

## Caring for the Kennet & Avon Canal

We're the charity working to protect and bring to life this 250-year-old network of canals and rivers spanning England and Wales. Not so long ago many canals were abandoned, and some lost forever. Today, with your support, wildlife is recovering, history is alive, boats are plentiful and spending time in this environment is contributing to our health and happiness.

Our mission is to keep this extraordinary network of canals and rivers alive, teeming with wildlife, transforming places they run through and enriching all of our lives. Your support today could help us care for Berkshire's canals and many more places, for today and generations to come.

DONATE



Please support our work & donate today

SCAN ME



The task of protecting the finest examples of working industrial heritage including County Lock, and the wildlife that calls it home, is growing all the time. As a charity we need you by our side more than ever. Please support our work today.

Registered with



FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR



Canal &  
River Trust

Making life better by water

## Keeping history alive

The Kennet & Avon Canal is actually made up of two rivers and a canal. The first stretch of the 'canal' to be completed was from Reading to Newbury. This stretch, which opened to boats in 1723, is in fact a river – engineers canalised the River Kennet to make it navigable.

In the 19th century, the Kennet & Avon Canal was the main trading route from Bristol to London. When the full 87 mile (140km) long canal opened in 1810, it brought great prosperity to Reading helping industries such as brewing, sawmilling and biscuit-making to thrive.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to [canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers)



Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

[canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1146792

March 2023



Canal &  
River Trust

## Welcome to Reading

A scenic resting point in this busy town.



We're the charity making life better by water

Famed for its scenic beauty, the Kennet & Avon Canal sweeps through Reading's town centre and County Lock is the perfect place to relax and watch boats go by.



**Visit us at:**  
The Oracle Riverside carpark (P&D), Reading RG1 2AG

 Allow half a day for your visit

**Stay SAFE**  
**Stay Away From the Edge!**  
For more information on visiting safely:  
[canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety)

 Map not to scale: covers approx. 1/4 mile / 1.2km

Details correct at time of print, please check before travelling.

## 5 things to do at Reading

- 1** Take a walk along the towpath to the point where the canal joins the River Thames and completes its journey to London (0.6 miles/1km).
- 2** Relax with a coffee and watch the colourful canal boats making their way along the canal.
- 3** Look at the floating reedbeds in Abbey Quarter, they have been installed to increase the biodiversity of the waterway and attract more wildlife into the town.
- 4** Visit the burial place of King Henry I – Reading Abbey Ruins are open daily free of charge from dawn to dusk.
- 5** Follow the Heritage Walk from the Oracle shopping centre, you'll pass Chocolate Island, Reading Gaol (spot Banksey's mural on the side of the gaol) and Jane Austen's school rooms.

### Did you know?

Brewery Gut, named after Simmonds Brewery, is just 25ft (7.6m) wide at its narrowest point which causes strong currents. To prevent boats from colliding and sinking, passage through the gut is now controlled by traffic lights.

