



Canal &
River Trust

Making life better by water

South West

Discover great places
to visit by the water

Aldermaston Wharf • Avoncliff
Aqueduct • Bath Locks • Bathampton •
Bradford-on-Avon Wharf • Caen Hill Locks
• Crofton • Devizes Wharf • Diglis • Dundas
Aqueduct • Gloucester Docks • Kintbury •
Maunsel Lock • Newbury Wharf • Reading •
Saul Junction • Seend Locks

We're the UK's largest canal charity

Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

canalrivertrust.org.uk



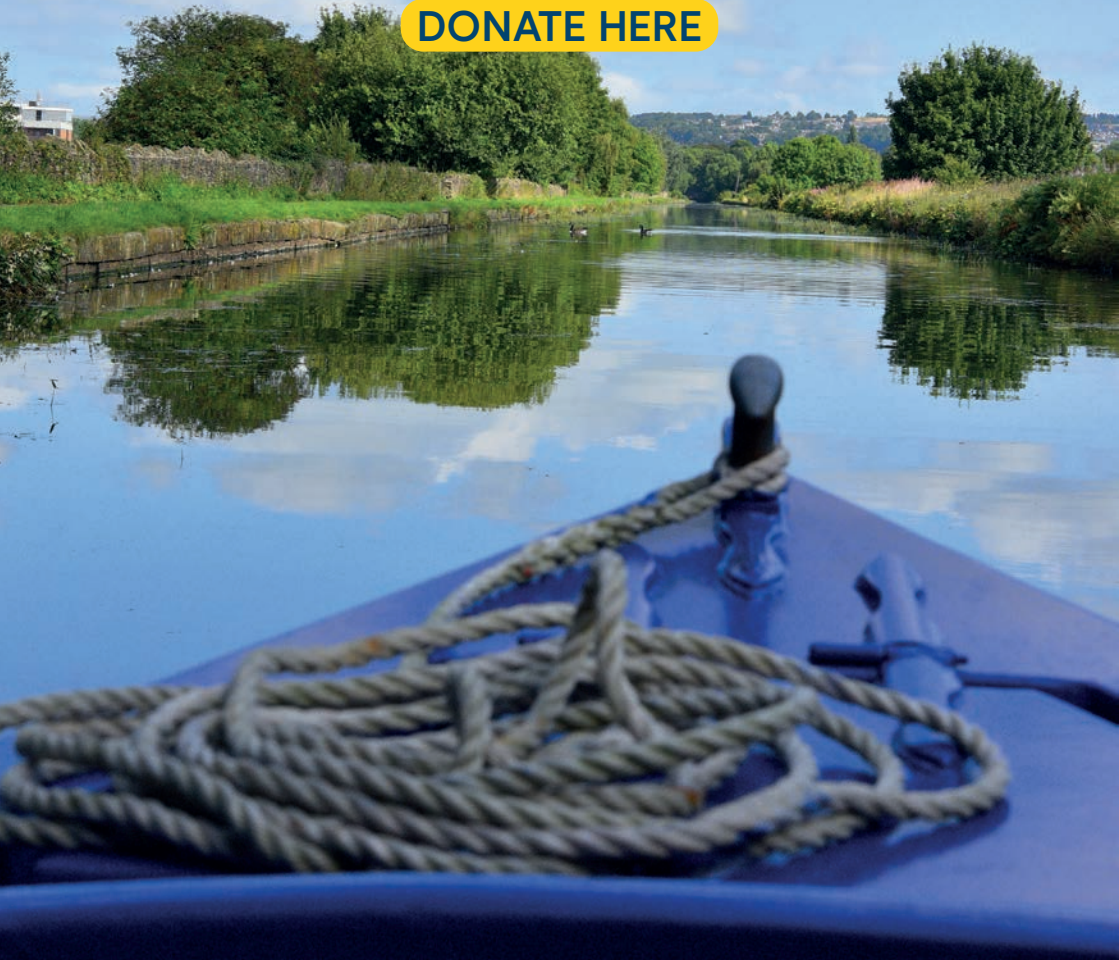
Canal & River Trust

We are Canal & River Trust, the UK's largest canal charity. From our countryside to our bustling cities, canals are a place for everyone to connect with nature and our past. We look after essential spaces for wildlife and people helping us all feel happier and healthier.

As a charity we urgently need your support to keep the canals you love alive.

Please support our work today.

[**DONATE HERE**](#)



Are you looking for inspiring places to visit?

Then look no further than your local canal or river. This guide features a selection of our best waterside places to visit in South West – whatever the weather! Each location includes a map, suggestions of fun-packed activities you can do and useful information on where to park, places to eat, toilets and boat trips.

Discover more free places to visit in our regional guides – canalrivertrust.org.uk/fundaysoutguide

- 1 Aldermaston Wharf
- 2 Avoncliff Aqueduct
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* This map shows waterways managed by members of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA). We have not featured places to visit on waterways managed by these organisations. There are other inland waterways that have not been shown, the information on this map is for guidance only, for accurate information please visit our website.



From industry to wildlife at **Aldermaston Wharf**

Once a busy industrial canal wharf, Aldermaston Wharf is now a picture of tranquillity and the perfect place to start exploring the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Keeping history alive

The wharf at Aldermaston was built in 1723 when the Kennet Navigation, a forerunner of the canal, opened. Local trade flourished in the area – flour, cheese, timber and malt were taken along the canal to London and coal, iron or luxury goods such as tobacco and spirits were brought back on the return journey.


After buying the Kennet & Avon Canal in 1851, the Great Western Railway Company built a small canal channel linking to the railway. This made it easier to transfer goods between the canal and rail.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers



5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a look at the scalloped brick chamber on Aldermaston Lock, it is just one of two locks on the canal with this.
- 2 Stroll** along the towpath and watch the colourful canal boats making their way along the canal.
- 3 Have** a picnic and watch the wildlife – kingfishers, herons, coots and mute swans can be seen.
- 4 Chat** with our volunteer lock keepers, they'll tell you more about the Kennet & Avon Canal.
- 5 Enjoy** a traffic-free cycle ride along the towpath to Woolhampton, well known for its coaching inns.

Visit us at:
Aldermaston Wharf,
Aldermaston RG7 4JS

 Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit


Find your way around

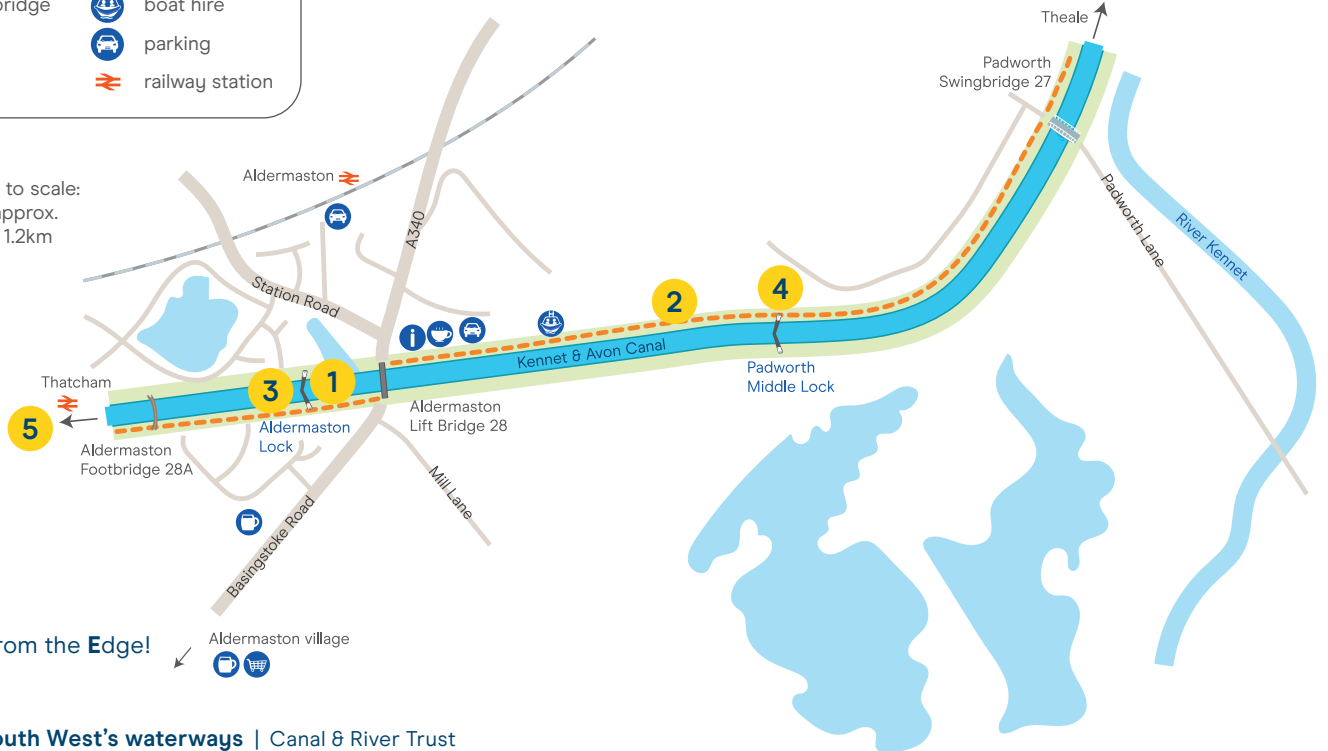
- | | |
|--|---|
|  towpath |  shopping |
|  lift bridge |  information |
|  swingbridge |  boat hire |
|  café |  parking |
|  pub |  railway station |

Did you know?

If you walk along the canal towards Woolhampton bridge, you will see a pillbox. It is one of a number of similar structures built along the canal to defend against German invasion in World War II.



 Map not to scale:
covers approx.
¾ mile / 1.2km



Stay SAFE
Stay Away From the Edge!



A feat of industrial engineering at **Avoncliff Aqueduct**

The Grade II* listed Avoncliff Aqueduct is one of the most impressive structures on Britain's waterways.

Keeping history alive

When designing the Kennet & Avon Canal, engineer John Rennie faced a challenge – how could the waterway cross the wide Avon Valley without using a series of expensive locks? His solution was Avoncliff Aqueduct, which opened in 1801.

Built from stone rather than bricks as recommended by Rennie, the central arch sagged almost immediately after construction.


The opening of the Kennet & Avon Canal provided tradespeople with a safe route between London and Bristol, away from the perilous English Channel.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers






5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Stroll** along the towpath to the pretty hamlet of Avoncliff.
- 2 Enjoy** a traffic-free cycle ride alongside the canal to see the larger Dundas Aqueduct.
- 3 Have** a picnic and enjoy spending some time by water.
- 4 Find** the stonemason's marks on the aqueduct, made when it was repaired.
- 5 Pause** to watch the wildlife that make their homes along the canal.

Visit us at:
Avoncliff Aqueduct,
Avoncliff BA15 2HB

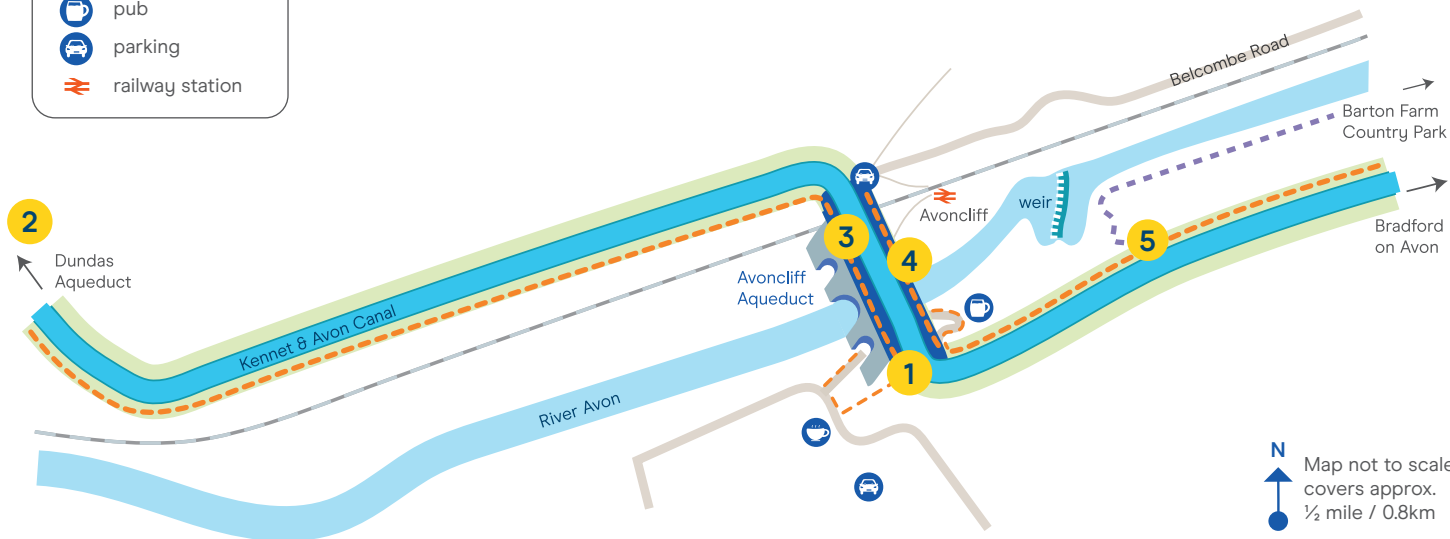
 Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit

Find your way around

-  towpath
-  walk trail
-  café
-  pub
-  parking
-  railway station

Did you know?

The idea of a canal connecting the rivers Thames and Avon was first suggested in Elizabethan times but work didn't start on a canal until 1794.





A peaceful oasis in this historic city at

Bath Locks

Explore this hidden world, just minutes from Bath city centre. The Kennet & Avon Canal joins the River Avon in Bath to complete the once important trade route from Bristol to London.

Keeping history alive

Despite incorporating two rivers linked by a canal, the full stretch of waterway, from Bristol to Reading (87 miles/140km), is known as the Kennet & Avon 'Canal'.

In 1810, the 57 mile (92km) canal section was completed, enabling cargo to travel from Bristol to London avoiding the perilous journey along the English Channel.












The opening of the Great Western Railway in 1841 heralded the gradual decline of the waterway. After decades of dereliction, dedicated volunteers restored the waterway, and it was fully reopened in 1990.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers


5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a boat trip along the Kennet & Avon Canal and get a new view of the historic city.
- 2 Escape** the hustle and bustle of the city and relax by the canal with a picnic in Sydney Gardens.
- 3 Stroll** along the towpath to the crossover bridge, which was originally built for boaters where towpaths switched sides. This meant they didn't need to unhitch their horses when towing boats along the canal.
- 4 Discover** more about the waterway with the audio trails between Halfpenny Bridge and Darlington Wharf – keep a look out for the trail signs as you walk along.
- 5 Stop** for a chat with our friendly volunteers who will tell you more about the area and the work we do.

Find your way around

-  towpath
-  tunnel
-  café
-  bench/picnic area
-  play area
-  point of interest
-  museum
-  QR trail
-  boat hire
-  bike hire
-  railway station

Visit us at:
Sydney Road, Bath BA2 6NT

 Allow half a day
for your visit




Did you know?

The lock gates that you can see on the canal are made in our workshops using the same methods as were used 200 years ago. Each lock gate is unique and can take up to a month to make.



Stay SAFE
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 Map not to scale:
covers approx.
¾ mile / 0.8km



The perfect place to enjoy some time by water is at **Bathampton**

Once a bustling busy wharf, today Bathampton is an idyllic spot to enjoy a peaceful walk along the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Keeping history alive

Until the Kennet & Avon Canal opened, boats had to navigate a long and perilous journey along the English Channel.

As well as creating a shorter route between Bristol and London, this new canal also opened up new trade opportunities, allowing Bath stone, which was quarried nearby, to be 'exported' to Bath and Bristol to the west and London to the east.



Once the railway arrived, the canal fell into disrepair. For decades, teams of volunteers laboured to bring the waterway back to life and today it is one of the most popular canals in England.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers


5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Enjoy** a peaceful stroll along the canal into the bustling city of Bath (3 miles/4.8km).
- 2 Cycle** along the towpath to the historic Claverton Pumping Station, built by engineer John Rennie to supply the canal with water (4 miles/6.5km).
- 3 Chat** with our friendly volunteers and find out how we are looking after the canal and its wildlife.
- 4 Have** a picnic alongside the canal, look out for the waterbirds and enjoy spending some time by water.
- 5 Explore** the pretty village of Bathampton, its history stretches back to Roman times.

Find your way around

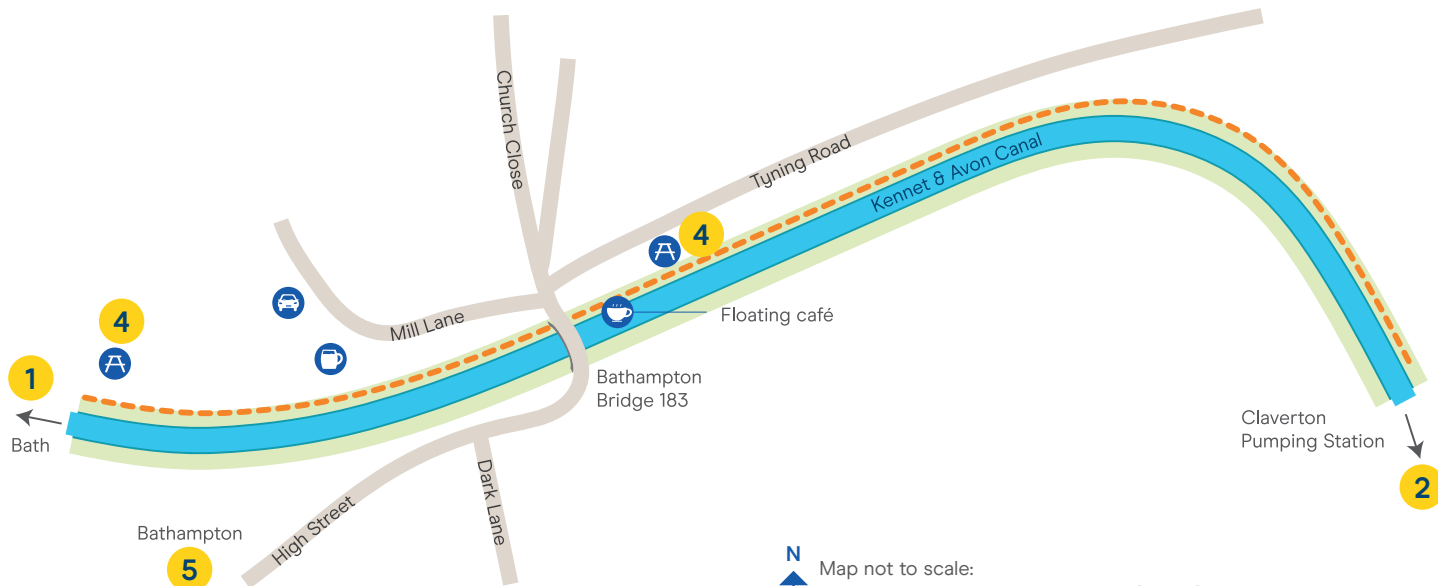
-  towpath
-  café
-  pub
-  bench/picnic area
-  parking


Visit us at:
Mill Lane, Bathampton,
Bath BA2 6TR

 Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit

Did you know?

In around 1897, Bathampton resident and art teacher, William Harbutt, invented a new non-drying modeling clay, Plasticine. This world-famous material was produced in the village until 1983.



 Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km

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A treasure trove of waterway history at **Bradford-on-Avon Wharf**

In the 19th century, this was the busiest wharf on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Today you can still see boats navigating the locks and heading on their travels along the waterway.

Keeping history alive

The opening of the Kennet & Avon Canal in 1810 provided a new route for boats to travel from Bristol to London. Bradford-on-Avon Wharf was an important transshipment post on this new route.

The lower wharf mainly handled coal from the Somerset coalfield. The upper wharf handled other goods including barley for malshouses and local cheeses.


After the Great Western Railway opened in 1841 the canal gradually fell into decline. In the 20th century, teams of dedicated volunteers successfully restored the waterway, which was officially reopened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1990.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Cycle** along the towpath to Avoncliff Aqueduct, designed by canal engineer John Rennie (1.4 miles/2.3km).
- 2 Relax** with a coffee and watch the many colourful canal boats making their way through the locks.
- 3 Stroll** around the wharf and have a closer look at the historic buildings including the old gauging dock, Wharf Manager's House and Old Lock Keeper's Cottage.
- 4 Chat** with our friendly volunteer lock keepers at lock 14, they'll tell you more about the history of the waterway.
- 5 Walk** along the towpath to see the magnificent medieval 14th century Tithe barn.

Canal & River Trust car park (P&D),
Baileys Barn, Off Moulton,
Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1BX

 Allow 2–3 hours
for your visit

5 1 ←

Barton Farm
Country Park,
Tithe Barn &
Avoncliff Aqueduct

N
Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km

Find your way around

- | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|-------------------|
|  | towpath |  | play area |
|  | café |  | point of interest |
|  | pub |  | boat hire |
|  | food & drink |  | trip boat |
|  | toilets |  | canoe hire |
|  | shopping |  | parking |
|  | bench/picnic |  | railway station |

Did you know?

In 1794, the first sod – area of ground –
was cut for the Kennet & Avon Canal
here in Bradford-on-Avon.



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A guide to South West's waterways | Canal & River Trust





One of the 'wonders of our waterways' at

Caen Hill Locks

The 16 locks that form the steepest part of the flight at Caen Hill is a scheduled ancient monument and the longest continuous flight of locks in the country.

Keeping history alive

The Kennet & Avon Canal runs from the River Thames to the River Avon, connecting Reading, Bath and Bristol. Caen Hill Locks, designed by canal engineer John Rennie were the last part of the 87 mile (140km) canal to be completed in 1810.

The canal features a number of remarkable structures including Crofton and Claverton Pumping Stations, and Dundas and Avoncliff Aqueducts.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Visit** our floating welcome hub, the Admiral, and find out more about Caen Hill, one of the seven wonders of the waterways.
- 2 Pick** up a guide from our welcome hub and explore Jubilee Woodland, one of 60 new woods that were planted in 2012 to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.
- 3 Grab** a cup of coffee from the cafe and watch the boats navigate the locks.
- 4 Enjoy** spotting wildlife in the side ponds that adjoin each lock and prevent the canal from running out of water.
- 5 Follow** the canal up to the pretty town of Devizes and the Kennet & Avon Canal Museum (1 mile/1.5km).

Visit us at:

The Locks, Devizes
SN10 1QRY



Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit

Find your way around

towpath



caf 



toilets



bench/picnic area



Canal & River Trust
Welcome Hub



information



woodland



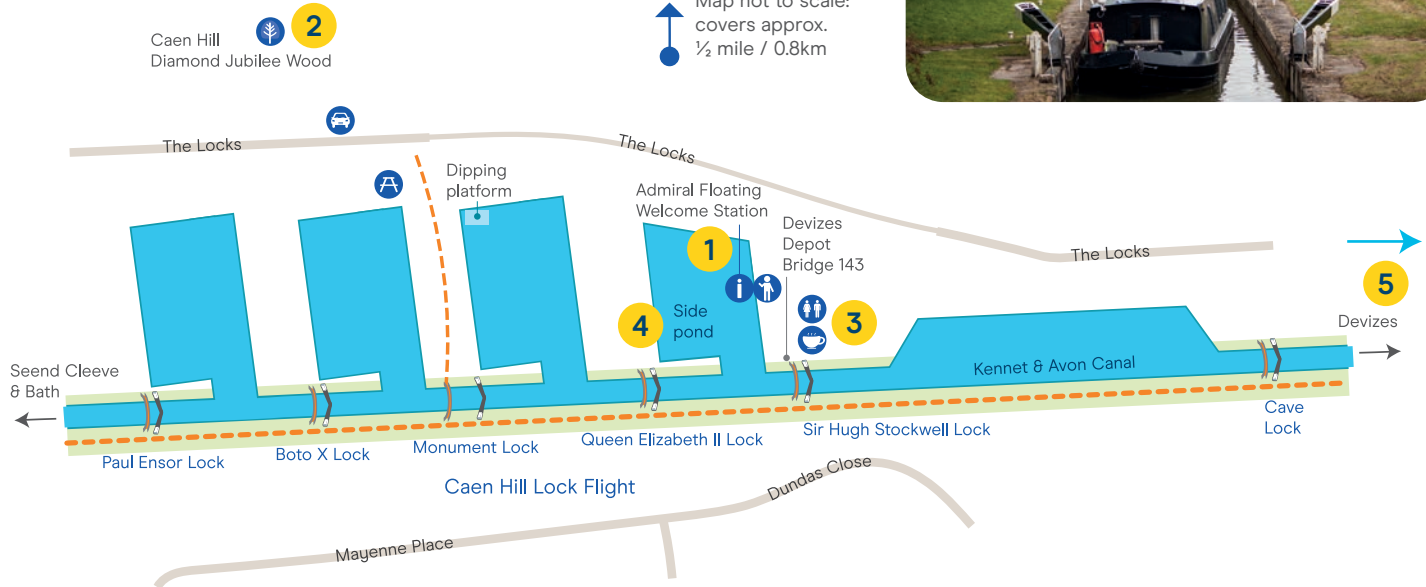
parking

Did you know?

The full Caen Hill lock flight has 29 locks across 2 miles (3.2km). These locks have a total rise of 237ft (72m) or a 1 in 44 gradient.



Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km





A fine example of our industrial heritage in **Crofton**

A major feat of engineering, Crofton Pumping Station is one of the most significant industrial heritage sites in the country.

Keeping history alive

When building the Kennet & Avon Canal, engineer John Rennie encountered a major engineering challenge - how to ensure a ready supply of water to the western end of the waterway.

The problem was solved with the construction of a pumping station, with two steam pumps pumping water 40ft (12m) to the summit of the canal. At the time it was a tremendous feat of engineering and engineers went on to use the technology to drain mines and supply towns and cities with water throughout the world.










Crofton Pumping Station is owned by the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Visit** the pumping station and see the engines 'in steam' – see croftonbeamengines.org for details of steam days.
- 2 Visit** Wilton Water – Rennie created this reservoir to supply water to the pumping station.
- 3 Enjoy** a traffic-free cycle ride along the towpath to Bruce Tunnel – it is named after Earl Ailsbury, the local landowner who insisted on a tunnel for the canal instead of a deep cut (1.3 miles/2km).
- 4 Have** a canal-side picnic and enjoy spending time by water.
- 5 Stroll** along the towpath watching the many different boats making their way along the canal.

Find your way around


-  towpath
-  tunnel
-  café
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  museum
-  information
-  parking
-  railway station

Did you know?

The 1812 Boulton & Watt steam-powered beam engine in Crofton Pumping Station is the oldest working beam engine in the world.



Kennet & Avon Canal Trust car park (P&D)
Crofton Beam Engines, Crofton, SN8 3DW

 Allow half a day
for your visit



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A gateway to history and wildlife at **Devizes Wharf**

Devizes stands on the banks of the Kennet & Avon Canal. Just a few minutes' walk from the centre of the town lies Devizes Wharf, the perfect place to start exploring the canal.

Keeping history alive

When it opened in 1810, the Kennet & Avon Canal brought prosperity to the towns along its route, providing a faster, cheaper and safer way to transport goods between Bristol and London.

Wharves were constructed at key staging points along the canal to allow boats to load and unload goods and passengers. There were once seven wharves at Devizes, this last remaining wharf is an important part of the town's history. It provides a connection to its industrial past and a gateway to the wildlife and nature that can now be found along the waterway.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

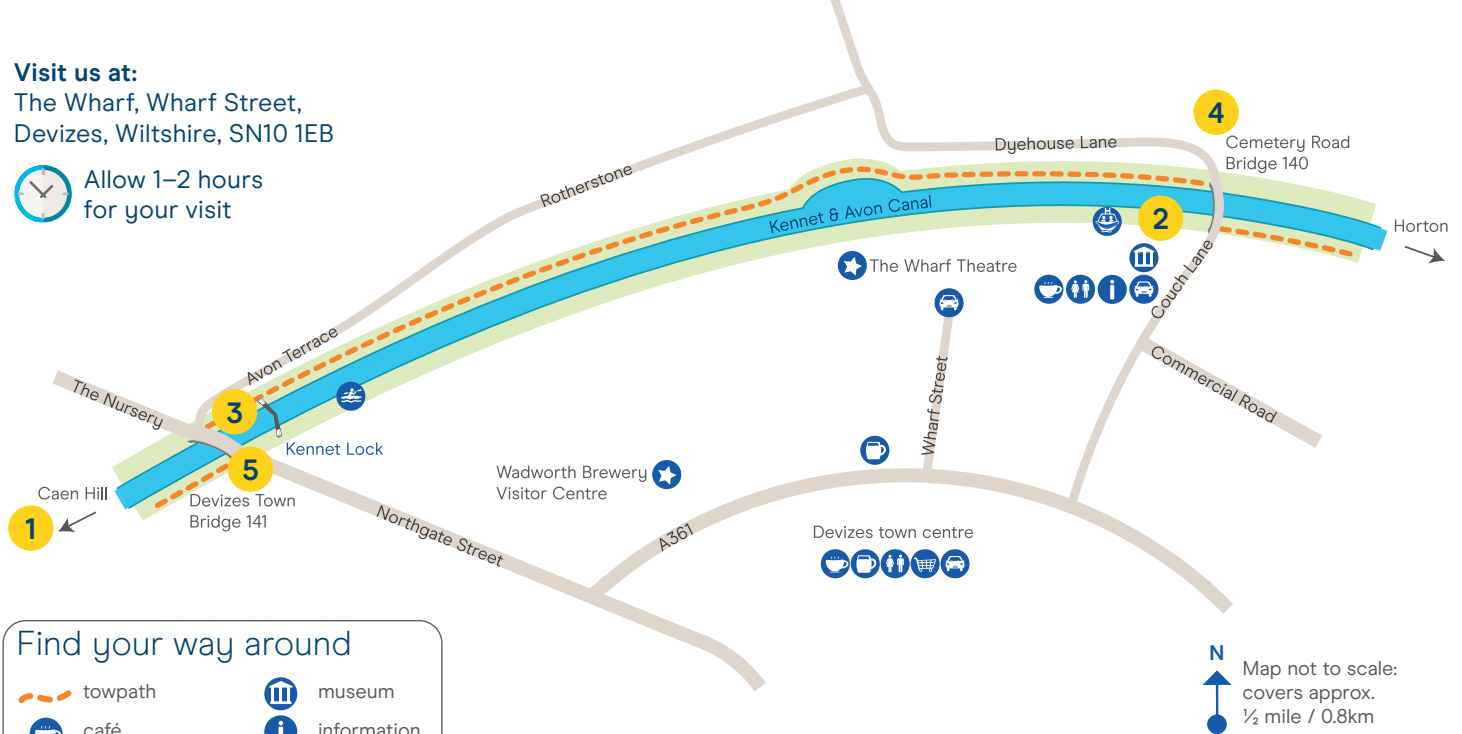
- 1 Follow** the canal down to Caen Hill lock flight, one of the wonders of the waterways (1 mile/1.6km).
- 2 Visit** the museum, housed in a bonded warehouse where goods were stored before duties were paid.
- 3 Watch** the colourful canal boats navigate their way through the locks.
- 4 Enjoy** a stroll along the canal and spot the signs of history – from the grooves worn by wet tow ropes on Cemetery Road Bridge to the WWII pill box.
- 5 See** the arch on the far side of Town Bridge – this allowed horses towing the boats to pass through.

Visit us at:

The Wharf, Wharf Street,
Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 1EB



Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit



Find your way around

- towpath
- café
- museum
- pub
- information
- toilets
- boat hire
- shopping
- canoeing
- point of interest
- parking

N
Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km

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Did you know?

The Kennet & Avon Canal was part of the Government's 'General Head Quarters Line' during World War II – a static defensive line designed to hold back Hitler's troops in the event of an invasion. As part of these defences, a number of squat concrete pillboxes, like the one at Devizes, were built along the canal.





Where the Worcester & Birmingham Canal meets the mighty River Severn at

Diglis

A gem in the historic city of Worcester. For decades Diglis Basin and Diglis Island have played a vital role in transporting goods and materials along these waterways. Today they are a tranquil spot to enjoy some fresh air and time by water.

Keeping history alive

Diglis Island is an artificial manmade island. In 1844 a new channel was cut to make way for a set of locks to allow boats to navigate past Diglis Weir. During this work the land was separated from the riverbank, leaving the 'island' that we know today.

The island is one of four lock islands constructed in 1843–1845 between Worcester and Stourport.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers


5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Enjoy** a tour of Diglis Fish Pass led by one of our expert volunteer guides, you'll have the chance to see wild fish through our underwater viewing gallery. (Spring – Autumn only, advance booking needed.)
- 2 Take** a break at the floating cafe.
- 3 Explore** Worcester Cathedral built on the banks of the River Severn and the resting place of King John, who died in 1216.
- 4 Stretch** your legs on our 2.5 mile (4km) circular walk along the river starting from Worcester Bridge.
- 5 Visit** the marina in Diglis Basin where the river-locks are the largest and deepest of their type in the country.

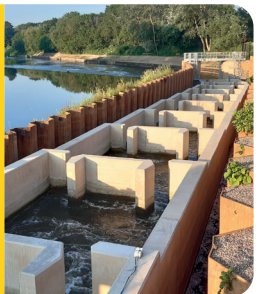


N
 Map not to scale:
 covers approx.
 1 1/4 miles / 2km








Visit us at:
 Diglis Basin, Diglis
 Road, Worcester
 WR5 3BW

 Allow half a day
 for your visit

Did you know?
 The fish pass is the largest
 of its kind in England and
 Wales. It is one of four
 new fish passes created to
 open up 158 miles of river
 habitat to the rare Twaite
 Shad so they can reach
 their spawning ground.



Find your way around

 towpath	 pub	 bench/picnic area	 marina
 walk trail	 food & drink	 point of interest	 parking
 swing bridge	 toilets	 museum	 railway station
 café	 shopping	 nature reserve	

**Stay SAFE
 Stay Away
 From the
 Edge!**



A celebration of architecture and engineering at **Dundas Aqueduct**

The spectacular Dundas Aqueduct was completed in 1805 and is regarded as canal engineer, John Rennie's finest architectural achievement. It carries the Kennet & Avon Canal over the River Avon and removed the need for locks.

Keeping history alive

Named after Charles Dundas, the first chairman of the Kennet and Avon Canal Company, Dundas Aqueduct forms the junction between the Kennet & Avon Canal and the Somerset Coal Canal, of which little remains.

Today, the Grade I listed aqueduct is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and holds the Red Wheel Plaque which recognises Britain's greatest transport heritage sites.

You can see evidence of the area's industrial past at Dundas Wharf where the small tollhouse, warehouse and crane still stand. While at Brassknocker Basin on the Somerset Coal Canal there are now moorings, cycle hire and a cafe.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)











- 1 Cycle** down into the valley for an impressive view of the aqueduct.
- 2 Enjoy** a picnic and watch the colourful canal boats crossing the aqueduct.
- 3 Take** a stroll along the Somerset Coal Canal to Brassknocker Basin.
- 4 Hire** a bike and enjoy a traffic-free cycle ride to Avoncliff Aqueduct (2.5 miles/4km).
- 5 Hire** a boat or canoe and experience the canal on water.

Did you know?


Dundas Aqueduct is a Grade I listed building and was the first canal structure to be designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (in 1951). There are now 50 Scheduled Ancient Monuments along our waterways including Caen Hill Lock flight further along the Kennet & Avon Canal at Devizes.




Find your way around

-  towpath
-  lift bridge
-  café
-  toilets
-  point of interest
-  boat hire
-  bike hire
-  woodland
-  parking
-  railway station

Visit us at:
Brassknocker Basin,
Monkton Combe,
BA2 7JD

 Allow 2 hours
for your visit

N
 Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km



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The UK's most inland port at **Gloucester Docks**

In the 18th and 19th centuries, these docks were a hub of activity with narrowboats, barges and ships passing through. Today you can enjoy exploring the area on foot or afloat.

Keeping history alive

Gloucester Docks is the terminus of the 16 mile (25.5km) long Gloucester & Sharpness Canal which opened in 1827. This new canal gave sea-going ships a safe route away from a dangerous winding stretch of the River Severn direct into Gloucester where they could offload cargo to narrowboats and barges for onward journey to the Midlands.














When the canal was first opened it was the widest and deepest in England.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Discover** more about the docks and canal at our National Waterways Museum Gloucester housed in Llanthony Warehouse.
- 2 Enjoy** a boat trip along the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and experience the waterway afloat.
- 3 Try** out watersports – have a go at canoeing or paddleboarding in the docks.
- 4 Follow** the towpath to Llanthony Secunda Priory, a scheduled ancient monument.
- 5 Walk** through the docks into the historic city and visit Gloucester Cathedral.

Find your way around

-  towpath
-  lift bridge
-  café
-  pub
-  food & drink
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  point of interest
-  museum
-  trip boat
-  paddleboarding hub
-  parking
-  railway station

Visit us at:
Gloucester Docks
GL1 2EH




Allow a full day
for your visit

Did you know?

Gloucester has been a port since the sixteenth century – Queen Elizabeth I granted Gloucester the status of customs port in 1580.



 Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km



Stay SAFE
Stay Away From
the Edge!



Where nature thrives at **Kintbury**

Once a busy industrial canal wharf, Kintbury is now a picture of tranquility, the perfect place to start exploring the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal.

Keeping history alive

Once a small rural village, Kintbury's fortunes changed in 1794 with the arrival of hundreds of 'navvies' constructing the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Kintbury was the first section of the Kennet & Avon Canal to be opened. The canal was the main trading route between London and Bristol, and the wharf thrived for 100 years.

Large quantities of iron and coke bound for the local ironworks were unloaded at the wharf, as well as raw materials for nearby breweries.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a horse-drawn boat trip along the canal and learn more about its history.
- 2 Go** for a traffic-free bike ride along the towpath, past the chalk streams – the pure clear water provides the perfect habitat for a host of wild creatures.
- 3 Stroll** alongside the canal and watch colourful canal boats making their way through the locks and along the waterway.
- 4 Pause** and chat with our friendly volunteers, you can find out how you could volunteer too.
- 5 Have** a picnic by the canal and enjoy some time by water.

Visit us at:

Station Road, Kintbury RG17 9UT



Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit



Find your way around

- towpath
- pub
- toilets
- shopping
- bench/picnic area
- horsedrawn boat trips
- parking
- railway station

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Did you know?

The Kennet & Avon Canal opened in 1810. By 1818 there were 200 barges working on the waterway. It took an average of 3 days and 9 hours to travel from Newbury to Bath.





An important wetland habitat at **Maunsel Lock**

Once a hub of boats plying their trade, the canal today is an important wetland habitat.

Keeping history alive

The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal was originally planned as part of an ambitious system of canals linking Exeter with Bristol to remove the need for boats to navigate the perilous route around Land's End.

The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal, which was the first canal in this scheme, opened in 1827. Unfortunately, the remainder of the project was then abandoned.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a stroll along the restored canal.
- 2 Chat** with our friendly volunteers who are helping to look after this waterway.
- 3 Enjoy** a picnic and feel the benefit of being by water.
- 4 Explore** the Somerset Space Walk – scale models of the planets are positioned along the canal to represent the solar system.
- 5 Spot** the wildlife that can be found along the canal including kingfishers, herons and damselflies.

Visit us at:

Maunsel Lock Canal Centre,
Bankland, North Newton TA7 0DH



Allow 1–2 hours
for your visit

Find your way around

- towpath
- café
- toilets
- bench/picnic area
- point of interest
- art installation
- information
- trip boat
- boat hire
- paddleboarding
- canoeing
- canoe launch
- parking



Map not to scale:
covers approx.
½ mile / 0.8km



Did you know?

During the Second World War, Maunsel Lock formed a line of defence known as the Wessex Stop (or Taunton) Line. All swing bridges along the canal were removed, and a series of pillboxes were installed.



Stay SAFE

Stay Away From the Edge!



Connecting you with history and nature at **Newbury Wharf**

Once a busy inland port and trading area for the town, today the wharf connects the town with the countryside.

Keeping history alive

The Newbury to Hungerford section of the Kennet & Avon Canal was completed in 1798 and the full length of the waterway opened in 1810.

This new canal provided boats with a route from London to Bristol that avoided navigating the English Channel.


Each year hundreds of boats and barges would carry coal and other cargo between towns and cities along the waterway until the Great Western Railway opened in 1841 and the canal gradually fell into decline.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Enjoy** a boat trip along the canal and find out more about the waterway.
- 2 Relax** with a picnic in Victoria Park and feel the benefit of spending time by water).
- 3 Visit** the Kennet & Avon Centre in the Wharf and discover the history of the canal.
- 4 Stroll** along the towpath to Town Bridge, a bridge has crossed the river here since the Middle Ages.
- 5 Walk** or cycle along along the towpath to Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust's Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre (0.8 mile/1.2km).

Visit us at:
Newbury Wharf,
Wharf Street,
Newbury RG14 5AP

 Allow 2–3 hours
for your visit

Find your way around

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|
|  | towpath |  | play area |
|  | café |  | art centre |
|  | pub |  | museum |
|  | food & drink |  | trip boat |
|  | toilets |  | marina |
|  | shopping |  | parking |
|  | bench/picnic area |  | railway station |

Did you know?

Town Bridge was built before the canal so there is no towpath beneath it. Boaters used to float a line under the bridge, re-attach it to the horse where the towpath resumed and haul the barge through. Over time, the hauling lines wore grooves under the bridge and these can still be seen today.





A scenic resting point in this busy town of

Reading

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.

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

5 things to do (see map)









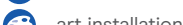


- 1 Take** a walk along the towpath to the point where the canal joins the River Thames and completes its journey to London (0.6 miles/1km).
- 2 Relax** with a coffee and watch the colourful canal boats making their way along the canal.
- 3 Look** at the floating reedbeds in Abbey Quarter, they have 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.

The Oracle Riverside carpark (P&D), Reading RG1 2AG

 Allow half a day for your visit




Find your way around

-  towpath
-  café
-  pub
-  food & drink
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  point of interest
-  museum
-  art installation
-  floating reed beds
-  parking

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.



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



A meeting point for canals and people at **Saul Junction**

Saul Junction is where the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal meets the rural Stroudwater Canal. Once a meeting place for ships and boats from around the world, today it's a perfect place to spot wildlife.

Keeping history alive

Gloucester Docks is the terminus of The original plan in 1793 was to build a ship canal for oceangoing vessels to travel between Berkeley and Gloucester, avoiding a treacherous stretch of the River Severn.

Beset by poor weather, shortage of labour and disputes with landowners, the canal was eventually routed to Sharpness, and became known as the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. When it opened in 1827, it was one of the broadest and deepest canals in the world.

The Gloucester & Sharpness Canal crosses the Stroudwater Canal at Saul Junction. Ships and crew, boats and boaters and cargo from around the world met here.

Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Cycle** along the towpath to the 'boat graveyard' Purton Hulks (6.5 miles/10.5km). Old boats were beached here to protect the canal banks from erosion by the tidal River Severn.
- 2 Explore** the canal afloat by taking a boat trip and find out more about the waterway.
- 3 Take** a break in the cafe and feel the benefit of spending some time by water.
- 4 Have** a chat with our friendly volunteers and bridge keepers at Junction Bridge House.
- 5 Take** a stroll along the Stroudwater Navigation and explore the canal as it undergoes.

Visit us at:

Saul Junction Church Lane, Saul,
Gloucestershire GL2 7LA



Allow 2–3 hours
for your visit

Find your way around

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| towpath | information |
| swingbridge | trip boat |
| café | marina |
| toilets | boat club |
| Canal & River Trust
Welcome Hub | orchard |
| | parking |

Did you know?

To create the Junction, the Stroudwater Canal needed to be raised approximately 4ft (1m) to meet the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. This involved the construction of a new lock. A house was also built at the Junction for the official, who collected tolls from boats passing from one canal to the other.



Stay SAFE

Stay Away From the Edge!



Get closer to nature on this beautiful waterway at

Seend Locks

Once crammed with canal barges laden with iron ore from local quarries, today it's a great place to start exploring the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal.

Keeping history alive

When the Kennet & Avon Canal opened in 1810 it soon became a hive of activity with up to 200 boats working on the waterway.

During the 19th century, there were several wharves at Seend where cargo could be loaded and unloaded – primarily iron ore quarried at Seend Iron Works which was then sent along the canal to Wales to be smelted.


The canal was bought by the Great Western Railway Company in 1851 and was allowed to gradually fall into disrepair before being restored by teams of volunteers and re-opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1990.

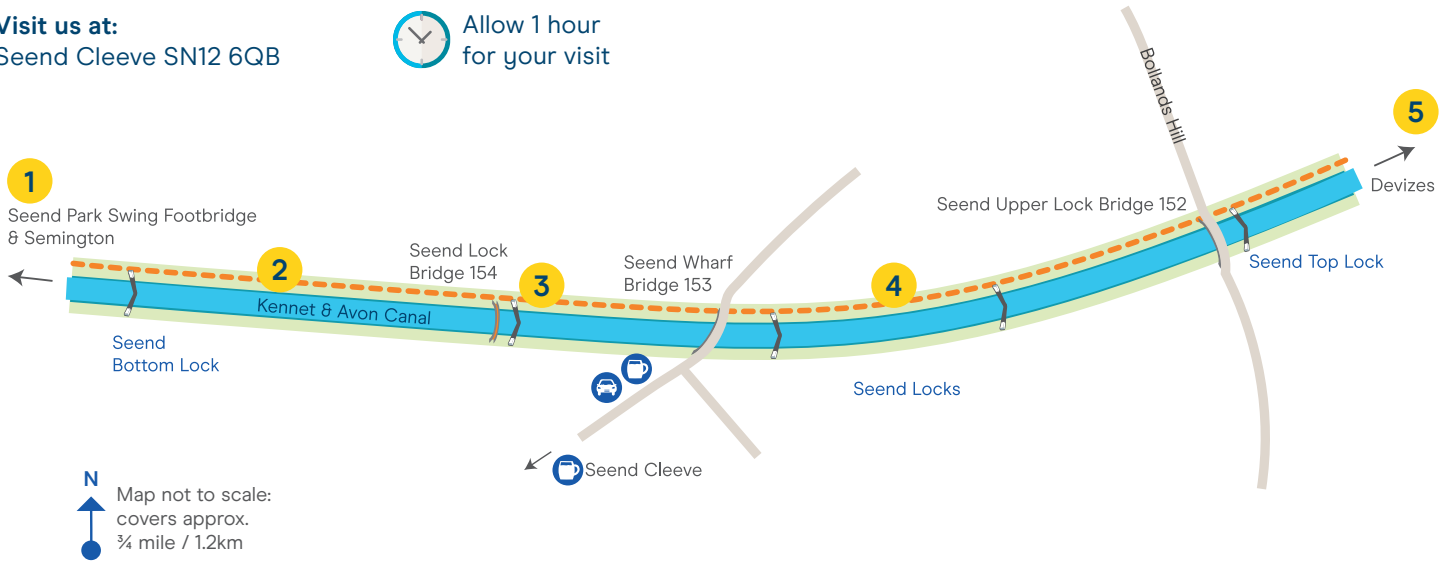
Discover lots of fun things to do with the family by and on the water. Go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers

5 things to do (see map)




- 1 Walk** along the towpath to Semington Bottom Lock, the junction with the Wilts & Berks Canal which is being restored by volunteers from the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (1 mile/1.6km).
- 2 Have** a picnic alongside the canal and enjoy spending some time by water.
- 3 Watch** the colourful canal boats making their way through the locks.
- 4 Stroll** along the canal and keep a look out for the many waterbirds that can be found along the canal including kingfishers, moot swans, coots, moorhens and herons.
- 5 Enjoy** a traffic-free cycle ride to Caen Hill lock flight, one of the wonders of the waterways (2.4 miles/4km).

Visit us at:
Seend Cleeve SN12 6QB

 Allow 1 hour
for your visit



Find your way around

-  towpath
-  pub
-  parking

Stay SAFE
Stay Away From the Edge!

Did you know?

The lock gates that you can see on the canal are made in our workshops using the same methods as were used 200 years ago. Each lock gate is unique and can take up to a month to make.



Help us to care for South West's waterways

As a charity we urgently need your support to keep the canals you love alive with nature and their heritage protected for the future.



DONATE



Please support our work & donate today

SCAN ME



Text CANAL5 to 70480 to give £5

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text CANAL5NOINFO instead.

For information on visiting safely: canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety

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

