



Canal &  
River Trust

Making life better by water

# East Midlands

Discover great places  
to visit by the water

Beeston Lock • Braunston • Cosgrove & Wolverton  
• Foxton Locks • Gunthorpe Lock • Langley Mill •  
Market Harborough • Newark • Castle Wharf Nottingham  
• Stoke Bruerne • Stoke Lock & Woods • Sutton Cheney •  
Torksey • Trent Lock • Welford Wharf • Woolsthorpe Locks

We're the UK's largest canal charity

Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

[canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://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 the East Midlands – 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.

- |   |                      |    |                         |
|---|----------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | Beeston Lock         | 9  | Castle Wharf Nottingham |
| 2 | Braunston            | 10 | Stoke Bruerne           |
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Discover more free places to visit in our regional guides – [canalrivertrust.org.uk/fundaysoutguide](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/fundaysoutguide)



\* 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.



## A haven for wildlife at **Beeston Lock**

Beeston Lock is a great place to escape the city and get closer to nature. Watch boats gently making their way through the lock or discover the wildlife that has made its home along the waterway.

### Keeping history alive

The Nottingham & Beeston Canal opened in 1796, connecting collieries at Wollaton and Bilborough to Langley Mill, and from there to the Cromford Canal.

Beeston Lock is where the canal bypasses unnavigable parts of the River Trent, enabling coal to be transported into Nottingham city centre. The canal then takes boaters through Castle Lock before returning them to the River Trent at Trent Bridge.







Today it is still used by boaters to bypass the tricky shallows of the Trent.

**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)


### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Walk** up to the Turnover Bridge, designed so horses could cross without being unhitched.
- 2 Find** out more about the Nottingham & Beeston Canal at the Canalside Heritage Centre, housed in the old converted lock cottages.
- 3 Pause** for a coffee at the boathouse café overlooking the marina and enjoy spending some time by water.
- 4 Walk** the 2 mile (3km) circular route following the canal and the River Trent – part of Nottingham's Big Track for walkers and cyclists.
- 5 Explore** Attenborough Nature Reserve, a nationally important site – over 250 species of bird have been recorded here (1 mile/1.5km).


## Find your way around

-  towpath
-  café
-  pub
-  museum
-  marina
-  railway station

**Visit us at:**  
Riverside Road, Beeston,  
Nottingham NG9 1NR

 Allow 1–2 hours  
for your visit



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

## Did you know?

Beeston Weir and Power Station was built in 1999. The hydro-electric plant uses river flow to generate enough electricity for 2,000 homes.



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Heart of the waterways in

## Braunston

Braunston is where the Oxford Canal joins the Grand Union Canal. It is a meeting point for boats and people, and is still one of the busiest places on the waterways.

### Keeping history alive

Often referred to as the 'heart of the waterways', Braunston has always been a focal point of the canal network. For over 150 years, the village thrived on the canal trade and many well-known freight-carrying companies were based here including Pickfords, Fellows Moreton & Clayton, Nurses, Barlows and Willow Wren, all of who transported goods between the Midlands and London.

Today you can still find a number of waterway-related businesses including day-boat trips, chandlers, boat builders and fitters, brokers and marinas.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a stroll along the towpath past the marina to Braunston Tunnel – there's no towpath through the tunnel so boats needed to be 'legged'.
- 2 Enjoy** a coffee and watch the colourful canal boats making their way through the locks.
- 3 Find** the Stop House where tolls were collected – the charges were based on the amount of cargo carried.
- 4 Admire** the quirky canal bridges including the famous iron turnover bridge – its ingenious design meant horses didn't have to be unhitched when the towpath changed sides.
- 5 Visit** All Saints Church in Braunston, also known as the Boatman's Church, where many boaters have been christened, married or buried.

## Visit us at:

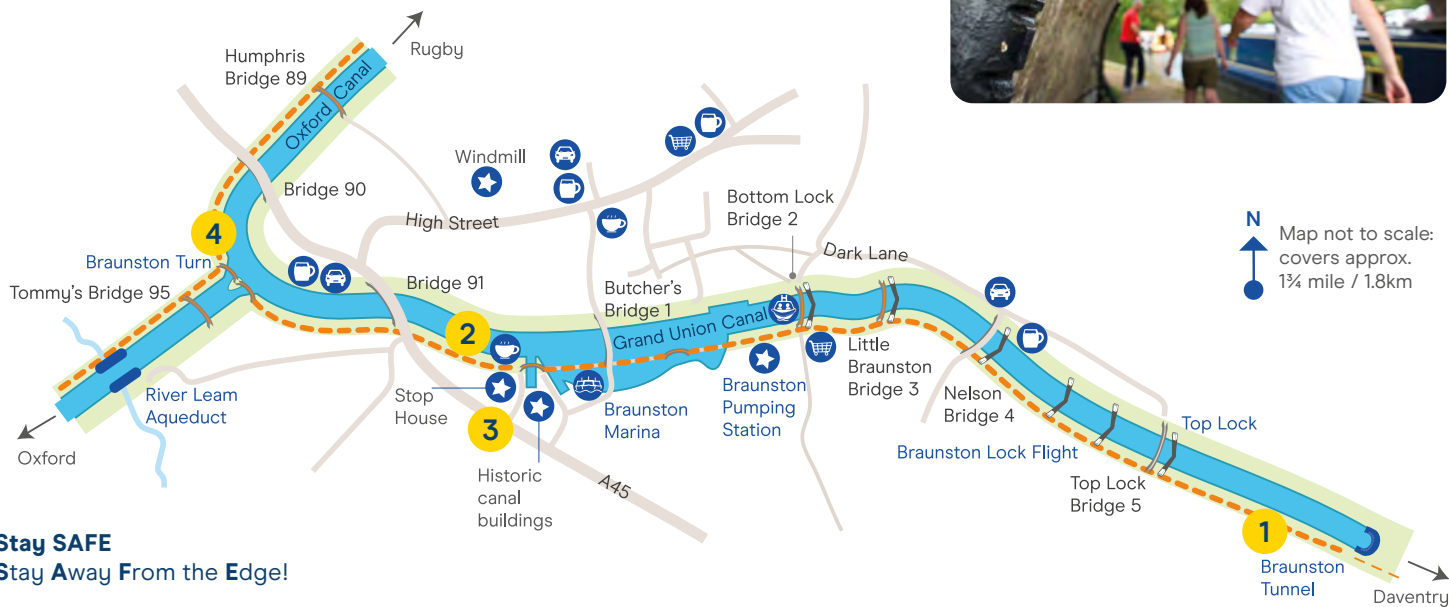
The Wharf, Braunston, Daventry NN11 7JH



Allow 2–3 hours for this visit

## Find your way around

- |          |                   |
|----------|-------------------|
| towpath  | shopping          |
| aqueduct | point of interest |
| tunnel   | boat hire         |
| café     | marina            |
| pub      | parking           |



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## Did you know?

In 1923 a canal boatmen's strike took place at Braunston in response to a 6.5% cut in wages. This was one of the first disputes to involve the recently created Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU).





## Bridges, tunnels and an aqueduct at **Cosgrove & Wolverton**

This pretty village on the Grand Union Canal is a peaceful spot to spend some time by water. 150 years ago this inland port would have been very different – busy with boatmen unloading cargo, and boats making their way along the canal.

### Keeping history alive

When constructing the canal, engineer William Jessop needed to overcome the challenge of crossing the river valley near Wolverton.

A series of locks were first installed as a temporary measure until the brick aqueduct opened in 1805. Unfortunately, this aqueduct collapsed in 1808 and the locks were re-opened.

Having seen cast iron being used for other aqueducts, including at Pontcysyllte in Wales, canal engineer Benjamin Bevan decided to use this material to construct the new aqueduct, which was completed in 1811. This aqueduct is still in daily use today.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 See** the Ornamental Bridge just after the horse tunnel beneath the canal in Cosgrove – when the canal was built in the 1790s the landowner insisted on an attractive bridge.
- 2 Enjoy** the walk along the towpath from Cosgrove and explore the Medieval village of Wolverton (0.6 miles/1km).
- 3 Pause** at the viewing platform on the towpath and admire the magnificent Iron Trunk Aqueduct which takes the canal across the river valley.
- 4 Look** for the cattle creep beneath the aqueduct, built so cattle could pass to the fields on the other side of the canal.
- 5 Find** the old lock gates beside the footpath below the canal, the last remaining evidence of the original valley crossing.





Over 200 years of travel, trade and leisure at

# Foxton Locks

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.

## 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](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/explorers)

## 5 things to do (see map)

- 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.

**Visit us at:**  
 Foxton Locks, Foxton,  
 Leicestershire  
 LE16 7RA

 Allow half to a full day for your visit

**N**  
 Map not to scale:  
 covers approx.  
 ¼ mile / 1.2km




















**3 4 5**

### 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!

### Find your way around

-  towpath
-  swing bridge
-  café
-  pub
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  bench/picnic area
-  accessible
-  top viewing platform
-  point of interest
-  museum
-  art installation
-  orchard
-  Canal & River Trust Welcome Hub
-  information
-  trip boat
-  parking

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The perfect place for waterside walks at

# Gunthorpe Lock

Once a busy thoroughfare for boats carrying cargo across the country, today, with its waterside walks, a visit to Gunthorpe Lock is a blissful way to pass a few hours.

## Keeping history alive

The River Trent was once an important trading route, linking the Midlands and the Humber estuary. During the 19th century, Gunthorpe Lock would have been busy with flat-bottomed barges called ketches transporting goods across the country.

Gunthorpe Lock was built to take up to four ketches at a time and is one of the largest locks on the river.

You can still see boats carrying cargo along the River Trent today, but you are more likely to spot holiday boats and day-trippers enjoying a slower pace of life.

**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)

## 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Pause** for a few moments and watch different boats make their way through the lock.
- 2 Stop** for a coffee or a bite to eat and enjoy spending time by water.
- 3 Take** a boat trip up the river into the centre of Nottingham.
- 4 Walk** to the historic Gunthorpe Bridge. Until it was built in the 1870s, the only way to cross the river was by ferry or ford (the present bridge was built in 1927).
- 5 Stroll** along the towpath and watch the waterbirds on the river.

### Visit us at:

Gunthorpe Lock, Trentside,  
Gunthorpe NG14 7FB



Allow 1–1½ hours  
for your visit

### Find your way around

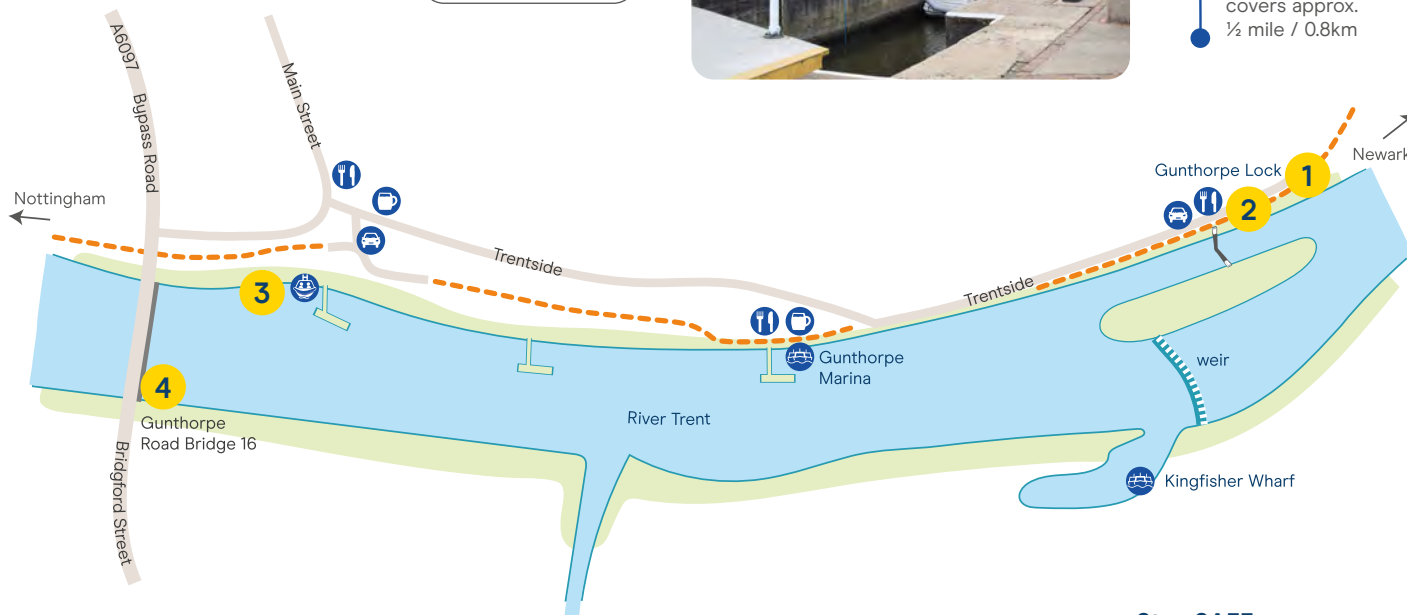
- towpath
- pub
- food & drink
- boat hire
- marina
- parking

### Did you know?

Queen Boudica is said to have defeated the Roman IX Legion near Gunthorpe in the 1st century AD.



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





## Waterside walks and wildlife at **Langley Mill**

During the 19th century Langley Mill would have been busy with boats and people, today it is a more peaceful spot where you can enjoy being surrounded by nature.

### Keeping history alive

Now a relaxing spot for a waterside walk, Cromford Canal was once a hive of activity. Designed by William Jessop and Benjamin Outram, the canal joined Cromford with the Erewash Canal at Langley Mill. Its opening in 1794 gave boats a passage to the Midlands and beyond.

The Erewash Canal runs from the River Trent and Soar Navigation at Trent Lock to Langley Mill. Here it is joined by the now derelict Nottingham Canal. The Great Northern Basin at Langley Mill is now the only navigable section of the Nottingham Canal.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a look at the dry dock where narrow boats are repaired, and the old lock cottages where the people who worked on the lock once lived.
- 2 Stop** by the Toll House where tolls were collected for the use of the canal, and the Pump House, originally a sewage pumping station.
- 3 Watch** boats pass into the Basin via the swing bridge, the only one of seven on the Nottingham Canal still working.
- 4 Take** a stroll round the Basin, this was once the start of the Nottingham Canal.
- 5 Enjoy** a walk or cycle along the Cromford Canal, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

## Visit us at:

Derby Road, Langley Mill, NG16 4AA



Allow 1–2 hours  
for your visit

## Did you know?

The swing bridge at the Great Northern Basin is only one of seven on the Nottingham Canal that is still working.



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

## Find your way around

- towpath
- aqueduct
- swing bridge
- café
- pub
- food & drink
- toilets
- shopping
- point of interest
- parking
- railway station



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A perfect place for a spot of gongoozling in

## Market Harborough

Market Harborough, on one arm of England's longest canal, is now home to a marina. It's a great place to sit at the water's edge and watch the boats coming and going.

### Keeping history alive

The Grand Union Canal is made up of several stretches of waterway. Market Harborough Arm is one of these and branches off the Leicester Line.

The arrival of a canal to Market Harborough in 1809 boosted the fortunes of the town and the Wharf quickly became a busy distribution centre for industry. Goods such as worsted cloth, grain, bricks, beer and coal arrived on boats from around the country.










The coming of the railways sounded the death knell for canals and the waterway gradually fell into disrepair.

**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)


### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Hire** a day boat and discover more about the Grand Union Canal.
- 2 Take** a look at 'Frank the Plank' – a sundial close to Union Wharf.
- 3 Pause** for a drink and watch the narrowboats coming and going.
- 4 Enjoy** a traffic-free cycle ride along the towpath to Foxton and see the finest flight of staircase locks in the country (8km/5 miles).
- 5 Walk** to Market Harborough and discover the many independent shops in the town.

## Find your way around

-  towpath
-  café
-  pub
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  art installation
-  boat hire
-  parking
-  railway station

**Visit us at:**  
 Union Wharf, Leicester Road,  
 Market Harborough LE16 7UW

 Allow 1–2 hours  
 for this visit

## Did you know?

In 1950 the Inland Waterways Association held a Festival of Boats in the basin, the first event of its kind. Attended by around 100 boats, it heralded a new era for the canals.





From a busy port to a place to relax in

# Newark

Newark was once an important inland port on the mighty River Trent. Today, you can enjoy a day out exploring the old riverside buildings.

## Keeping history alive

While the River Trent has long been a vital commercial link between the Midlands and the Humber estuary, the opening of the Trent & Mersey Canal in 1770 increased pressure to improve the river for boats.

The first set of locks on the River Trent were built at Newark in 1773. Further locks below Nottingham and a towpath were made in the 1780s. By the 1800s it was one of the UK's most important trading rivers. Cargo such as wool, coal, grain and timber was unloaded into the wharves in the town and stored in the warehouses.











This industry took a heavy toll on the health of the waterway. After decades of pollution and neglect, the biodiversity of the river has been transformed and today it is home to over 30 species of fish including carp, chub and bream.

**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)


## 5 things to do (see map)

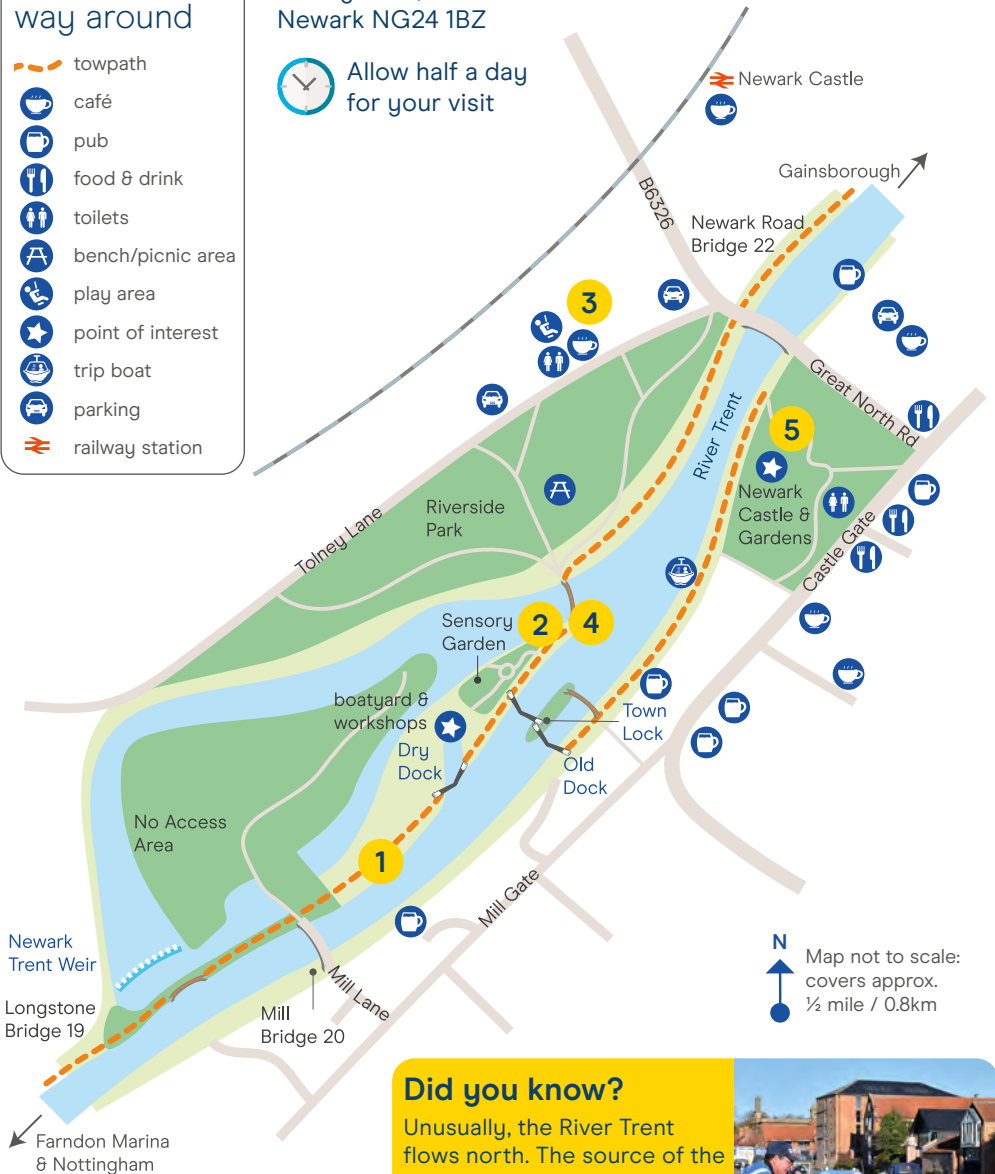
- 1 Walk** along the towpath to the locks, they were built to increase the depth of the river and accommodate bigger barges.
- 2 Relax** with a stroll around the Town Lock park and sensory garden.
- 3 Have** a coffee in the cafe and look out for the wildlife that now makes its home along the river.
- 4 Follow** the Historic Riverside Trail (available from the Information Centre) and discover more about Newark's riverside.
- 5 Visit** Newark Castle built nearly 1,000 years ago to defend the River Trent, an important trading route to the north.

## Find your way around

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

**Visit us at:**  
Tolney Lane,  
Newark NG24 1BZ

 Allow half a day  
for your visit



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

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## Did you know?

Unusually, the River Trent flows north. The source of the river is in Staffordshire, on the southern edge of Biddulph Moor. It flows through six counties before it joins the River Ouse to form the Humber at Trent Falls on the Yorkshire boundary.





A place for waterside dining or relaxing at

# Castle Wharf Nottingham

Nottingham's waterways have something for everyone. Overlooked by Nottingham Castle, Castle Wharf offers a vibrant cafe and alfresco dining scene and relaxing waterside walks.

## Keeping history alive

Canalmania reached Nottingham in the 1790s. Although the city is built on the River Trent, river navigation immediately upstream of the city had always been difficult.

While the Nottingham Canal was being constructed, the Trent Navigation Company built an artificial canal – the Beeston Cut – to bypass the river from Trent Lock to Lenton. There it met with the Nottingham Canal.

The Nottingham & Beeston Canal opened in 1796, connecting the city with Langley Mill and the Cromford Canal and providing a route to bring coal directly into the city centre.

**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)

## 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Enjoy** a relaxing drink or bite to eat in one of the converted canal warehouses.
- 2 Visit** Nottingham Castle, built in 1067 on the orders of William the Conqueror.
- 3 Follow** the towpath to Meadow Lane, where the canal joins the River Trent, and watch boats go through the lock (1 mile/2km).
- 4 Walk** south along the towpath to the beautiful Victoria Embankment and see the River Trent (1 mile/2km).
- 5 Go underground!** If you tire of life above ground, see if you can spot the many caves that can be found around the city.

## Visit us at:

Nottingham Castle Wharf,  
Canal Street NG1 7HG



Allow 2–3 hours  
for your visit





## One of the best examples of a canal village in the country in **Stoke Bruerne**

It's difficult to believe that this quaint village was once a hive of industry, where boatmen stopped for supplies or loaded up with cargo before heading into the 2 mile (3km) long Blisworth Tunnel.

### Keeping history alive

The Grand Union Canal was once one of Britain's key transport routes. It links London with Birmingham and at 137 miles (220km) is the longest canal in the country.

This canal isn't one single waterway. Between 1894 and 1929 several independent canals were amalgamated to create the Grand Union Canal. The term 'Grand Union' is now generally taken to mean the stretch of canal from the Thames at Brentford to the junction with the Digbeth Branch in Birmingham.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Visit** the free museum and learn more about the canal and its people.
- 2 Take** a boat trip into the historic Blisworth Tunnel – in the early days of canals, boats had to be 'legged' through the tunnel while the horse was led over the top.
- 3 Chat** with our friendly volunteer lock keepers, they'll tell you more about the canal and how you can volunteer.
- 4 Enjoy** a coffee and watch the boats make their way along the canal.
- 5 Visit** the historic workboat moored outside the canal museum.

## Visit us at:

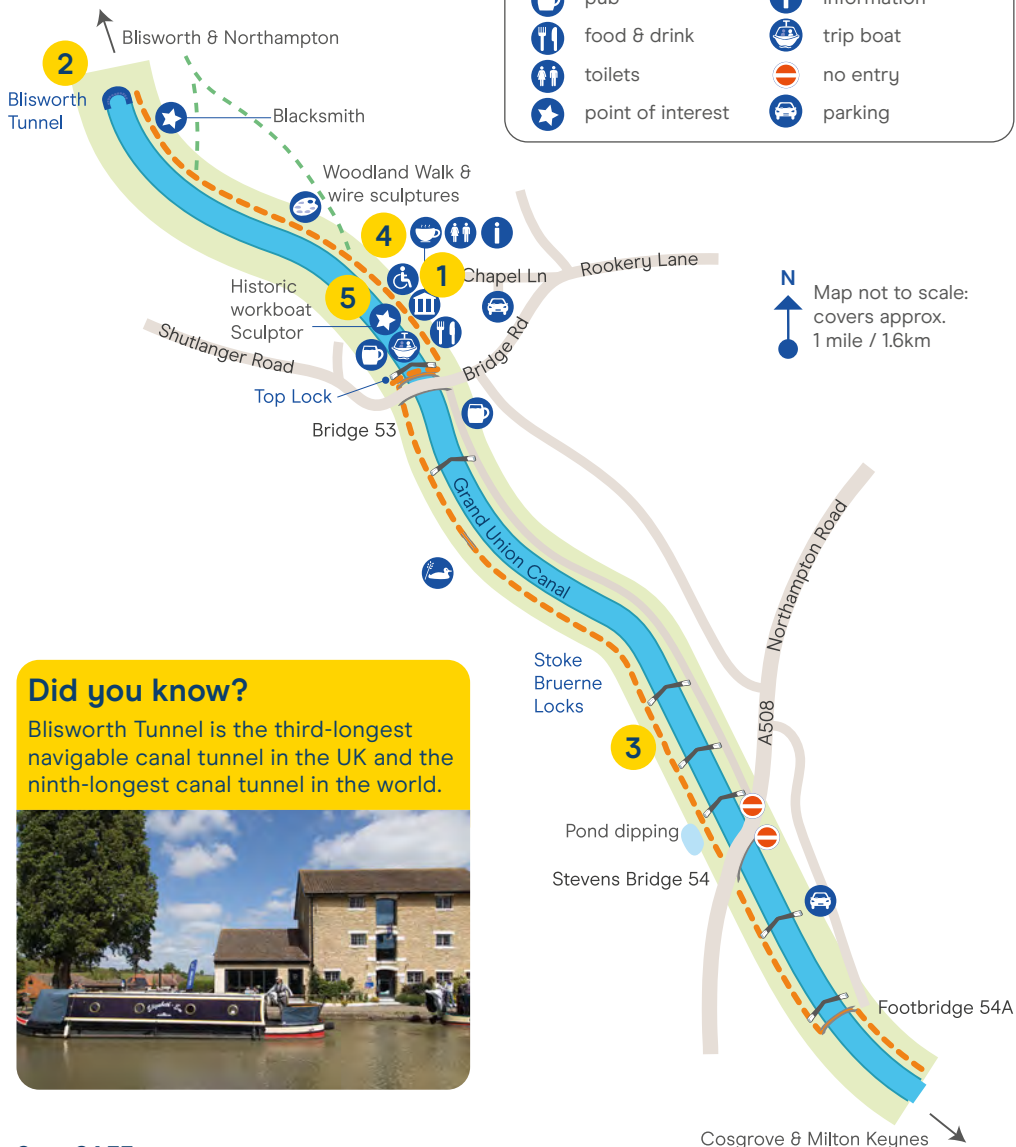
Stoke Bruerne, nr Towcester,  
Northants. NN12 7SE



Allow half a day  
for your visit

## Find your way around

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| towpath           | canal museum          |
| walk trail        | accessible facilities |
| tunnel            | art installation      |
| café              | nature reserve        |
| pub               | information           |
| food & drink      | trip boat             |
| toilets           | no entry              |
| point of interest | parking               |



## Did you know?

Blisworth Tunnel is the third-longest navigable canal tunnel in the UK and the ninth-longest canal tunnel in the world.



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## Water, woods and walks at **Stoke Lock & Woods**

Enjoy peace and tranquillity and get closer to nature at Stoke Lock and its surrounding woodland along this stretch of the River Trent.

### Keeping history alive

The River Trent is one of Britain's longest navigable rivers and has been used since before Roman times to carry goods over long distances.

Stoke Lock was built in 1923 and is one of the largest locks on the river. In the 1920s, the main traffic was diesel barges laden with bulky cargo such as newsprint, petrol, building materials and even beer.

The woodland next to the lock was planted just after the lock was built, in 1927.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Take** a walk through the woods and discover the woodland birds and wildlife.
- 2 Enjoy** a riverside picnic and feel the benefit of being by water.
- 3 Pause** and watch the boats making their way through the lock.
- 4 Walk** to Netherfields Lagoon Nature Reserve to see warblers, gulls and terns (1 mile/1.5km).
- 5 Wander** north along the riverside path to Ferry Boat Inn (0.7 miles/1.25km).

## Visit us at:

Stoke Lock, Riverside, Stoke Bardolph, Nottingham NG14 5HX.

Park opposite the Ferry Boat Inn and follow the River Trent South for 1.3km to reach Stoke Lock.



Allow 1–2 hours for your visit

## Find your way around

- towpath
- walk trail
- pub
- bench/picnic area
- toilets
- play area
- nature reserve
- woodland
- parking

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



## Did you know?

The Clapper gate that can be found on the towpath next to the river is unique to the River Trent. These distinctive gates, which make a 'clap' sound when closing, are designed to allow people and horses to pass through the field boundaries on the river bank but prevent livestock from straying.

**Stay SAFE**

**Stay Away From the Edge!**



Connect with history and nature in

## Sutton Cheney

A picturesque canalside village on the Ashby Canal, Sutton Cheney is the ideal spot to unwind and enjoy being by water.

### Keeping history alive

The Ashby Canal connected the Leicestershire coal mines and lime quarries to the Coventry Canal at Bedworth in Warwickshire.

Built close to active coal mines, the canal was frequently affected by mining subsidence. A major breach at Moira in 1918 nearly closed the waterway completely. However, the strategic importance of coal supplies during World War I kept it open and this essential cargo moving.

Today, you can enjoy gentle walks or cycle rides alongside the lock-free canal as it winds its way through the picturesque countryside from Bedworth to Moira.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Relax** in a waterside café and watch the boats making their way along the canal.
- 2 Try** canal dipping – freshwater mussels are to be found here.
- 3 Enjoy** a traffic-free cycle ride along the towpath to Shenton Station and see the steam engines on the Battlefield Line (1.5 miles/2.5km).
- 4 Take** a walk through Ambion Woods to find King Richard's Well – a natural spring with a pyramidal monument built over it, King Richard apparently drank here in the days leading up to the Battle of Bosworth.
- 5 Enjoy** a picnic by the canal and watch ducks, moorhens and coots on the water.

## Visit us at:

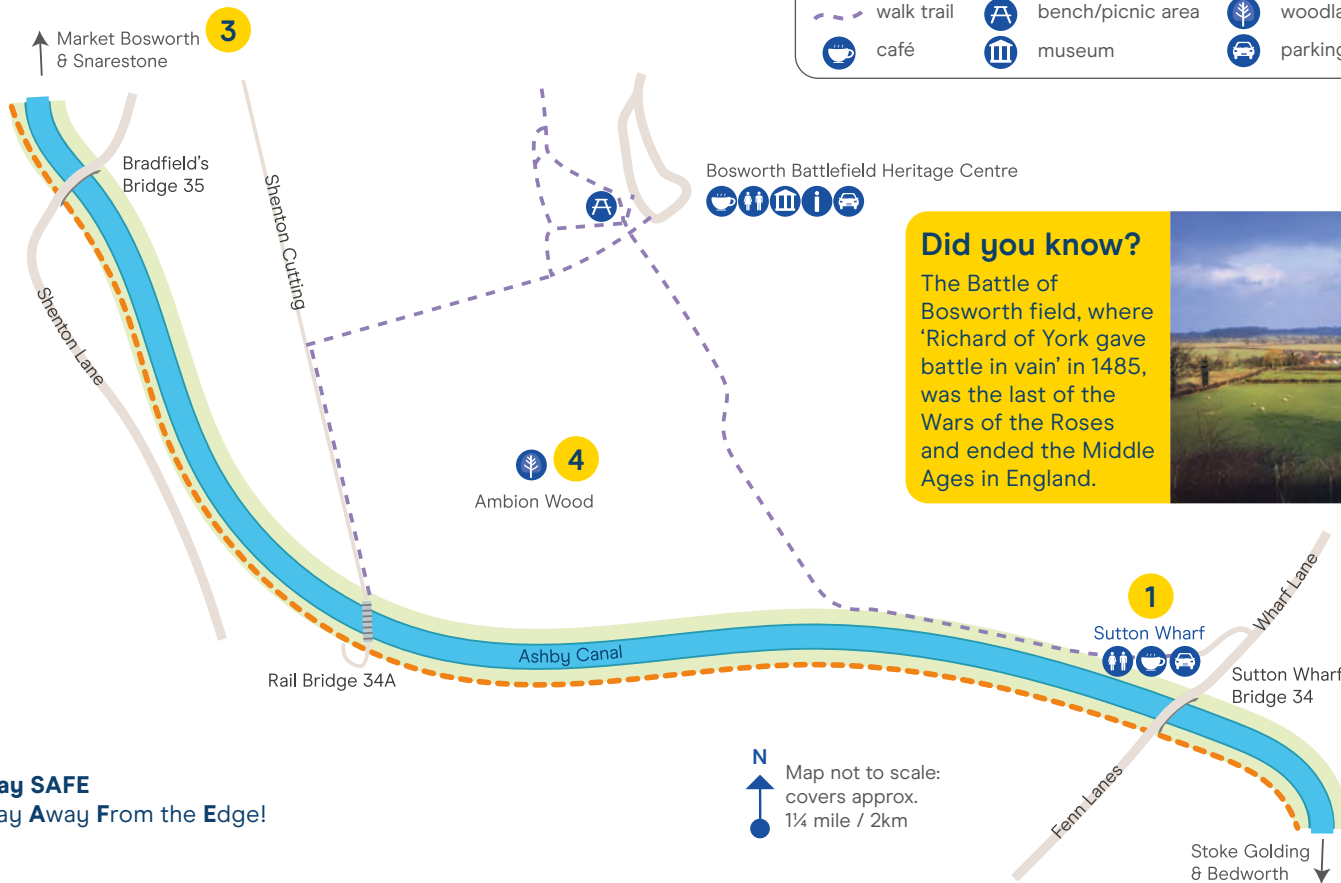
Sutton Cheney Wharf, Wharf Lane,  
Sutton Cheney, Nuneaton CV13 0AL



Allow 2–3 hours  
for your visit

## Find your way around

- |            |                   |             |
|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| towpath    | toilets           | information |
| walk trail | bench/picnic area | woodland    |
| café       | museum            | parking     |



## Did you know?

The Battle of Bosworth field, where 'Richard of York gave battle in vain' in 1485, was the last of the Wars of the Roses and ended the Middle Ages in England.



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Map not to scale:  
covers approx.  
1¼ mile / 2km



## See the oldest canal in England at **Torksey**

The Foss Dyke, or Fossdyke, is believed to be the oldest canal in England that is still in use. Today it is still a working waterway, but you are more likely to spot leisure boats enjoying a slower pace of life.

### Keeping history alive

People have been constructing canals for almost 2,000 years – Fossdyke Navigation was built by the Romans in around 120AD.

In the 19th century, Fossdyke and the River Trent were a hive of activity, with ships and shallow bottomed barges called 'ketches' passing through Torksey Lock.

Coal, wool and grain was carried along these waterways to towns and cities including Lincoln, Newark and Nottingham. Unlike other inland waterways, the canal continued to be used to transport cargo well into the 20th century, with the last commercial operation taking place in 1972.

**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Pause** and watch the different kinds of boats making their way along the waterway – barges, narrowboats and converted coastal cruisers use the canal and river.
- 2 Take** a moment to look at Torksey Lock, it was built extra wide and long to accommodate larger barges and has six pairs of lock gates, whereas most locks have two.
- 3 Enjoy** a stroll along the towpath and go through the ingenious clapper gate.
- 4 Bring** binoculars and see what wildlife you can spot.
- 5 Stop** for a picnic and listen to the different birds, including the peewits (known locally as pyewipe) that enjoy the flat Lincolnshire farmlands.

### Visit us at:

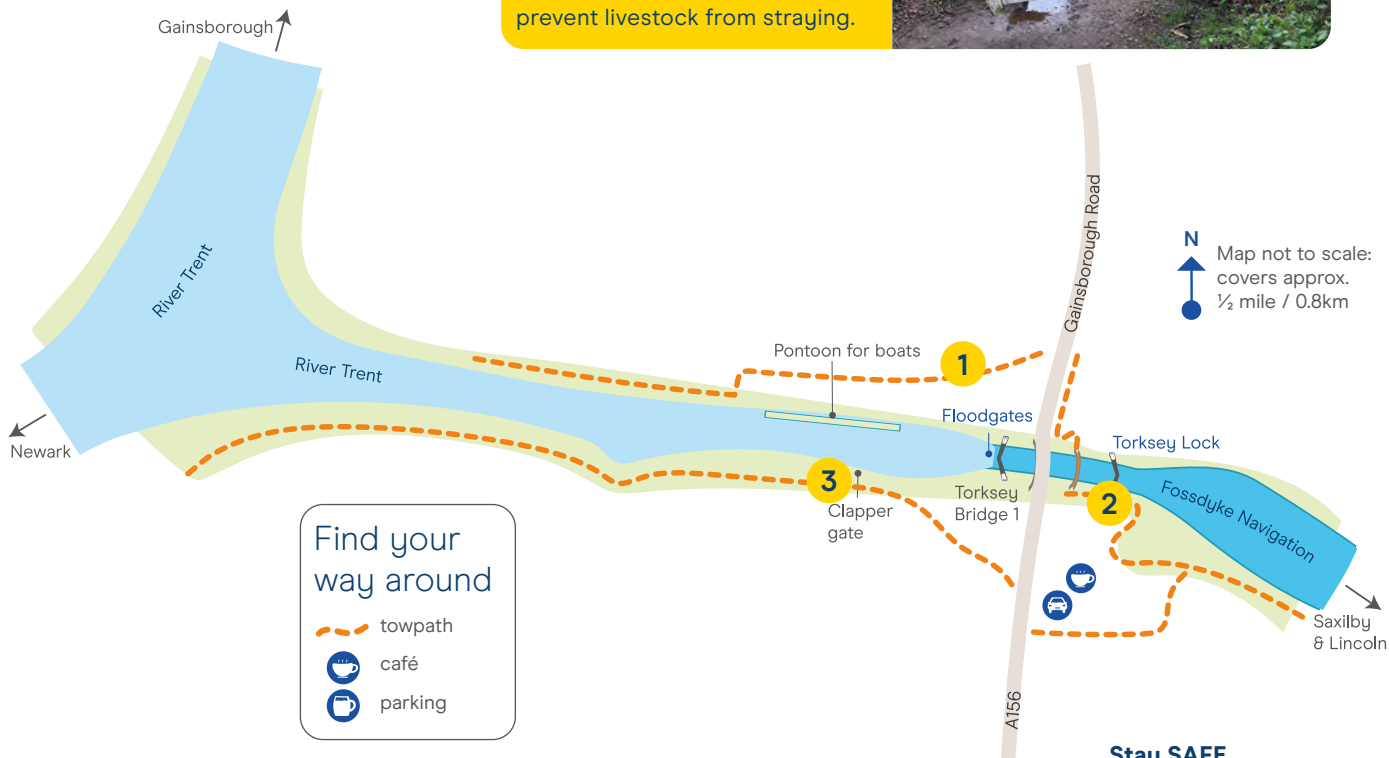
Torksey Lock, Torksey,  
Lincolnshire LN1 2EH



Allow 1–1½ hours  
for your visit

### Did you know?

Clapper gates are unique to the navigable stretches of the River Trent. These distinctive gates are designed to allow people and horses to pass through the field boundaries on the river bank, but prevent livestock from straying.





## A haven for wildlife at **Trent Lock**

Four separate waterways converge at Trent Lock, making it a wonderful place to spend time watching wildlife, enjoy a traffic-free cycle ride, or an afternoon stroll.

### Keeping history alive

Trent Lock is a major canal navigation junction with four rivers and canals meeting – the River Soar, Erewash Canal, Trent & Mersey Canal and ‘upper’ River Trent.

Before the railways were built, ships sailed inland as far as Shardlow. Trent Lock became known as ‘Waters Meet’ by boaters and ships and shallow-bottomed barges, called ketches, would pass through the lock.

Today it is a beautiful spot to get closer to nature, try your hand at fishing, or simply watch narrowboats gently making their way along the canal.


**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Pause** to enjoy the wildlife that can be found along the waterway including coots, mute swans, moorhens, herons, kingfishers and mallard.
- 2 Spend** a moment or two watching the boats travelling through the lock.
- 3 Visit** our Welcome Station and chat with our friendly volunteers who will tell you more about how we are caring for the site.
- 4 Enjoy** a traffic-free bike ride along a designated cycle track by the Erewash Canal.
- 5 Walk** to the Cranfleet Cut – it was built so boats didn’t have to navigate a short stretch of the River Trent.















**Visit us at:**  
Trent Lock, Long Eaton  
NG10 2FY

 Allow 1–2 hours  
for your visit

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

**N**  
Map not to scale:  
covers approx.  
1 mile / 1.6km

### Find your way around

-  towpath
-  café
-  pub
-  toilets
-  bench/picnic area
-  viewpoint
-  point of interest
-  paddleboard access
-  canoe access
-  sailing
-  parking
-  no entry

### Did you know?

As well as being the meeting point of four waterways, Trent Lock is also the point where three counties meet – Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.





Waterside walks and wildlife at

## Welford Wharf

Once busy with barges transporting limestone to the nearby lime kilns, Welford Wharf on the Grand Union Canal is now the perfect place for a countryside walk.

### Keeping history alive

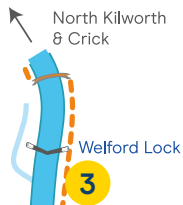
The arrival of the canal in 1814 brought new opportunities to the area. Welford Wharf started supplying local people with coal and wool, and local produce was 'exported' to other towns and cities along the canal.

Seven lime kilns were also built alongside the canal. These were used to burn the limestone quarried nearby to make lime. This was used in lime mortar for the construction industry and spread as fertiliser on the land.


**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)

### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Put** your walking boots on and venture along a stretch of the Jurassic Way, a long-distance walk that passes through Welford Village, or try the three-mile circular walk around the Welford Arm.
- 2 Take** a look at the remains of the lime kilns opposite the wharf.
- 3 Stroll** along the towpath to the lock and see the restored canal bridge (0.3 mile/0.5km).
- 4 Bring** binoculars and head to Welford Reservoir to spot waterbirds.
- 5 Take** a break in the historic canal-side Wharf Inn or the tea room in Welford Village.




**Visit us at:**  
Welford Wharf, Welford,  
Northants NN6 6JQ

 Allow 1–2 hours  
for your visit

### Did you know?

At one time there were three mills along the Welford Arm – Bosworth Mill beside Bridge 1, Naseby Mill, and Welford Mill just before Welford Lock. Now, all that remains of the lift bridge that served the mill is a single wooden post.



 Map not to scale:  
covers approx.  
1¼ miles / 2km

### Find your way around

-  towpath
-  walk trail
-  café
-  pub
-  bench/picnic area
-  point of interest
-  marina
-  parking



A haven for wildlife at

## Woolsthorpe Locks

Much of the pretty Grantham Canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and home to a rich diversity of wildlife. You can still see evidence of its industrial past such as the magnificent Woolsthorpe Locks, which were designed by renowned canal engineer William Jessop.

### Keeping history alive

Canalmania swept to Grantham in the 1790s and a new canal was constructed to make it easier to transport coal and other goods from the River Trent to the town, and for agricultural produce such as corn, beans, malt and wool to be 'exported' around the country.

The canal steadily increased its profitability from when it opened in 1797 until 1841 when it was sold to a railway company. This sale marked the canal's gradual decline and it finally closed in 1936.






Since the 1970s, Grantham Canal Society has been steadily restoring parts of the waterway and two stretches are now open to boats.

**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)


### 5 things to do (see map)

- 1 Explore** the canal from the water – join one of Grantham Canal Society's boat trips departing from the landing stage at Lock 18.
- 2 Walk** along the towpath to see Locks 14 and 15 which have been lovingly restored by volunteers and members of Grantham Canal Society.
- 3 Enjoy** one of the many waterside walks – the towpath has been built as a traffic-free peaceful walking and cycling route.
- 4 Visit** nearby Belvoir Castle, where The Crown and Downton Abbey were filmed.
- 5 Pause** to enjoy the array of wildlife that can be seen along the waterway including damselflies, swallows and buzzards.

## Find your way around

-  towpath
-  pub
-  shopping
-  trip boat
-  parking

**Visit us at:**  
Duck Lane,  
Woolsthorpe by Belvoir,  
Grantham NG32 1NY

 Allow 1–2 hours  
for your visit

## Did you know?

In 1814–15 the Duke of Rutland constructed a private tramway between the wharf at Muston Gorse and Belvoir Castle to carry coal and other produce to the castle. It remained operational for 100 years.



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

# Help us to care for the 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 70460 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](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety)  
Details correct at time of print, please check before travelling.

