



### Discover little adventures on your doorstep

Looks fun

Wow nice plan!

- Walk along the towpath and spot different types of boats
- Count how many water birds you can spot and name in five minutes
- Relax in a canalside café and watch narrowboats passing by
- Take a boat trip and learn more about the Oxford Canal
- Take a picnic and feed the ducks healthy snacks
- See the ruins of Berkhamsted Castle
- Take a fishing net and go canal dipping
- Cycle down the towpath and take a break at a waterside pub
- Watch the boats passing through the locks
- Check out the awesome Iron Trunk Aqueduct

WOAH!  
Can I  
come?

Me  
too!

Banbury, Thrupp, Oxford, Cosgrove & Wolverton,  
Aylesbury, Tring, Western Turville Reservoir,  
Berkhamsted, Apsley, Cassiobury Park, Watford,  
Hungerford Wharf, Kintbury, Newbury,  
Aldermaston Wharf, Garston Lock, Reading



Are you looking for inspiring places to visit with the family? Then look no further than your local canal or river. This guide features a selection of our best waterside places to visit in London – 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.

Where will you explore today?



Have a look on our map and find a little adventure on your doorstep!



Key

1. Banbury
2. Thrupp
3. Oxford
4. Cosgrove & Wolverton
5. Tring
6. Western Turville Reservoir
7. Berkhamsted
8. Apsley
9. Cassiobury Park, Watford
10. Hungerford Wharf
11. Kintbury
12. Newbury
13. Aldermaston Wharf
14. Garston Lock
15. Reading

\*AINA Waterways —



So many to choose from



\* 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.





# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Explore Banbury

In the centre of this busy modern Oxfordshire town discover Tooley's Boatyard, the oldest continuous working dry dock in the country.



## A little bit of history

The arrival of the Oxford Canal to Banbury brought a cheap supply of coal from Warwickshire, and much prosperity to the town. The main boatyard was established to build and repair the horse-drawn narrowboats which plied their trade up and down the canal. Now known as Tooley's Boatyard, it's still there for all to explore.


Best of all  
it's FREE!\*


### Five things to do at Banbury

- **Take** a boat trip and learn more about the Oxford Canal.
- **Relax** in a canalside café and watch narrowboats passing by.
- **Walk** to Tom Rolt Bridge named after the man largely responsible for encouraging the interest in the history and preservation canals.
- **Visit** Banbury Museum located on the canalside and discover more about the Tooley family featured in Tom Rolt's famous book **The Narrow Boat**. It was republished in 1990 when the future of the boatyard was threatened.
- **Stroll** along the towpath and check out the sculpture and poem.

### Information


Banbury Museum  
Spiceball Park Rd,  
Banbury OX16 2PQ


 Parking (pay & display)


 Toilets + baby changing

 Café


 Pub

 Visitor centre

 Picnic

 Boat trips

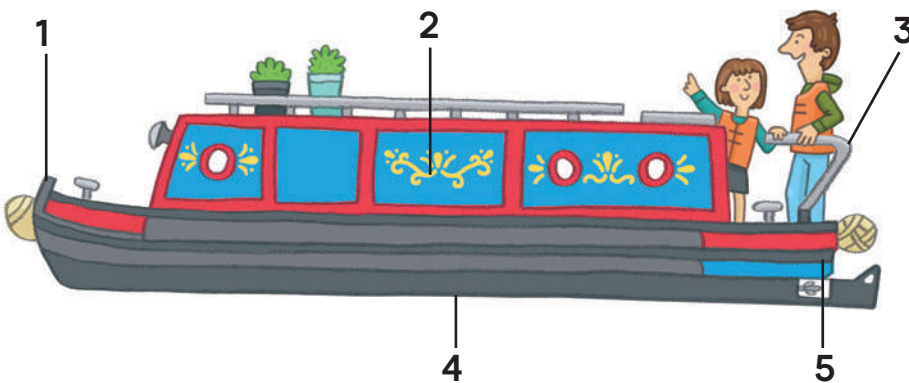
••• Path

 Allow half to full day for this visit

#### \* Don't forget:

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### Can you name the different parts of a narrowboat?



Answers: 1 bow; 2 cabin; 3 tiller; 4 hull; 5 stern

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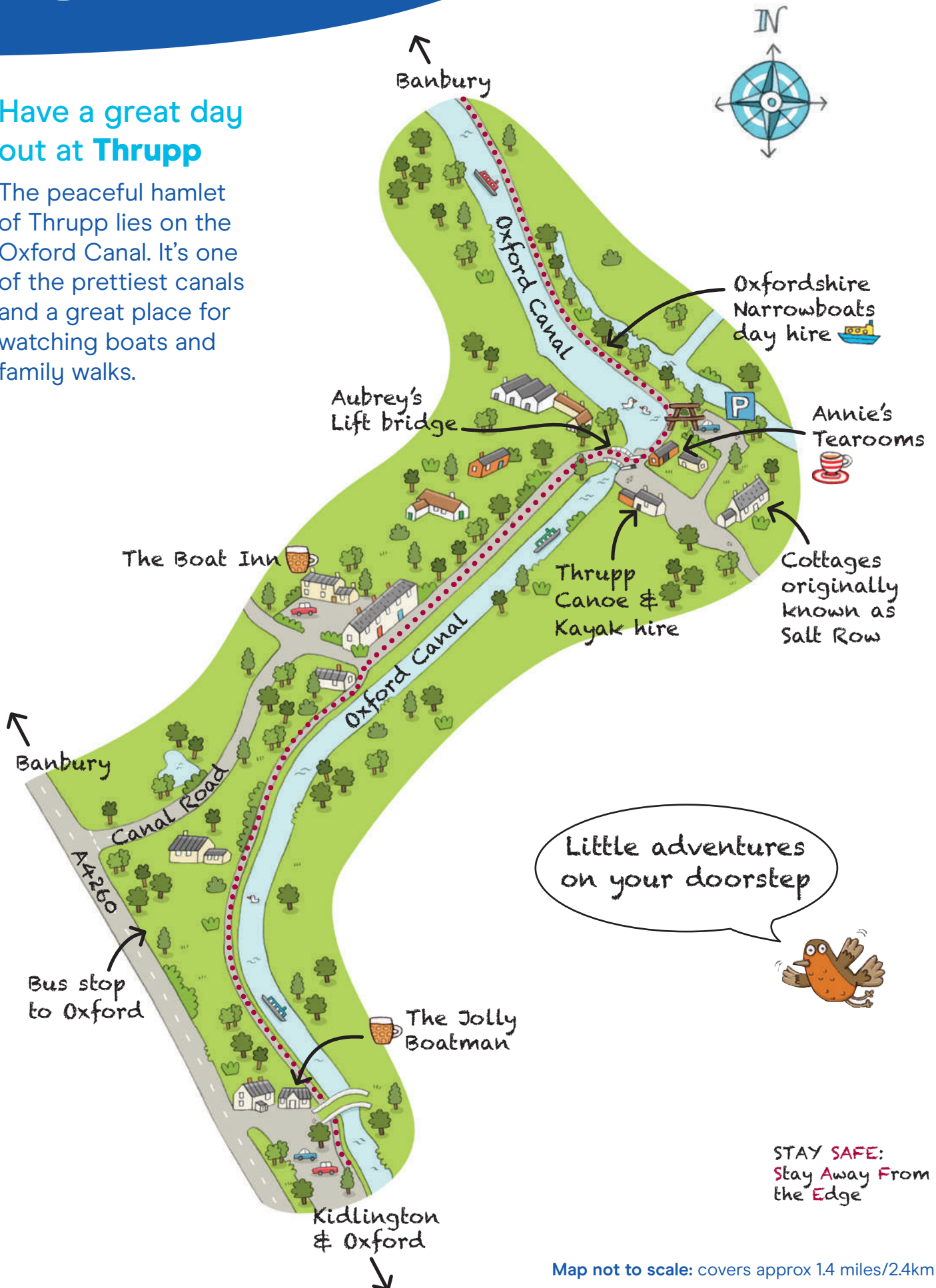
A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.





## Have a great day out at Thrupp

The peaceful hamlet of Thrupp lies on the Oxford Canal. It's one of the prettiest canals and a great place for watching boats and family walks.



## A little bit of history

Thrupp grew up along the Oxford Canal, one of the first canals. It's a classic example of a canal that hugs the contours of the land to avoid obstacles such as hills. There's still plenty of evidence of those early days such as waterside pubs, canal cottages and a lovely tea room located in the old boatyard.

Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Thrupp

- ❑ **Look out for** the row of canal cottages once called Salt Row. It's been suggested that they were once used to store salt, a regular cargo on this canal.
- ❑ **Check out** the quirky bridges – including the lift bridge – which are a feature of the Oxford Canal.
- ❑ **Chill out** with tea and cakes in the cafe overlooking the canal.
- ❑ **Pack wellies** and go for a great winter walk along the towpath.
- ❑ **Watching** boats and chatting to boaters is a must – the canal is very popular with holiday-makers.

### Information

Canal Yard  
Canal Road  
Thrupp OX5 1JZ

-  Parking (pay & display)
-  Café
-  Pub
-  Picnic
-  Path
-  Allow 1-2 hours for this visit

#### \* Don't forget:

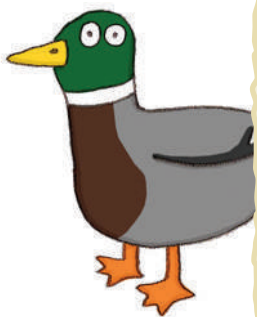
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### Did you know?...

It's best to feed ducks tasty treats like:

- porridge oats
- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed

Whilst they will gobble up white bread, crisps and chips its junk food for you and ducks!



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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

↑ Kidlington

College Cruisers Boat Hire

Overflow from canal

The Thames Path

Historic swing bridge

To Christchurch Meadows

Sheepwash Channel

Old boatyard

Turnover bridge

Isis Lock

Castle Mill Stream  
Oxford Canal

Worcester College Lake

Little adventures on your doorstep



Oxford City Centre

Hythe Bridge Street  
← Oxford (5 mins walk)

Park End Street

Worcester Street  
New Road

Oxford Castle

## Discover the canal in Oxford

Passing through the lovely countryside of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, the Oxford Canal is one of the most scenic waterways.

**STAY SAFE:**  
Stay Away From the Edge





## A little bit of history

Minutes from the grandeur of Oxford University and overlooked by most of the millions of tourists that flock to the city each year, is the hidden world of the Oxford Canal. Here in Oxford City, the canal meets the River Thames that once completed an important trade route from the Midlands to London.



Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do on the Oxford Canal

- ❑ **Discover** the turnover bridge designed so that horses didn't have to be unhitched when the towpath changed sides.
- ❑ **Spot** the narrowboats that still sell coal and logs to river and canalside households.
- ❑ **Look for** the old Oxford boatyard (now closed) where Lyra meets the 'gyptians', in the novel *The Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman.
- ❑ **Hire** a bike in town and cycle up the towpath.
- ❑ **Follow** the canal round to the Thames Path. About a mile further south is Christ Church Meadows, one of the most famous river landscapes in the world.

### Information


Worcester St Car  
Park, Oxford OX1 2BQ

 Parking + 


 Café

 Pub

 Cycling

 Boat hire

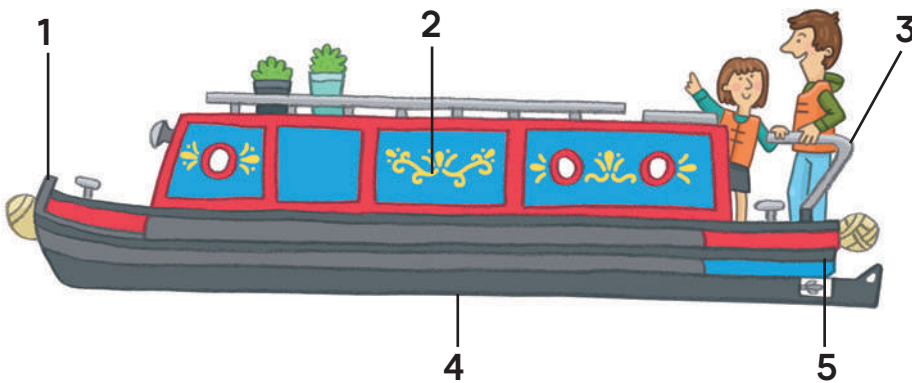
 Path

 Allow 1-2 hours  
for this visit

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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Discover Cosgrove & Wolverton

Cosgrove, once a bustling industrial site, is now a peaceful stretch of the Grand Union Canal. Just the place for a great family visit watching boats!



Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km

## A little bit of history

In Victorian times, Cosgrove was a busy inland port. Timber, coal and stone from the Midlands were unloaded here and local farm produce was transferred onto barges bound for London. Today, it's busy with pleasure boats and families having a great day out.

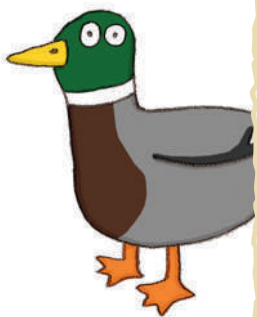
Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Cosgrove & Wolverton

- **Check out** the awesome Iron Trunk Aqueduct that takes the Grand Union Canal across the river valley. The first brick aqueduct collapsed and was replaced by one built of cast iron.
- **Look for** the cattle creep under the aqueduct built so cattle could pass to the fields on the other side of the canal.
- **Go** to the Ornamental Bridge. When the canal was built in the 1790s, the local landowner insisted on a pretty bridge.
- **Chat to** boaters and watch boats go through the lock.
- **Look for** the route of the original lock flight built before the aqueduct, when the river was crossed on the level.








### 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.



### Information

Lock Lane, Cosgrove  
MK19 7JR or  
Old Wolverton Road  
Wolverton MK12 5NL

-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Pub
-  Picnic
-  Trip boats
-  Path
-  Allow 1-2 hours for this visit

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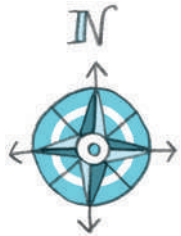




# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

Little adventures on your doorstep



Town Centre  
P   
museum

Aylesbury Arm  
(Grand Union Canal)

Circus Field  
Marina & Marsworth

cinema

A41

A41

Hotel

Supermarket P

Queens Park  
Arts centre



Aylesbury Station

Bear Brook

Aylesbury Basin  
Aylesbury  
Waterside Theatre  
P

## Discover Aylesbury Basin

The Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal has an exciting new town centre basin! It's a great starting point for family walks and to see the bustle of life at the water's edge. It's one of the best places on the canal system to watch birds.

**STAY SAFE:**  
Stay Away From  
the Edge

Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km

## A little bit of history

The Aylesbury Arm transported grain, timber, coal and building materials until the 1960s. Threatened with closure, a team of canal enthusiasts worked hard to keep it open and encourage the recreational use of the Arm. Today, their dedication work has paid off with a new marina located just outside Aylesbury.




Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Aylesbury Basin

- Cycle** along the towpath and look for two rare staircase locks (at the Marsworth end) where the middle gate joins the top and bottom locks.
- Walk** along to the new Circus Field marina and chat to boaters preparing to set off on their canal holidays from the marina.
- Spot boats** being repaired in the new wet and dry docks in the marina.
- Check out** the exciting new architecture surrounding the town centre basin.
- Explore** the historic market town of Aylesbury.

### Information


Waterside  
Exchange Street  
Aylesbury HP20 1AL

 Parking


 Toilets

 Café

 Pub

 Information  
Centre

 Path

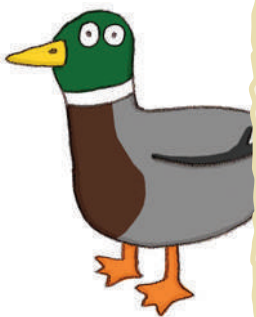
 Allow 2 hours for  
this visit

### Did you know?...

It's best to feed ducks tasty treats like:

- porridge oats
- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed

Whilst they will gobble up white bread, crisps and chips its junk food for you and ducks!



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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Discover Tring Reservoirs

Tring Reservoirs lie on the edge of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It's one of the best places on the canal system to watch birds.



- Walks
- ..... 4km/2½ miles
  - 5km/3 miles
  - 9km/5¾ miles
  - - - nature path

Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km

**STAY SAFE:**  
Stay Away From the Edge



## A little bit of history

Tring Reservoirs supply water to the Grand Union Canal and its two arms to Wendover and Aylesbury. The clear water attracts lots of plants, fish and insects, and large numbers of breeding, wintering and migrating birds. It's a nature lover's paradise. The site is managed by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

Best of all it's FREE!\*


### Five things to do at Tring Reservoirs

- Sit** in a bird hide and see how many birds you can name in 5 minutes.
- In the summer** watch swifts and common terns swooping over the water. In the evening spot pipistrelle bats hunting for insects.
- Explore** using way-marked circular walks. Or cycle along the canal towpath.
- Watch** the boats: each time they cross Tring Summit water flows away through the locks on each side. In the peak season around 4 million gallons are needed each day to top up the canal.
- Walk** to Tringford Pumping Station built in 1818 and still pumping water into the canal.

### Information

Tring Reservoirs, Marsworth, Tring Bucks. HP23 4LL





 Parking


 Toilets (in café and pub)

 Café

 Pub

Walks:

-  4km/2½ miles
-  5km/3 miles
-  9km/5¾ miles
-  nature path

 Allow a half to full day for this visit


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### What to Spot

Explore the waterside together. How many of these can you spot?

A duck quacking





The number of a bridge or lock





A fascinating insect




An interesting stone or brick




The names of two boats




A face or animal in the clouds




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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Discover Weston Turville Reservoir

Surrounded by the lovely Buckinghamshire countryside, Weston Turville Reservoir is a wonderful oasis of water, woods and wildlife. Just the place for family walks and budding nature detectives!



Little adventures on your doorstep



Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km



Weston Turville Reservoir is managed by Bucks, Berks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)



## A little bit of history

Opened in 1797, Weston Turville Reservoir was built to compensate local millers for the loss of water diverted away from their mills to the canal. Today, the commitment of BBOWT and local community groups means a much-valued landscape and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of national importance.

Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Weston Turville Reservoir

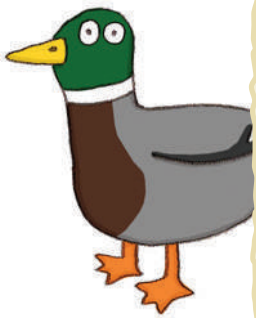
- **Go fishing** The reservoir teems with big fish! Contact Prestwood & District Angling Club for details [www.facebook.com/PrestwoodAndDistrictAC](http://www.facebook.com/PrestwoodAndDistrictAC)
- **Join** Aylesbury Sailing Club and experience the exciting family sport of dinghy sailing. Visit [aylesburysailingclub.org.uk](http://aylesburysailingclub.org.uk) for details.
- **Visit** the bird hides and spot water birds. Winter is a great time to spot wildfowl such as teal, shoveler and tufted ducks. You might hear the 'piglet squeals' of the water rail: the reservoir is its only breeding place in Bucks.
- **Take** an early morning walk and bring a camera – it's a great place for taking photographs especially at dawn.
- **Run or walk** around the reservoir (2 km/1.2 miles). The recently resurfaced path is an exerciser's paradise!

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- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed

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### Information

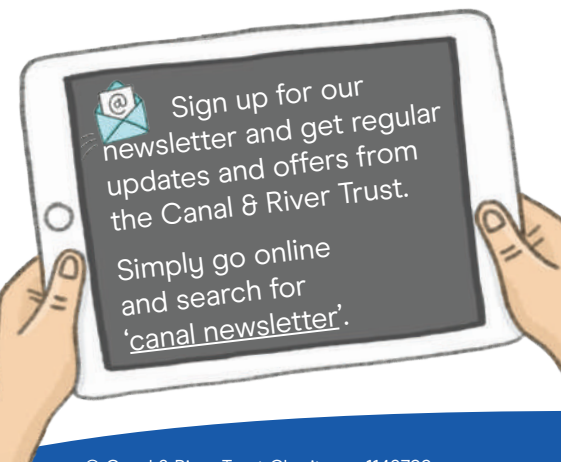
Weston Turville Reservoir  
World's End Lane  
Weston Turville  
Bucks  
HP 22 5PS

- Parking
- Toilets
- Café
- Pub
- Bus Stop
- Path

Allow 1-2 hours for this visit

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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water



## Explore Berkhamsted

Berkhamsted, on the Grand Junction Canal, was once a busy inland port and the centre of boat building activity. It is still called the Port of Berkhamsted today.



Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km

## A little bit of history

The Grand Junction Canal linked London to Birmingham, cutting through Berkhamsted. Castle Wharf was once the centre of canal trade and boat building. Today, Berkhamsted is a great place to explore the canal, especially by bike as there is a good track all the way to London.

Best of all  
it's FREE!\*


### Five things to do at Berkhamsted

- **Walk** along the towpath and explore the pretty town of Berkhamsted.
- **Take** a picnic and feed the ducks.
- **Check out** the Canadian totem pole which marks the site of an old boat building and timber yard.
- **Visit** Ashridge estate woods, once the home of Francis Edgerton, Duke of Bridgewater. Known as the Canal Duke he invested the money to build the first canals.
- **See** the ruins of Berkhamsted Castle, built by one of William the Conqueror's knights.

### Information

Canal Fields,  
Broadwater,  
Berkhamsted HP4 2AL

 Parking


 Toilets

 Café

 Pub

 Picnic

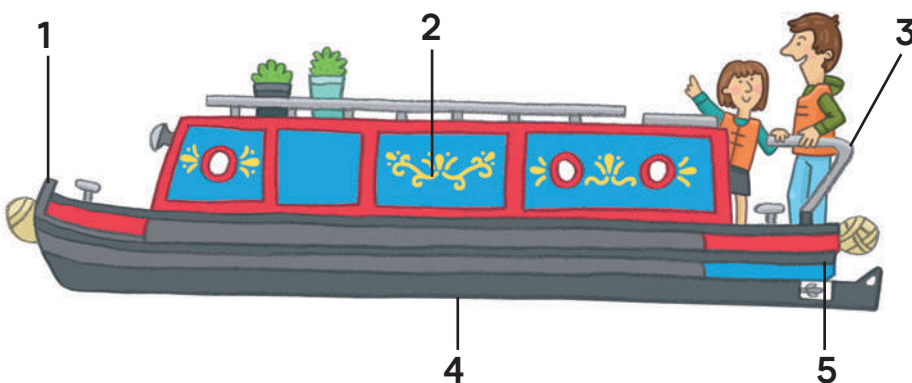
 Path

 Allow 1-2 hours  
for this visit

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# Canal & River Trust

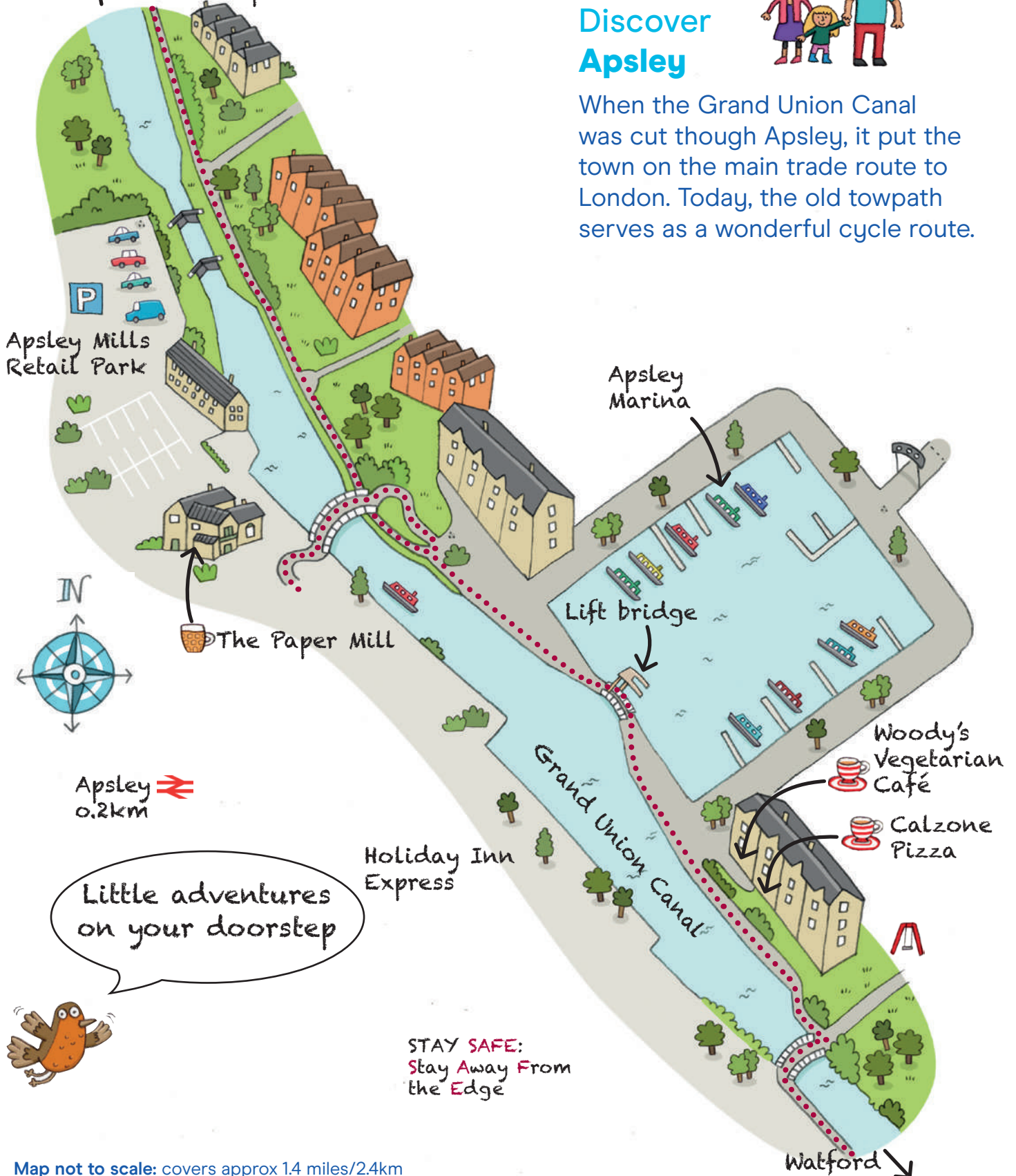
Making life better by water

The Paper Trail Visitor Centre   
(approx 500m)  
↑ Hemel Hempstead

## Discover Apsley



When the Grand Union Canal was cut through Apsley, it put the town on the main trade route to London. Today, the old towpath serves as a wonderful cycle route.



## A little bit of history

Apsley was once an important centre for paper manufacture. The Grand Union Canal transported huge amounts of raw materials on barges to the paper mills here. Full-scale production of paper only ceased in the Second World War. Today, the old industrial buildings are now cafés, pubs and a visitor centre – and make a great day out.



Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Apsley

- Walk** around the marina and spot the different types of boats.
- Look for** bridges with double arches. At one time the canal was planned to have double locks for bigger barges, but they were never built.
- Check out** The Paper Mill pub in an old converted paper mill.
- Visit** The Paper Trail Visitor Centre located in Frogmore Mill, an old paper mill. It houses the world's oldest mechanised paper mill.
- Count** how many water birds you can spot and name in five minutes.

### Information

Stationers Place  
Apsley  
Hemel Hempsted  
HP3 9RH

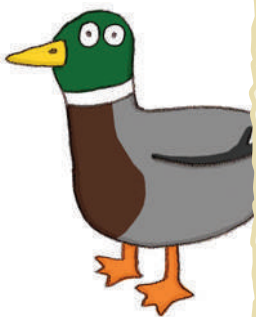
-  Parking
-  Toilets (in the visitor centre)
-  Café
-  Pub
-  Play area
-  Path
-  Allow 1-2 hours for this visit

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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Visit Cassiobury Park

The Grand Union Canal, flowing through this historic park, has been described as 'one of the loveliest sections of a canal so near a town anywhere in Britain.'



→ Paddling pools

Cha Cha Cha Café



Little adventures on your doorstep



Watford   
5 minute walk to the Park

**STAY SAFE:**  
Stay Away From the Edge

## A little bit of history

Wealthy landowners, who once owned Cassiobury Park, made a beautiful pleasure garden. When the Grand Union Canal was cut through in 1796, the owners demanded that the canal followed the River Gade and was disguised with an ornamental bridge. Today, Cassiobury Park is a pleasure garden for everyone to enjoy.








Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Cassiobury Park

- Cycle** along the towpath to Hemel Hempsted. It's been described as 'one of the loveliest sections of a canal so near a town anywhere in Britain'.
- Take** a trip on the miniature railway.
- Check out** the Stone Bridge. It's a great place to have a picnic and go fishing.
- Watch** the boats passing through the magnificent Iron Bridge Lock.
- Discover** the beauty and variety of trees in Whippendell Wood.

### Information

Cassiobury Park  
end of Gade Avenue  
Watford WD18 7LG

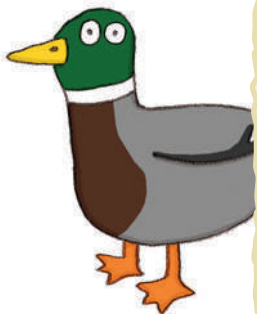
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Café
-  Picnic
-  Play Area
-  Path
-  Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

### Did you know?...

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- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed

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# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Explore Hungerford Wharf

Once a busy industrial canal wharf, Hungerford Wharf is now a picture of tranquillity. And a great place to start exploring the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal!



## A little bit of history

The Kennet & Avon Canal was born in 1794 when it was agreed that linking the river navigations at Newbury and Bath via a canal would bring huge benefits to Hungerford. It opened new markets and provided cheap transport for bulky goods. Today, it provides a wonderful base for a family day out in the country.








Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Hungerford Wharf

- ❑ **The Kennet & Avon Canal** transported Bath stone. Check out St Lawrence's Church, it was built of Bath stone.
- ❑ **Take** a boat trip aboard the Rose of Hungerford and learn more about the canal.
- ❑ **The Kennet & Avon Canal** is an important area for wildlife conservation. Look out for water voles and water birds.
- ❑ **Walk** along the towpath and look for quirky canal bridges such as the swing bridge at Hungerford Marsh Lock.
- ❑ **Feed** the ducks and watch boats passing through the locks.

### Information

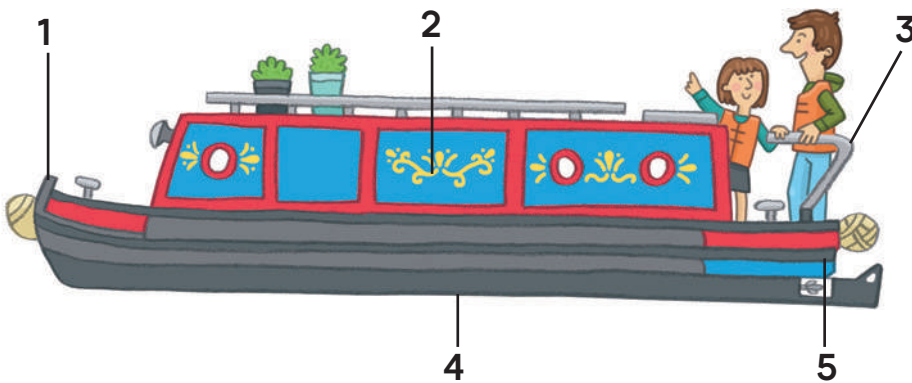
High Street  
Town Centre  
Hungerford  
RG17 0DN

-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Café
-  Pub
-  Boat trips
-  Path
-  Allow 3-4 hours for this visit

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Making life better by water



Little adventures on your doorstep



**!** Beware fast traffic!



**STAY SAFE:**  
Stay Away From the Edge



Village Centre

## Explore Kintbury

Once a busy industrial canal wharf, Kintbury is now a picture of tranquillity. It's just the place to start exploring the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal.

## A little bit of history

Kintbury was the first section of the Kennet & Avon Canal to be opened. The canal was the main trading route between London and Bristol and the wharf thrived for 100 years. Here, large quantities of iron and coke bound for the local ironworks were unloaded, as well as raw materials for nearby breweries.



Best of all  
it's FREE!\*


### Five things to do at Kintbury

- **Take a horse-drawn boat trip** and learn more about the Kennet & Avon Canal.
- **Go for a bike ride** along the towpath, past the water meadows where watercress once thrived in the clear chalk streams.
- **The Kennet & Avon** is important for wildlife conservation. Look out for kingfishers, mute swans, coots, moorhens and herons.
- **Walk** along the towpath and watch boats passing through the lock and making their way sleepily along the canal.
- **Visit** Kintbury Parish Church close to the canal. It has a memorial tablet to Charles Dundas, first chair of the Kennet & Avon Canal Company.

### Information

Station Road  
Kintbury  
RG17 9UT


 Parking

 Toilets


 Café

 Pub

 Cycling

 Boat trip

 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?...

Coots have a **white spot** on the front of their head and moorhens have a **bright red beak tipped with yellow**, and a white stripe on their side.



Go to [canalriverexplorers.org.uk](http://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.







# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Discover Newbury Wharf



Newbury was once a busy inland port on the Kennet & Avon Canal. Today, it's a great place to start exploring one of the most scenic canals in the country.



## A little bit of history

200 years ago, Newbury Wharf was on the main trading route between London and Bristol. When the railway arrived, trade decreased and the Kennet & Avon Canal was threatened with closure. Fortunately, a team of dedicated volunteers took it on and restored it for leisure use.

Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Newbury Wharf

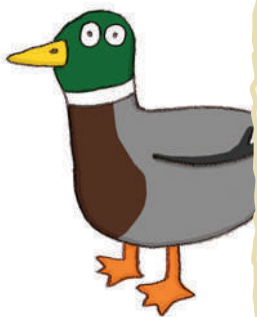
- Watch** the boats work the locks in the centre of this bustling market town.
- Visit** the Kennet & Avon Information Centre on the Wharf to find out more about the canal.
- Walk along** to Town Bridge. The towpath is not continuous under the bridge. Horses, which towed boats in the early days of canals, went up the alley and across the street. Spot where the towropes wore away the bricks on corner of the passageway.
- Take a boat trip** and explore more of the canal.
- Have a picnic** in Victoria Park and feed the ducks.

### Did you know?...

It's best to feed ducks tasty treats like:

- porridge oats
- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed

Whilst they will gobble up white bread, crisps and chips its junk food for you and ducks!



### Information

Newbury Wharf  
Wharf Street  
Newbury RG14 5AP

-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Café
-  Pub
-  Information
-  Picnic
-  Play area
-  Boat trips
-  Path
-  Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

#### \* Don't forget:

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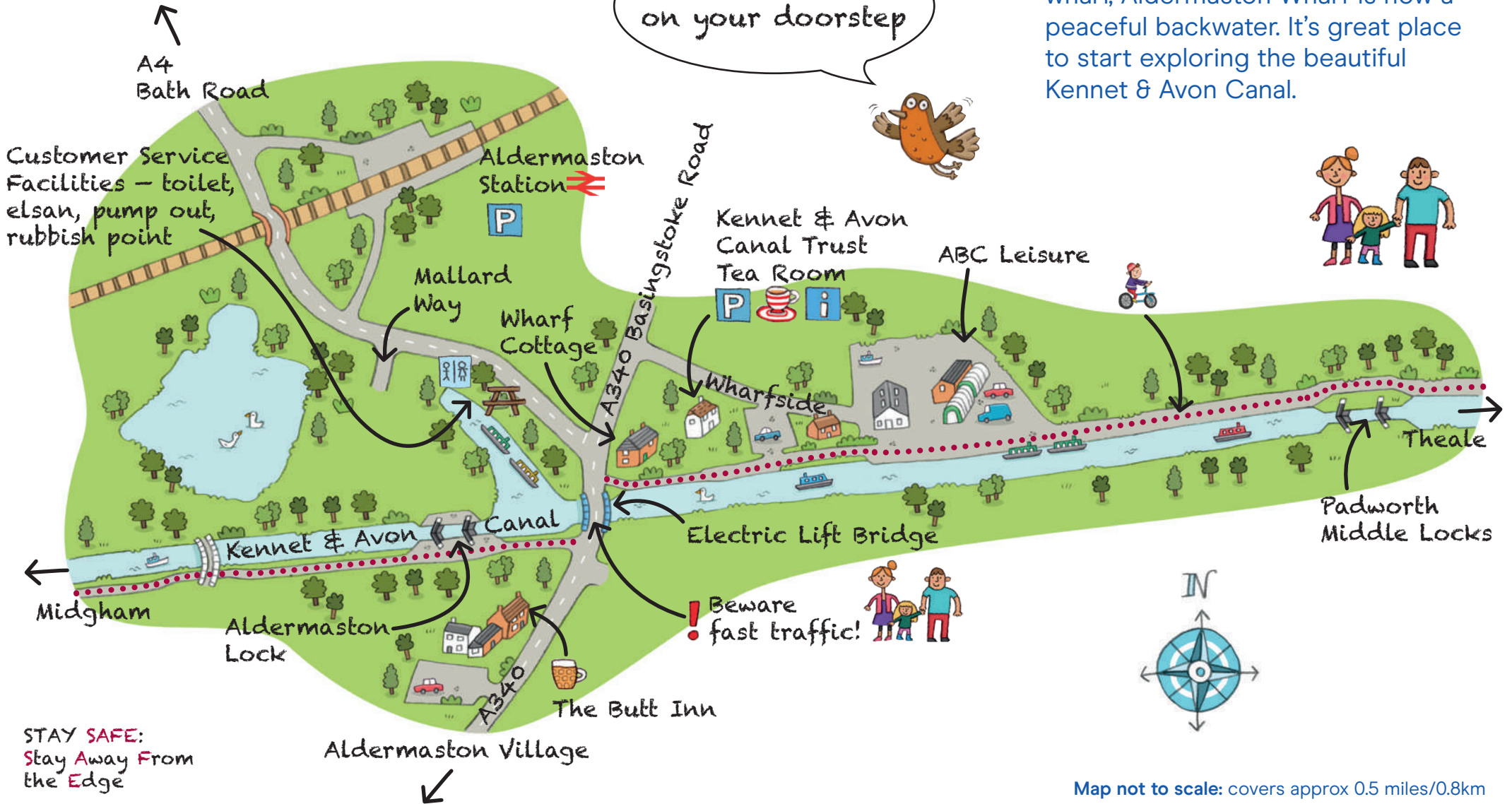
# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

## Discover Aldermaston Wharf

Once a busy industrial canal wharf, Aldermaston Wharf is now a peaceful backwater. It's a great place to start exploring the beautiful Kennet & Avon Canal.

Little adventures on your doorstep



**STAY SAFE:**  
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the Edge

Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km

## A little bit of history

200 years ago, visitors to Aldermaston Wharf would have seen horse-drawn barges loading and off-loading a huge variety of goods from building materials to beer. From here, goods were transported all over the world via the canal, the River Thames and the Port of London.

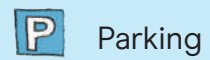
Best of all  
it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Aldermaston Wharf

- ❑ **Check out** Aldermaston Lock with its scalloped brick chamber. One of only two on the canal.
- ❑ **Look for** the modern electric lift bridge and watch the boats stop the traffic!
- ❑ **The Kennet & Avon Canal** is important for wildlife conservation. Look out for kingfishers, mute swans, coots, moorhens and herons.
- ❑ **Walk along** the towpath and spot different types of boats such as Dutch barges, river cruisers and narrowboats.
- ❑ **Visit** the café and find out more about the Kennet & Avon Canal.

### Information

Aldermaston Wharf  
Aldermaston  
RG7 4JS



Parking



Toilets



Café



Pub



Information



Picnic



Cycling



Path

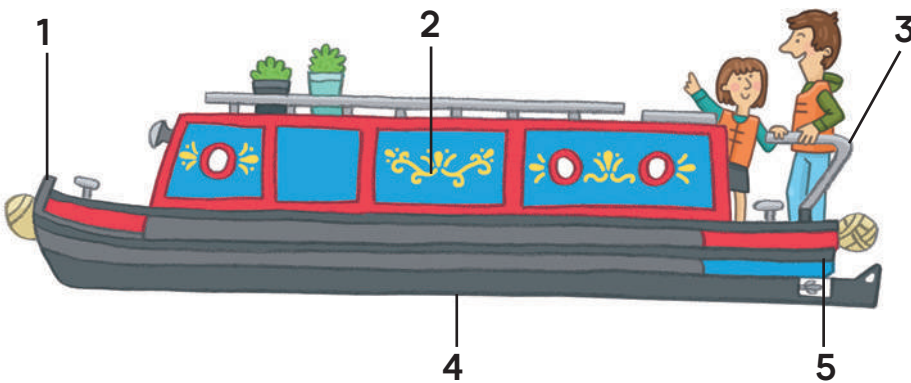


Allow 1-2 hours  
for this visit

#### \* Don't forget:

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### Can you name the different parts of a narrowboat?



Answers: 1 bow; 2 cabin; 3 tiller; 4 hull; 5 stern

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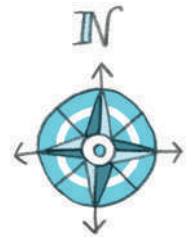
A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.





# Canal & River Trust

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## 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.

Little adventures on your doorstep



**STAY SAFE:**  
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## 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 (½ 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

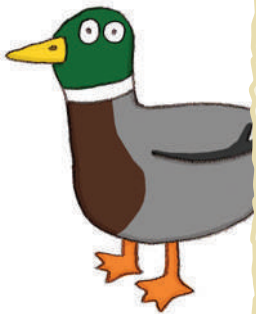
 Allow 1-2 hours  
for this visit

#### \* 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.



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







# Canal & River Trust

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## Discover County Lock, Reading

The Kennet & Avon Canal runs through the heart of Reading. Shop till you drop then relax by the water's edge!

Map not to scale: covers approx 1.2 miles/1.9km

## A little bit of history

The Kennet & Avon Canal was once the main trading route from Bristol to London. The canal brought great prosperity to Reading and saw industries such as brewing, sawmilling and biscuit-making thrive. Simond's Brewery once occupied the land around the lock. Today, it's a great place to watch boats.


Best of all  
it's FREE!\*


### Five things to do at County Lock, Reading

- Go shopping** in the Oracle Shopping Centre and keep an eye open for boats passing through!
- Huntley & Palmer** used the canal to transport biscuits from its factory here. Visit Reading Museum and see an amazing collection of old biscuit tins.
- Spot** the traffic lights for boats.
- Check out** the amazing weir at County Lock.
- Walk** along the towpath to the point where the canal joins the River Thames and completes its journey to London.

### Information

The Oracle Shopping Centre  
Reading RG1 2AG


 Parking (pay & display)

 Toilets

 Café

 Pub

 Path

 Allow 3-4 hours for this visit

#### \* Don't forget:

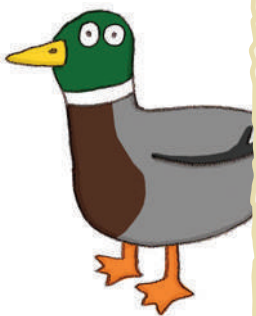
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- birdseed

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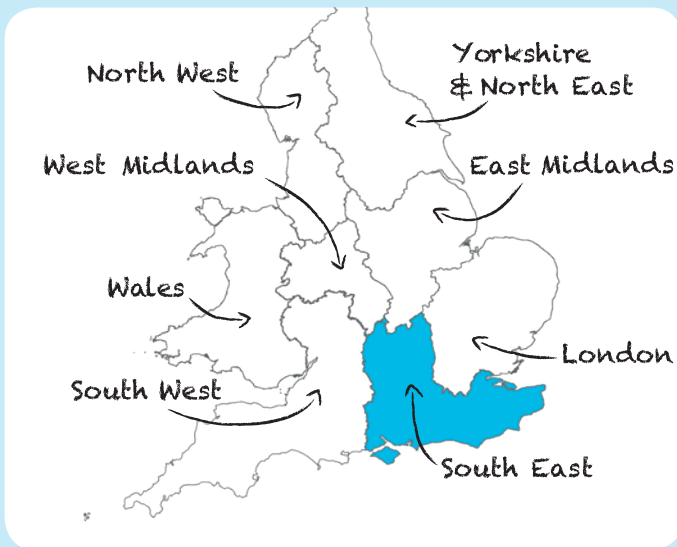




# Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water

**For more inspiring places to visit look out for our other guides.**



A place to walk, somewhere to feed the ducks or a place to simply be. **Life by water is relaxing, friendly and healthy, it makes a difference to how we feel.**

At Canal & River Trust we believe life is better by water. We care for these waterways so they exist for you to enjoy, for free, every day.

Discover, explore, enjoy.



Sign up for our newsletter and get regular updates and offers from the Canal & River Trust.

Simply go online and search for 'canal newsletter'.

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