

## Caring for Oxford Canal

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 Oxfordshire's canals 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 Isis Lock, 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

Making life better by water

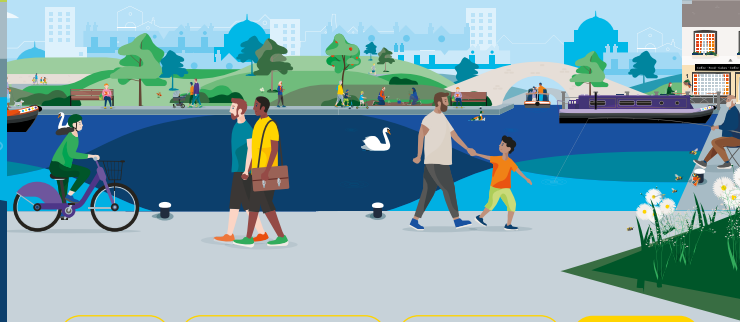
## Keeping history alive

The 78-mile (126km) long Oxford Canal connects Oxford with Bedworth and London via the River Thames. It was designed by renowned engineer James Brindley and opened in sections between 1774 and 1790.

The canal was the main transport route for trade between the Midlands and London until 1805 when the Grand Union Canal (then called the Grand Junction Canal) was formed.

Offering Leicester and Birmingham a shorter and more direct route to London, the Grand Union Canal took most of the London-bound traffic, leaving the southern stretch of the Oxford Canal to become a rural backwater.

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)



Enjoy

Take Action

Volunteer

Donate

[canalrivertrust.org.uk](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

Registered charity no. 1146792

March 2024



Canal &  
River Trust

## Welcome to Oxford

Discover a hidden world in the heart of this historic city.



We're the charity making life better by water

## 5 things to do in Oxford

- 1** **Discover** the many quirky bridges including the historic swing bridge (Rewley Road Swing Bridge) and turnover bridge – designed so horses didn't need to be unhitched when the towpath changed sides.
- 2** **Look** for the old Oxford boatyard (now closed) where Lyra meets 'gyptians' in the novel *The Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman.
- 3** **Follow** the towpath to the Thames Path and continue south to Christ Church Meadows, one of the most famous river landscapes in the world (1.2 miles/2km).
- 4** **Stroll** along the towpath and watch the colourful narrowboats making their way along the canal.
- 5** **Hire** a bike in Oxford and enjoy a traffic-free cycle ride along the canal.


### Did you know?

The Oxford Canal is a 'contour' canal, its line follows the contours of the land. This made it easier to construct by avoiding obstacles such as hills.















Hidden away, yet just minutes from the grandeur of Oxford's many colleges and busy shops and cafes, the Oxford Canal offers a moment of peace and tranquillity in this bustling historic city.

**Visit us at:**  
Worcester St Car Park,  
Oxford OX1 2BQ

 Allow 1–2 hours  
for your visit

### Find your way around

-  towpath
-  swing bridge
-  café
-  pub
-  toilets
-  shopping
-  point of interest
-  boat hire
-  boat yard
-  parking
-  accessible parking
-  railway station

### Stay SAFE

Stay Away From the Edge!

For more information on visiting safely:  
[canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/safety)

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



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