats:** 24

**Boat Groups:** 4 (split for Barnby Dun lift bridge)

**Volunteer Group Positions:** Long Sandall, Barnby Dun Lift bridge, Kirk Bramwith Lock & Low Lane Swing Bridge

**Collection group Positions:** Long Sandall Lock, St Oswalds, Barnby Dun x 2, Kirk Bramwith, The New Inn

**Potential Police Presence:** Barnby Dun Lift Bridge

**First Aid Station:** Long Sandall Lock, Barnby Dun Lift Bridge & The New Inn

**First Aid Personnel:** Sally Bell - Kevin Jones - Vicky Jones

**Safety Signage Positions:** Long Sandall Lock, St Oswalds, Tow Path, Barnby Dun, Bramwith Lock, Low Lane Swing Bridge & The New Inn

**Safety Briefing:** All Skippers & Volunteers will be provided with event risk assessment & safety guidance notes prior to the event

**Safety Briefing:** All Skippers will be briefed on a one to one or small group basis at Long Sandall before the parade starts.

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# Participating Boats

## Risk Assessment Key:

5 = High risk - Event cancellation

4 = High risk - Needs assessing and changes to be made

3 = Medium risk - Look to reduce risk

2 = Low risk - Monitor to keep risk low

<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Persons affected</u>	<u>Hazard arising</u>	<u>Mitigating action</u>	<u>Risk factor</u>	<u>Further action</u>	<u>Residual risk</u>
Boat condition for travelling at night with the event.	Participants, guests on board and event viewers	Boat unfit for travelling in the dark	Ensure all participants are insured with full BSC and the boat is fit to travel at night with available spot light and working navigation lights.	4	Offer advice and all safety planning materials prior to the event via participant chat group	3
Navigating the canal and it's infrastructure during the event.	Participants, event viewers, fundraisers & C&RT volunteers	Collisions with bridges, a lock, moored boats and participating boats	Ensure all participants are confident in travelling at night and address and issues as they arise. Participants will follow a simple grouping plan to ensure passage through Barnby Dun bridge is coordinated with C&RT volunteers	4	Offer advice and all safety planning materials and live assistance via radio and phone channels with groups leaders during the event.	3
Boat theming and lighting installations.	Participants & their guests	Obstruction to view and any fire safety risks.	Ensure guidance is sent out regarding electrical installation and allowing adequate viewing from the helm position.	3	Share links for safe lighting & theming ideas along with open discussions of previous years experiences.	2
Boats stopping along the route during the event.	Participants & their guests	Collisions	Group boats in accordance with their intended finish destinations.	3	Offer planning and communication assistance to ensure safe mooring of boats at Barnby Dun and arrival of boats in Stainforth	2

# Volunteers & Fundraisers

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<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Persons affected</u>	<u>Hazard arising</u>	<u>Mitigating action</u>	<u>Risk factor</u>	<u>Further action</u>	<u>Residual risk</u>
Manoeuvring through crowds along the canal in busy viewing areas	Volunteers, fundraisers & event viewers	Collisions & persons falling into canal	Engage with all live event volunteers and fundraisers with safety planning	3	Give detailed and timed plans with extra communication avenues	2
Embarking and disembarking boats during the event	Volunteers, Participants, fundraisers & event viewers	Persons falling into canal or injury whilst embarking & disembarking.	Create a detailed plan for volunteers and fundraiser who will be travelling on or off the boats, where and when	4	Offer live event guidance and general communication avenues with lead organisers and C&RT volunteers	2
Marshalling and speaking with event viewers	Fundraisers & event viewers	Instruction and guidance not being heard or listened to	Provide planning, placement and instruction of all volunteers and fundraisers to carry out their duties	3	Offer live event guidance and general communication avenues with lead organisers and C&RT volunteers	2

# Event Viewing & General Public

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<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Persons affected</u>	<u>Hazard arising</u>	<u>Mitigating action</u>	<u>Risk factor</u>	<u>Further action</u>	<u>Residual risk</u>
Visiting the canal at night	Participants, event viewers	Falling into canal or injury whilst visiting the event	Offer guidance & advice prior to the event via social media channels and allocate viewing areas with guidance on spreading crowds onto tow-paths	4	Add signage and barriers where necessary to viewing hotspots	3
Travelling the tow-path at night or in bad weather	Participants, event viewers	Falling into the canal or injury whilst walking the tow-path at night in a crowd	Offer guidance & advice prior to the event via social media channels and provide a list of helpful items to bring along to the event	4	Engage with event viewers over social media prior and during the event to ensure viewers can see the parade in a safe place	3
Getting to and from the event	Event viewers	Accident & disruption & Anti-social behaviour	Offer plans and advice on parking and travelling to the event via social media channels	3	Engage with local residents & offer available contact information for organisers & local authorities Notify Police & Local Council of any issues or incidents	2
Viewer interaction with boats and infrastructure	Participants, their guests, event viewers and C&RT volunteers	Accident & creation of any confusion	Boats will be asked to provide all sweets and gifts to the volunteer team to give out to the event viewers and viewers will be asked not to touch the boats or the decoration placed around the event	3	Monitor crowd numbers and control during the event and offer guidance and communication avenues for all involved	2

# Viewing Areas

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<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Hazard arising</u>	<u>Mitigating action</u>	<u>Risk factor</u>	<u>Further action</u>	<u>Residual risk</u>
Long Sandall Lock Marina	Overcrowding, persons falling into canal & injury with boats or infrastructure	Utilise all volunteers in area and monitor viewer numbers. Gather boats in groups and fill the lock before arrival.	4	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	3
Tow-path between Long Sandall & Church Balk	Persons falling into canal & injury	Advise on viewing spots and safe areas of the tow-path to view the event from via social media channels. Survey area prior to event for potential hazards and risks.	4	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	3
Church Balk	Overcrowding, persons falling into canal & injury	Offer guidance via the website and social media channels for safe viewing.	3	Add signage and offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	2
Tow-path Between Church Balk & Barnby Dun Lift Bridge	Persons falling into canal & injury	Advise on viewing spots and safe areas of the tow-path to view the event from via social media channels. Survey area prior to event for potential hazards and risks.	3	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	2

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BarnbyDun Lift Bridge	Overcrowding, persons falling into canal& injury with boatsor infrastructure	Utilise all volunteers in areaand monitor viewer numbers. Advise on safeviewing practice. Communicate with volunteers and C&RT volunteers to ensure safe operation of bridge during the event.	4	Add signageand offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area.Provide communication in case of emergency.	3
Tow-path between BarnbyDun & Bramwith Lock	Personsfalling into canal & injury	Advise on viewing spots and safeareasof the tow-path to view the eventfrom via social media channels.Surveyarea prior to event for potential hazardsand risks.	3	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area.Provide communication in caseof emergency.	2
Bramwith Lock	Overcrowding, persons falling into canal& injury with boatsor infrastructure	Utilise all volunteers in areaand monitor viewer numbers. Advise on safeviewing practice. Communicate with volunteers and C&RT volunteers to ensure safe operation of bridge during the event.	4	Add signage and offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area.Provide communication in caseof emergency.	3
Bramwith Swing Bridge	Overcrowding, persons falling into canal& injury with boatsor infrastructure	Advise on viewing spots and safeareasof the tow-path to view the event from via social media channels.Surveyareaprior to event for potential hazardsand risks.	3	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area.Provide communication in caseof emergency.	2

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Tow-path between Bramwith Swing Bridge & The New Inn Stanforth	Persons falling into canal & injury	Advise on viewing spots and safe areas of the tow-path to view the event from via social media channels. Survey area prior to event for potential hazards and risks.	3	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	2
The New Inn Stainforth	Overcrowding, persons falling into canal & injury with boats or infrastructure	Work with Proprietors to offer guidance and provide a safe space for viewing and communicate the parade's arrival.	4	Add signage and offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	2

### If Someone Falls into the Water / Weil's Disease Awareness

In the event that anyone enters the water, nearby boats will stop and organisers will coordinate an immediate response via radio. Volunteers will assist from the towpath if it is safe to do so, and emergency services will be contacted if required.

All participants and visitors are reminded that canal water can carry bacteria, including Weil's disease (Leptospirosis). Avoid direct contact with the water wherever possible, cover any cuts or open wounds, and wash thoroughly with soap and clean water after the event. Anyone who feels unwell in the days following the event should seek medical advice and inform their doctor of possible contact with canal water.

# Navigation & Towpath

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<u>Area of concern</u>	<u>Hazard arising</u>	<u>Mitigating action</u>	<u>Risk factor</u>	<u>Further action</u>	<u>Residual risk</u>
Tow-path between Long Sandall Lock & The New Inn Stanforth	Persons tripping or falling into canal & injury	organisers to survey the tow path areas and deal with any obstructions or signpost and cover where possible. C&RT will be notified of any issues after survey	3	Offer guidance and safety notes online for visitors to the area. Provide communication in case of emergency.	2
Navigation between Long Sandall Lock & The New Inn Stanforth	Obstructions on the Waterway	organisers to take a run along the route within 72 hours of the parade starting and check for any obstructions or issues along the route	4	Ask local boaters to notify the team of any obstructions or issues on the planned route	2

# Safeguarding

Participating Boats, Long Sandall Lock & The New Inn Stanforth	Injury, Abuse or Harm To Children or Vunerable Adults	<p>All participants and volunteers are made aware of safeguarding protocols during the health and safety briefing.</p> <p>The event leader confirms they have read and understood the Canal &amp; River Trust Safeguarding Policy:</p> <p><a href="https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/document/3Vel248CpJDRpG8BCT4WzQ/WWJesS6iPg040FJW9SNZ1V949ekDbzxfCjff4JHbuNw/aHR0cHM6Ly9jcnRwcm9kY21zdWtzMDEuYmxvYi5jb3JlLndpbmRvd3MubmV0L2RvY3VtZW50Lw/018ae193-bde1-73c5-9464-e10e5a95d42a.pdf">https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/media/document/3Vel248CpJDRpG8BCT4WzQ/WWJesS6iPg040FJW9SNZ1V949ekDbzxfCjff4JHbuNw/aHR0cHM6Ly9jcnRwcm9kY21zdWtzMDEuYmxvYi5jb3JlLndpbmRvd3MubmV0L2RvY3VtZW50Lw/018ae193-bde1-73c5-9464-e10e5a95d42a.pdf</a></p>	<p>Any safeguarding concerns are to be reported immediately to the event's designated safeguarding lead, who will liaise with the Canal &amp; River Trust safeguarding team if necessary.</p> <p>Contact :</p> <p><a href="mailto:davidrobinette82@gmail.com">David Robinette - davidrobinette82@gmail.com</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:info@dockedandloaded.co.uk">James Barrett - info@dockedandloaded.co.uk</a></p>	3
Long Sandall Lock & The New Inn Stanforth				

# Public Notice & Statement of Intent

A statement of intent will be published on the official event website and associated communications, confirming that attendance is voluntary and at the individual's own risk. The Canal & River Trust towpath remains open as a public right of way, and visitors are responsible for exercising reasonable care while accessing the area during hours of darkness.

Public Notice / Statement of Intent

Ghost Ships of Doncaster – Saturday 25th October 2025

The Ghost Ships of Doncaster is a community event held along the canal towpath and surrounding areas. Members of the public are welcome to attend and enjoy the illuminated boat parade, but please note that the towpath remains a public right of way and is not a managed event site.

All attendees access the towpath and canal areas at their own risk. Visitors are advised to take care when walking near the water, particularly at night, and to wear suitable footwear and bring a torch. Children and vulnerable adults should be supervised at all times.

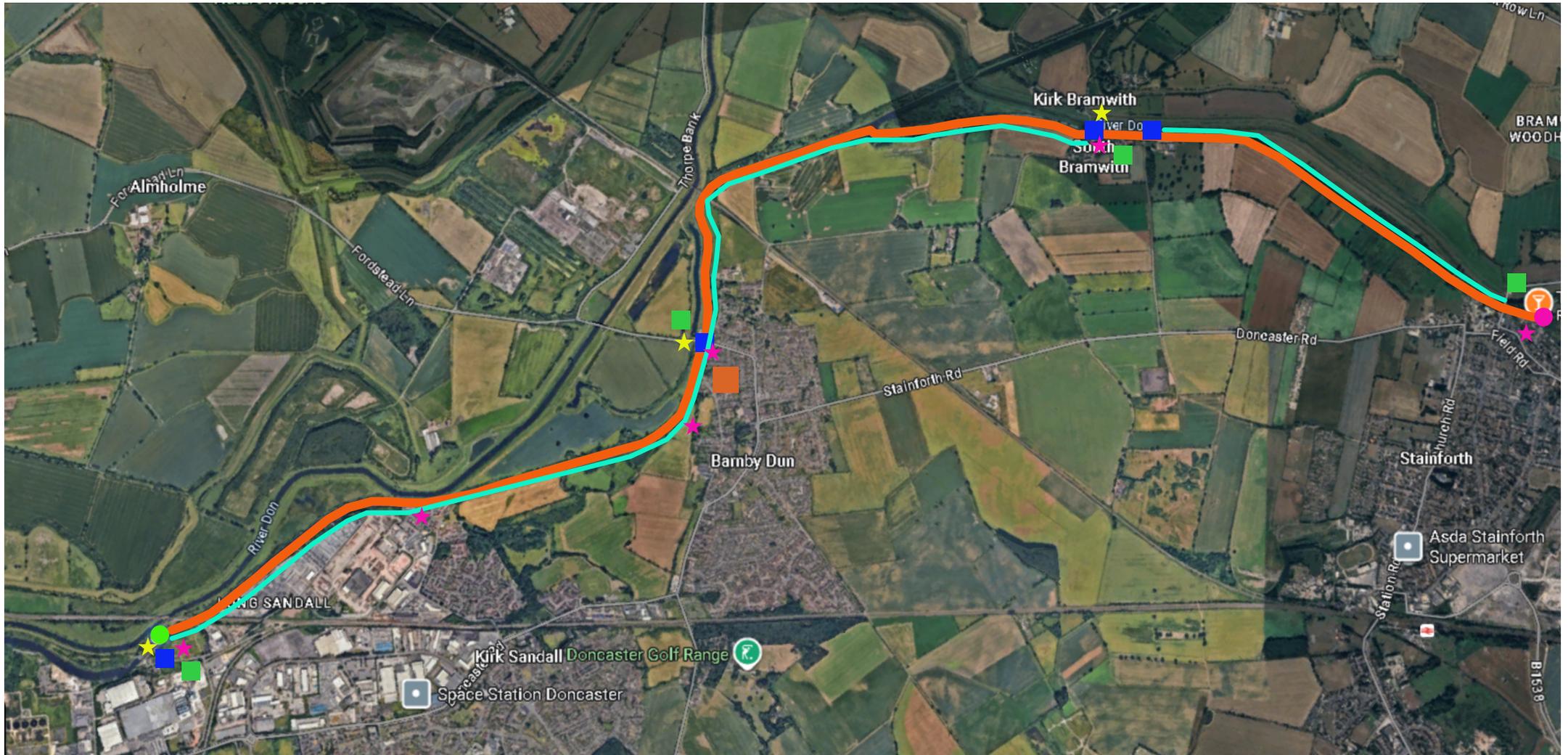
The organisers have completed a full risk assessment and will have event personnel positioned along key sections of the route to assist where possible. However, visitors are reminded that responsibility for their personal safety rests with them while attending.

By attending the event, visitors acknowledge these terms and agree to exercise reasonable care when accessing the canal and towpath areas.

For safety information, updates, and viewing guidance, please visit: [www.theghostships.co.uk](http://www.theghostships.co.uk)

All individuals or organisations attending the event to collect for charity, take photographs, or operate drones do so independently and are required to hold the necessary permissions, insurance, and licenses relevant to their activity. They must operate safely, follow current regulations, and take full responsibility for their own actions and equipment while at the parade.

# Site Map



- Map Key:**
- Parade Start
  - Parade Route
  - Parade Finish
  - Canal Infrastructure
  - Viewing Areas

- C&RT Volunteers
- Monitors/Photographers
- Collection Volunteers
- Police Presence
- First Aid Points

- ★
- ★
- ★
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- 

**What Three words:**

Long Sandall - Parade Start  
 ///lied.branded.slices

The New Inn - Parade End  
 ///return.overtones.puncture

# Skipper Safety & Guidance Notes



## The Ghost ships of Doncaster 2025 Event Plan & Safety Guidance Notes

Saturday 25th October 2025  
6:00pm - 9:00pm

Boats: 24

Boats Gather at Long Sandall from 5:00pm  
Event start - Long Sandall Lock Marina - 6:20pm

Boat groups - Boats will be placed into the groups upon arrival.

Group 1 - Steel boats completing the full route

Group 2 - Steel Boats completing the full route

Group 3 - GRP Boats completing the full route

Group 4 - Steel boats stopping after Barnby Dun

Group leading boats will wait for the bridge to be closed at Barnby Dun allowing for traffic to clear before the next group passes through.  
Groups 1- 3 will pass through to Bramwith Lock, C&RT volunteers will be on hand to help with ropes and assist with getting boats in position.

Groups 1 & 2 should fill the lock, if not, steel boats shall take the front of the next lock

**Skippers are asked to keep all personal on board whilst approaching/in the lock!**

Groups will leave the lock and should proceed to Low Lane swing bridge, pass through the bridge and proceed very slowly towards the pub.  
Boats are asked to pass the pub and turn around before mooring up or to moor beyond the pub. This is to allow the gathering crowds see all the boats

# Skipper Safety & Guidance Notes



Lead organisers will be available on radio and mobile phone communication networks throughout the event.

**All event communications on Channel 74 (156.725)  
Please allow air space for event organisers and C&RT volunteers to communicate**

**Participants can also use radio (444.000) for non essential use.  
Or call Dave 07495970086 & Jim 07703609415 or use the whatsapp which will be monitored.**

**FOR EMERGENCIES: CALL 999** For any major emergency

For event emergencies: Please use the call sign '**MAY DAY, MAY DAY, MAY DAY - BOAT NAME, ISSUE & LOCATION**' on the radio!  
All participants are asked to engage neutral gear if they hear a 'May Day' call, come to a controlled stop, assess the situation accordingly and await further instruction.

## **If Someone Falls into the Water / Weil's Disease Awareness**

In the event that anyone enters the water, nearby boats will stop and organisers will coordinate an immediate response via radio. Volunteers will assist from the towpath if it is safe to do so, and emergency services will be contacted if required.

All participants and visitors are reminded that canal water can carry bacteria, including Weil's disease (Leptospirosis). Avoid direct contact with the water wherever possible, cover any cuts or open wounds, and wash thoroughly with soap and clean water after the event. Anyone who feels unwell in the days following the event should seek medical advice and inform their doctor of possible contact with canal water.

## **Fire & Safety**

Ensure all electrical equipment and decorations meet British safety standards, regularly inspect for damage, and have fire extinguishers and life jackets readily available.  
Avoid using open flames and maintain clear emergency procedures and communication throughout the event.

## **Communication & interaction with other boaters**

Ensure each boat is equipped with a working radio for communication with organisers and other boats. Establish a clear communication protocol for reporting incidents or emergencies. Be vigilant and courteous when interacting with other boaters, yielding the right of way when necessary to avoid collisions and ensure a smooth, safe event.

Please refer to the risk assessment for further safety planning and feel free to contact the organisers below with any concerns

## **EVENT CONTACT:**

Dave Robinette - 07495 970086  
James Barrett - 07703 609415