Canal & River Trust
Making life better by water

Boaters' Guides

A note about the data

These guides list information we currently have on our facilities, dimensions and navigation guidance, based upon local knowledge and expertise. Whilst we anticipate that this data is reasonably accurate, we cannot guarantee its precision. Therefore, this data should only be used as a helpful guide and you should always use your own judgement taking into account local circumstances at any particular time. If you spot something wrong, please let us know canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us

Key to facilities

- Winding hole (length specified)
- Winding hole (full length)
- Visitor mooring
- Information and office
- Dock and/or slipway
- Slipway only
- Services and facilities
- Water point only

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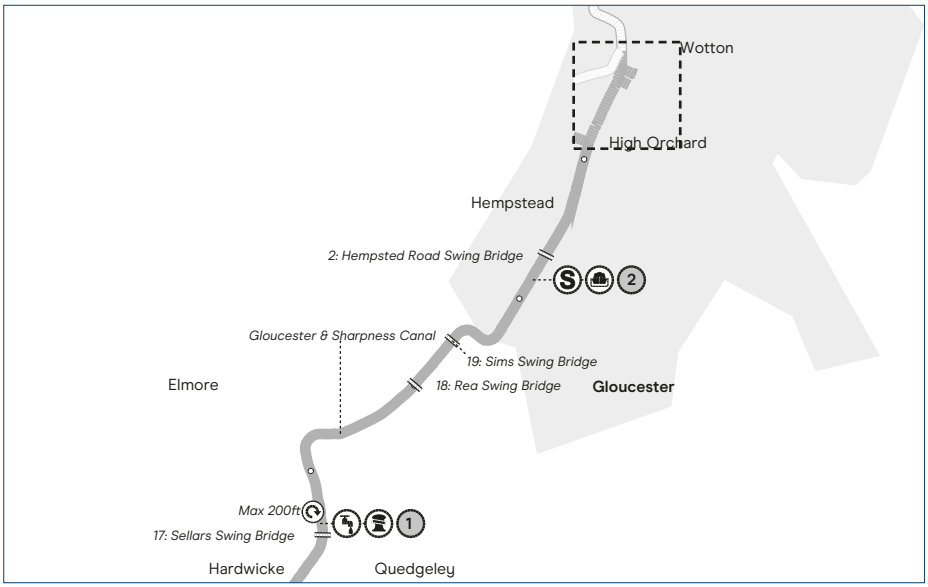
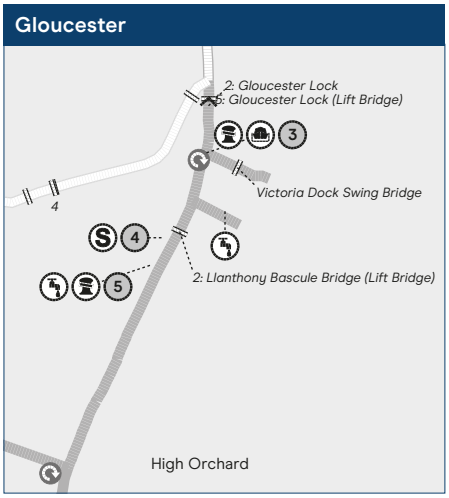
Gloucester & Sharpness Canal





Navigation notes

River Severn

Gloucester Lock to Upper Lode Lock: The River Severn from Gloucester Lock to Upper Lode Lock at Tewkesbury is tidal, therefore, the flow of the river will be reversed at times during the flood tide, and velocities may be increased during the ebb. Obtain advice from the lock keepers at Gloucester or Upper Lode before leaving the lock.

Locks & bridges

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal

Lock 2, Gloucester Lock: Operated by bridgekeeper. Subject to flooding from river severn. Depending on flood/tidal influence Gloucester Lock flood gates will be closed at around 6m above summer level. Gloucester lock is not available for navigation when the flood gates are closed. Craft should proceed with caution keeping close to the quay wall when approaching Gloucester Lock from the River Severn side.

Bridge 5, Gloucester Lock (Lift Bridge): Operated by bridgekeeper. Main road lift bridge,cannot be opened for craft during peak vehicle traffic flows Monday to Friday 08.20 to 09.00hrs and 16.30 to 17.30hrs with the exception of commercial boat traffic. Waterway width 24ft 6ins.

Victoria Basin (Gloucester Docks): Home of Gloucester Marina Bridge 2, Llanthony Bascule Bridge (Lift Bridge): Operated by bridgekeeper. Traffic restrictions as with Gloucester Lock Bridge. Waterway width 38ft.

Bridge 2, Hempsted Road Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Manually operated, traffic restrictions as with Gloucester Lock Bridge. Waterway width 37ft 6ins. Weight limit on bridge.

Bridge 19, Sims Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Mechanical, most narrowboats go under without opening. Waterway width 37ft 6ins.

Bridge 18, Rea Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Manual, most narrowboats go under without opening. Waterway width 37ft 6ins. Air draught 8ft 2ins (2.5m).

Bridge 17, Sellars Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Manual, most narrowboats go under without opening. Waterway width 36ft 6ins. Air draught 9ft 4ins (2.85m).

Ⓢ Services & facilities

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal

2 **A&D Marine**: Fuel for boats.

4 **Llanthony Bridge**: Water, Elsan disposal, pump-out. Canal & River Trust key required.

Maximum Dimensions

River Severn into Sharpness Docks

Length: 91.44m (300ft)
Beam: 16.76m (55ft)

Sharpness Docks to Gloucester Docks

Length: 64m (210ft)
Beam: 9.6m (31ft 5”)
Draught: 3.5m (11ft 6”)
Headroom: 32m (105ft)

Gloucester Docks to River Severn through Gloucester Lock

Length: 41.15m (135ft)
Beam: 6.4m (21ft)
Draught: 1.83m (6ft)
Headroom: 7.5m (24ft 7”)

Visitor moorings

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal

1 **Sellars Bridge**: Total 100 metres. Visitor moorings upstream of bridge on towpath side. Please check with the Bridge Keeper before mooring as ships turn at this point and space is limited.

3 **Gloucester Docks**: Total 500 metres. Please note the following details when planning a visit to Gloucester Docks.

The dock area is the waterspace between Gloucester Lock in the north and Llanthony Lift Bridge in the south, and includes permanent moorings in Victoria Basin (to the east). Large craft use the main waterspace for turning.

Please note the dock area is still used as a working area mainly associated with access to the two dry docks operated by T Nielson Company. The dock walls adjacent to the dry docks will often have craft moored in transit either to or from the docks. We hope you appreciate the colour and images of times past associated with many of these historic craft.

Please do not obstruct safety ladders, or your vessel may be moved.

The north-east of the docks has pontoons laid out in herringbone fashion and are dedicated as 48-hour moorings. Other locations around the dock walls are similarly signed.

48-hour moorings. Arrangements can be made to extend moorings by up to 14 days by contacting the Waterways Office and making the appropriate payment.

Some locations have electric supplies and again these can be accessed through the Waterways Office. Canal & River Trust Sanitary Station keys and boat licences are also available from here.

Disabled moorings only on low quay situated at entrance to Barge Arm. Please notify the Waterways Office if you wish to moor here.

Please note that in addition to the craft accessing the dry dock, the main waterspace is a thoroughfare for boats travelling the River Severn and Sharpness Canal. Some of these craft are large and use the main waterspace for turning. In addition, the Canal & River Trust operates boat trips frequently in this area.

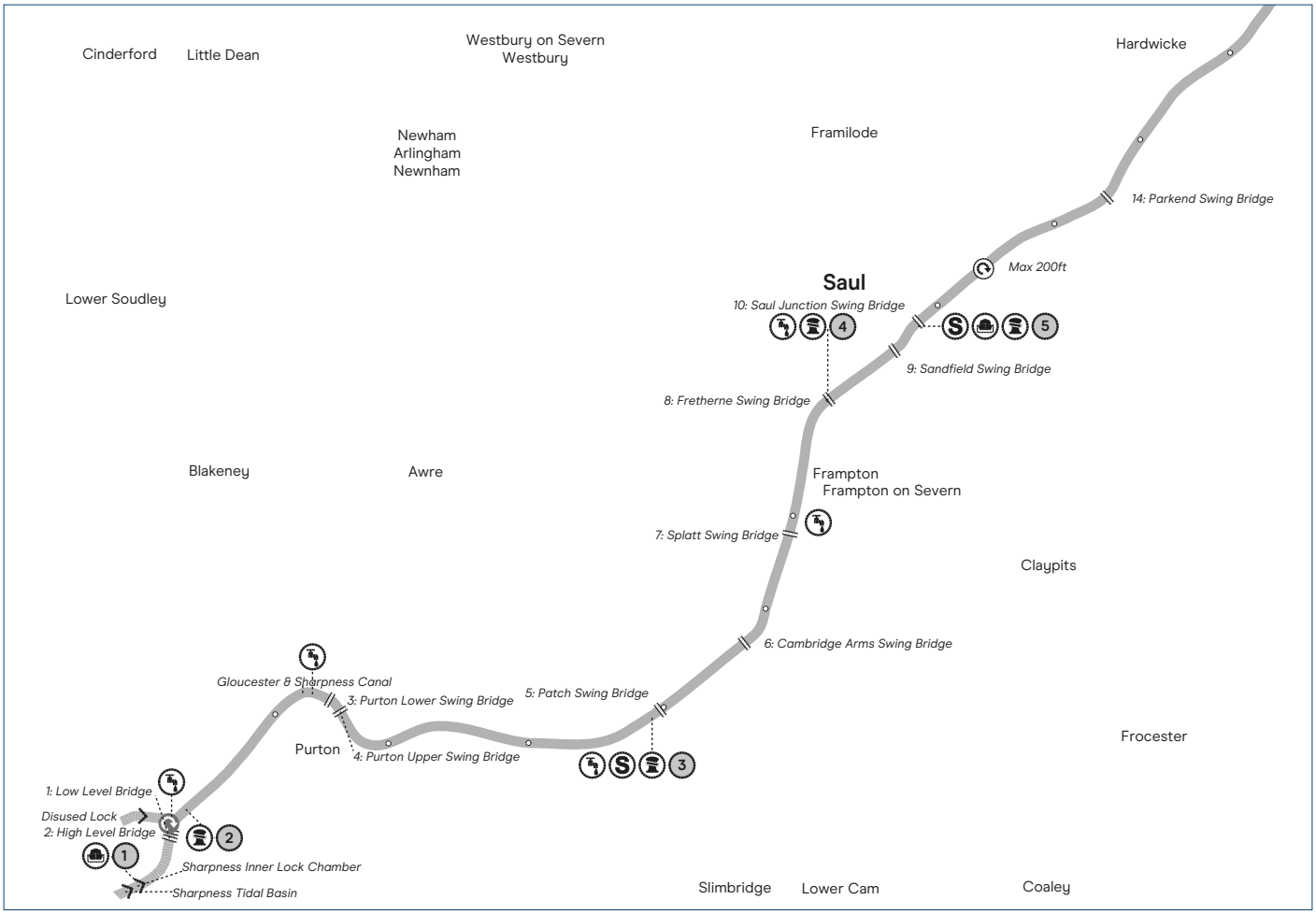
5 **Llanthony Pontoons**: Total 180 metres. Sanitary Station and pump-out. Permanent and visitor pontoon moorings. Bakers Quay Outside the docks at the start of the canal, east side. Limited visitor mooring space. Please check with Llanthony Bridge Keeper.

Slipways & docks

Gloucester & Sharpness Canal

2 **A&D Marine**: Dry-dock.

3 **Gloucester Dry Dock**: Dry-dock. Neilsen & Son specializing in Tall Ship repair.



Locks & bridges

Bridge 14, Parkend Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Mechanically operated. Waterway width 36ft 3ins.

Bridge 10, Saul Junction Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Operates Sandfield Bridge during winter by CCTV. Manually operated in summer, mechanical in winter. Waterway width 37ft 6ins.

Bridge 9, Sandfield Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. CCTV operation from Saul Junction during winter. Mechanical operation. Waterway width 38ft 3ins.

Bridge 8, Fretherne Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Cannot be opened for craft Monday to Friday during school terms between 8.20am and 9am. Mechanical operation. Waterway width 30ft 5ins.

Bridge 7, Splatt Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Manually operated. Waterway width 36ft 5ins.

Bridge 6, Cambridge Arms Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Manually operated. Waterway width 36ft 6ins.

Bridge 5, Patch Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Very busy due to Wetland Trust (Slimbridge) and adjacent Boat Station Public road. Manually operated. Waterway width 36ft 6ins.

Bridge 3, Purton Lower Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. Operates Purton Upper Swing Bridge by CCTV.

Bridge 4, Purton Upper Swing Bridge: Operated by bridgekeeper. CCTV operation from Purton Lower Bridge. Waterway width 35ft 3ins.

Bridge 2, High Level Bridge: Seldom used by vehicle traffic – most boats go under. Waterway width 50ft 3ins. Air draught 16ft 9ins (5.1m).

Bridge 1, Low Level Bridge: Heavy vehicle traffic. Waterway width 50ft 2ins.

Sharpness Inner Lock Chamber: Sharpness Sea Lock is used by both Commercial and Leisure craft. All vessels are required to book passage through Sharpness Lock and Bridges at least 24 hours in advance. Leisure craft bookings are made through Sharpness Pier head, tel: 01453 511968. The Pier head is manned from 5 hours before High Water to one hour after High water on each tide.

Services & facilities

3 **Slimbridge Boat Station**: Water, Elsan disposal, pump-out, fuel for boats.

5 **Saul Junction Facility**: Water, Elsan disposal, pump-out, toilet.

Visitor moorings

2 **Sharpness**: Total 150 metres. Visitor moorings are located above the entrance to the Old Arm on the towpath side.

3 **Patch Bridge south**: Total 140 metres. Long term and visitor moorings on off-side south of bridge. Please check with Bridge Keeper at this popular visitor site. Trip boat arrival/departure point on off-side by water point south of bridge. Camping/caravan/leisure goods shop nearby. Slimbridge Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust within easy reach.

4 **Fretherne Br north**: Total 138 metres. Limited visitor mooring towpath-side north of bridge. Please check with Bridge Keeper. Pubs and limited services in Frampton village nearby.

5 **Saul Junction**: Maximum 48 hours.

Slipways and docks

1 **Sharpness Dry Dock**: Dry-dock, wet-dock. Sharpness Port Authority.

5 **B&T Marine**: Dry-dock.