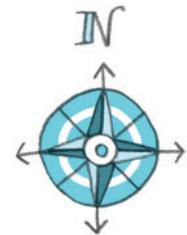




Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water



Discover Garston Lock

Garston Lock is very unusual – it's lined with turf rather than hard materials. One of only two turf-sided locks in the country, it's so special that it has listed building status.

A little bit of history

Turf was most often used on rivers in the early 1700s, before the canal system was built. All except one other turf-sided lock on the Kennet & Avon Canal have been rebuilt with hard materials, such as brick. The other is Monkey Marsh at Thatcham, also a listed building.



Best of all
it's FREE!*



Five things to do at Garston Lock

- The Kennet & Avon Canal** formed a line of defence against invasion during the Second World War. Look out for pillboxes which were built as mini forts.
- Walk or cycle** along the towpath from Sheffield Lock to Garston Lock ($\frac{1}{2}$ mile/0.8km).
- Spot** waterbirds such as mute swans, mallard, coot, moorhens. You may even catch sight of a kingfisher!
- Relax** with a picnic and watch boats passing through Sheffield Lock, one of only two scalloped brick locks on the canal.
- Check out** the quirky swingbridge.



Information

Sheffield Bottom Lock
Swingbridge
Off Hanger Road
Theale RG7 4AJ

Parking

Pub

Picnic

Cycling

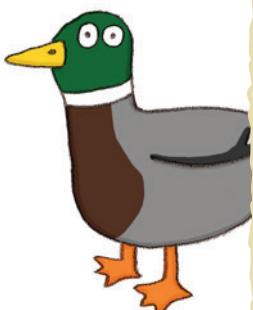
... Path

Allow 1-2 hours for this visit

* Don't forget:

Although the site is always open the facilities and boat trips may not be and some may be chargeable. Please check with local businesses before setting out.

Did you know?...



Our lock gates are handbuilt by skilled carpenters in our workshops in the West Midlands and Yorkshire, from FSC Green Oak. Each one is unique and can take up to a month to make. Once built they last for about 25 years.



Go to canalriverexplorers.org.uk to discover lots of fun things to do with the family.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.

