

Caring for Foxton Locks

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 Foxton Locks 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 Foxton Locks, 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

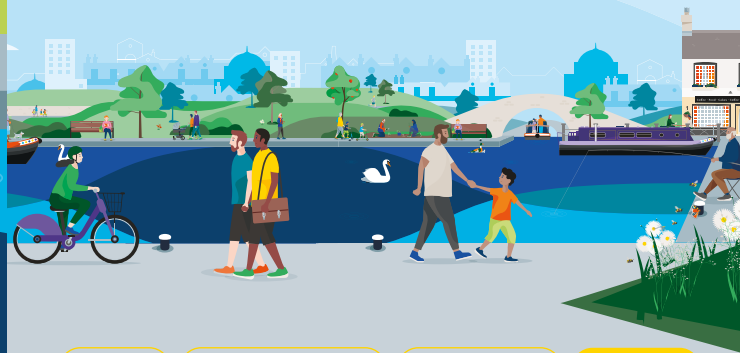
Keeping history alive

At Foxton canal engineers were faced with the challenge of how to raise heavily laden canal boats 75ft (23m).

The first solution, staircase locks, opened in 1814. These locks are different to most others in that they share bottom and top gates.

In 1900, engineers trialled a new method – the inclined plane. Built next to the locks, it carried boats up and down the steep hill in caissons, or 'giant bathtubs', of water. It was expensive to operate and after just 11 years, this innovative boat lift was mothballed.

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



Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

canalrivertrust.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1146792

May 2026



Canal &
River Trust

Welcome to Foxton Locks

Over 200 years of travel, trade
and leisure.



We're the charity making life
better by water

The Grade II* listed Foxton Locks is home to the longest, steepest staircase flight of locks in Britain and is nestled in 34 acres of natural green space.

Visit us at:

Foxton Locks, Foxton,
Leicestershire LE16 7RA

 Allow half to a full day for your visit

Find your way around

-  path
-  towpath
-  Wreake Angling Club permit holders only
-  WDNAC permit holders only
-  swing bridge
-  café
-  pub
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  bench/picnic area
-  accessible
-  top viewing platform
-  point of interest
-  museum
-  art trail
-  orchard
-  Canal & River Trust Welcome Hub
-  information
-  parking
-  assembly point
-  no cycling
-  fishing areas



Stay SAFE
Stay Away From the Edge!
For more information
on visiting safely:
canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety

Details correct at time of print, please check before travelling

5 things to do at Foxton Locks

- 1** See the remains of the disused boat lift, a scheduled ancient monument, and discover more of its fascinating story in the museum.
- 2** Walk up the hill next to the unique ten-gate staircase lock system, the only one of its kind in the UK.
- 3** Chat with our friendly volunteer lock keepers, they'll explain how they work the locks.
- 4** Join one of our tours or pick up a trail guide from our welcome station and discover the vast array of wildlife that can be found here.
- 5** Find your next holiday read in our pre-loved bookshop located in Top Lock Cottage.

Did you know?

It takes a boat an average of 45 minutes to travel through all ten locks. During the journey, 25,000 gallons (113,650 litres) of water will be displaced, equivalent to 312 baths!

