



ASHBY CANAL ASSOCIATION

A Guide to the Ashby Canal

The Ashby Canal was opened in 1804 to convey coal and limestone from the extensive deposits in the Ashby Wolds. Although called the Ashby-de-la-Zouch Canal the original terminus was at Overseal just beyond Moira. An extensive system of tramways were built to carry the minerals to the canal.

An earlier plan to link the canal to the river Trent at Swarkestone was abandoned in the 1790's.

Among boaters the canal was fondly known as the Moira Cut. Coal was carried along the canal until the 1970's but now all the mines are closed. The canal is probably unique in the respect of being entirely rural throughout its length although encroaching housing and industry at Hinckley attempts, but does not diminish, this view.

The last 8 miles have subsequently been closed and infilled due to mining subsidence. Leicestershire County Council, working with The Ashby Canal Association and Ashby Canal Trust, are beginning to restore the section beyond Snarestone. A length at Moira has already been rewatered and this extends from Donisthorpe to Bath Yard at Conkers Waterside.

We hope you enjoy your cruise along the 22 peaceful, lock free miles of the Ashby Canal. Like many canals built originally for horse drawn boats which unloaded only at recognised wharfs the Ashby, has for the most part, shallow sides which make casual mooring difficult. This guide is intended for those unfamiliar with the locality by suggesting suitable places for mooring and pointing out the shops and other facilities that may be found close by.

Approximate journey times from Marston

Hospital Bend	Br 6-8	1¼ hrs	2½ miles
Hinckley	Br 17	2½ hrs	6 miles
Stoke Golding	Br 27-28	3½ hrs	9 miles
Shenton	Br 35-36	5 hrs	13 miles
Market Bosworth	Br 42	5½ hrs	15 miles
Shackerstone	Br 52	6¾ hrs	18 miles
Snarestone	Br 61	8 hrs	22 miles

Water Points

- South of Br.15
- Sutton Cheney Wharf
- Br.42 Market Bosworth
- Snarestone terminus

Sanitary Stations

- Stoke Golding
- Sutton Cheney Wharf
- Snarestone

Refuse Disposal

- Sutton Cheney Wharf
- Snarestone

Ashby Boat Company

The Wharf, Stoke Golding
01455 212671

Boats available for daily and weekly hire. Also water,gas, diesel, refuse,sanitary and pump out.

Ashby Canal Centre

Willow Park Marina
Stoke Golding, 01455 212636
Fitting out, repairs, slipway and moorings.

Trinity Marina

All boat services 01455 896 820

Canal & River Trust

0303 040 4040

Bosworth Battlefield Centre

01455 292239

Shackerstone Steam Railway

01827 880754

Restaurants and Pubs serving food:

Bulkington:

The Corner House
01203 386159

Hinckley:

The Lime Kilns 01455 631158
The Marina 01455 636493

Stoke Golding:

Three Horseshoes
01455 212263

Spinneybank Farm Shop
01455 212445

George & Dragon
01455 213268

White Swan 01455 212313

Dadlington:

Dog & Hedgehog
01455 212151

Sutton Cheney:

Royal Arms 01455 290263
Hercules 01455 292591

Café Waterside 01455 213838

Market Bosworth:

The Black Horse 01455 290278
Softleys 01455 290464

The Dixie Arms 01455 290218

Congerstone:

The Horse & Jockey
01827 881220

Shackerstone:

The Rising Sun 01827 880215

Snarestone:

The Globe 01530 270272

Congerstone is best reached from Br.47. The Horse & Jockey, a quarter of a mile from the canal, serves food.

Shackerstone, home of the Battlefield Line - a steam enthusiast's delight. A small museum on the platform is full of railway artefacts. Trains run weekends and Bank Holidays. The Rising Sun is just a few minutes walk away, food is served lunchtime and every evening but booking may be necessary for Friday and Saturday. There are good moorings just after the aqueduct and north of Br.52. The hill in the field behind the line of moored boats is the site of a motte and bailey castle.

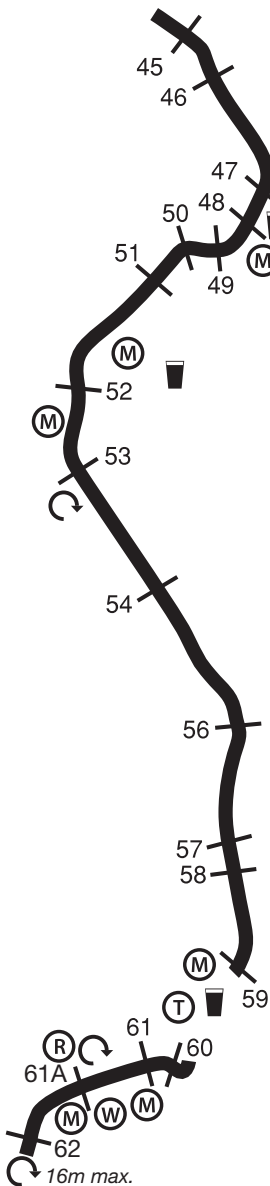
The wooded section beyond Br.53 marks the start of Gopsall Park. The hall itself was demolished in 1951. Gopsall wharf by Br.58 was the last site used for loading coal on the canal.

Snarestone lies above the only tunnel on the canal which is 250yds long but crooked.

There are moorings at the entrance, convenient for the Globe Inn which serves food.

After two more bridges the last full-sized winding hole is reached. There is water, refuse and a sanitary station.

A newly restored stretch of canal beyond the swingbridge was reopened in 2015 (ask at the shop for a volunteer to open the bridge). This stretch leads to a small winding hole (16m - 50' max) beyond Br. 62. ACA Gift Shop and slipway and 48hr. moorings adjacent to the swing bridge.





After entering the canal at Marston Junction you will notice that the bridges are made of local stone, this is a particular feature on the Ashby. The rural nature of the canal soon shows itself as you leave behind the housing and quarry workings.

Moorings by Br.5 are handy for The Corner House, a large friendly pub serving good food.

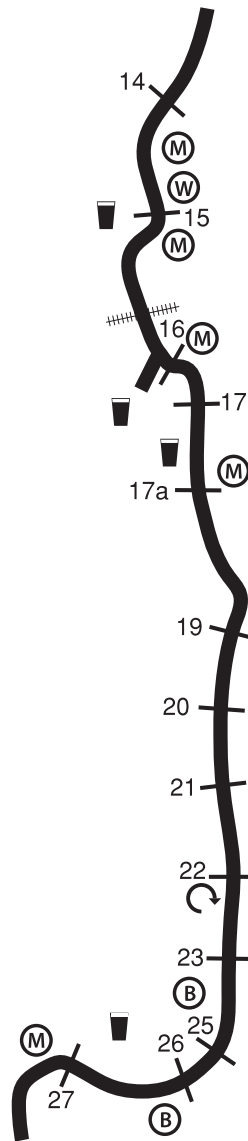
After Br.5 the canal enters a long narrow cutting through sandstone. It is difficult for boats to pass so go slowly and take great care. A mobile home park is on top of the steep sides. Look out for the Gnomes as you pass through.

There are good moorings after Br.6.

Burton Hastings can be seen on the high ground by Br.8. There is a telephone but no pubs or shop. The church dates from the 13c. Bridges come close together here as the surrounding fields open up to large scale arable farming.

A small wooded section marks the approach to Br.13 with the remains of an attractive old wall alongside the towpath.

The Lime Kilns public house on the A5 heralds the approach to Hinckley. Overnight moorings south of Br.15. There is water but no rubbish disposal here.



Some moorings are available by the pub garden and opposite but are not visible through the bridge and may be full, so stop and check first. Good food is available lunchtime and evenings.

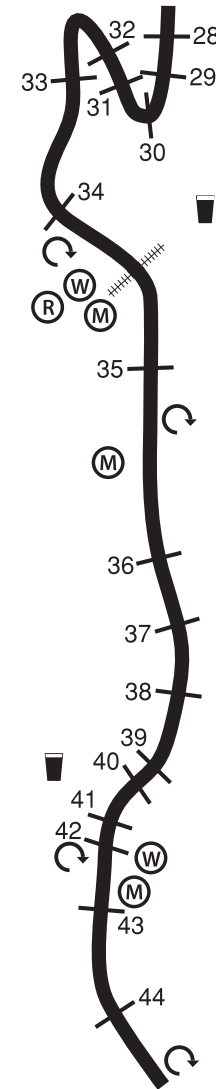
New housing begins to encroach on the canal with industrial estates on the left and right.

By Br.16 the old Hinckley Arm is used by Hinckley Boat Club. There are moorings just through the bridge which are the closest for the town about 1 mile away. A selection of shops nearby include a butchers, PO, newsagents, grocer, general stores, chippy, Marstons pub and an excellent Indian restaurant.

There is a regular bus service to Hinckley.

Trinity Marina offers all services and a good pub with food, but may charge for mooring overnight. There is a useful farm shop (Calor Gas) and camp site by Br.23.

Open fields all the way now towards **Stoke Golding** (village shop) and **Dadlington** which are on the hills to the right. The hire base at Br.25 has all services. Tomlinson's Farm Shop is down the lane. The marina by Br.26 has a slipway and does repairs. There are good moorings between the villages after Br.27. In Stoke Golding there is a PO and general stores. The George & Dragon and the Three Horseshoes serve food.



At Br.34 **Sutton Cheney Wharf** is on the right. Café Waterside is very popular, visitor moorings are on the landing stage, just beyond the water-point.

It is a short walk to the Battlefield centre, the site of the Battle of Bosworth 1485 where Richard III met his death, the last English monarch to die in battle. Moor by the railway bridge 34a and walk along the old track bed for another access point to the Battlefield Centre and the terminus of the Shackerstone steam railway. Here, trains run on weekends and Bank Holidays.

The canal then crosses the road to **Shenton** on a small aqueduct.

Market Bosworth is soon reached although the town lies about a mile away to the east. Moorings are just beyond the water point and winding hole. It is uphill all the way to this delightful market town with several good pubs and a restaurant serving food. Also an award-winning fish & chip shop. Market day is Wednesday. Among the usual array of shops there is also a chemists. There are no shops in any village beyond Market Bosworth, so make sure you are well stocked before continuing.

The open fields continue as the canal meanders its way northwards.