

Where does the water come from?

The water at Crofton Locks on the Kennet & Avon Canal comes mainly from Wilton Water/Crofton Reservoir.

Wilton Water is a small reservoir which fills largely from groundwater and provides a generous supply as long as the water table is not low.

Water from the River Avon in Bath, 30 miles to the west, can also be used to feed the Kennet & Avon Canal summit.

Wilton Water is one of our smallest reservoirs. When full, it contains around 25 million litres of water. The water has to be lifted 15 meters, by pumping, to the top of the locks

Water at Crofton, in the middle of the Kennet & Avon Canal, can also come from as far away as Bath

The stretch of canal west of Crofton is the highest point on the canal. From here all the locks to both Bath and Reading run downhill

It costs around £300,000 a year to pump water on the Kennet & Avon Canal

The summit of the canal was built about 15 meters higher than originally planned ...

...to avoid the tunnel being 2½ miles long. So the canal was cheaper and quicker to build...

...but slower to navigate (more locks) and more expensive to keep full of water (pumps)

Wilton Water Reservoir, with both heritage and modern pumps

For other locations go to canalrivertrust.org.uk/water-sources