



Bloomsbury Boats Ltd



SIGHT SEEING GUIDE

The Kennet and Avon Canal passes through some of England's most beautiful countryside. Under the many stone and wooden bridges and through beautiful wooded valleys you will find some of the most tranquil towns and villages tucked away within Somerset and Wiltshire.

This guide has been written to showcase some of the tourist attractions in and around the Kennet and Avon. Try and use this guide before you set out rather than during cruising as you will be able to work out roughly where to stop in conjunction with the map (see end of guide).

The guide starts in Bath and Ends in Pewsey which would be the maximum area you could cover in 7 days (cruising for 7-10 hours a day!) Please don't feel you need to accomplish this as most people will go to the bottom of the Caen Hill flight of locks from Bathampton!

Some people like a night in Bath (going west!) before turning around and then heading East (towards Bradford upon Avon) but you choose!

Nb. If heading East from Bathampton and you have never canal boated before we strongly advise to meet you at Bath Top lock **BEFORE** embarking to demonstrate lock procedure. If you do fancy going west to Bath we can cruise there with you and help you through the first lock!

Bath

Bath is just a 45 minute walk away from Bathampton but you can cruise the boat up towards the second lock in Bath and turn around (see MAP 1 at the end of this GUIDE).



As the canal reaches the outskirts of Bath it passes through part of Sydney Gardens which are the oldest gardens in Bath. Designed by Charles Harcourt Masters the 12 acres of gardens were opened as a public pleasure ground in 1795 with an entrance fee however Bath Council purchased them with free access in the early 1900s.

The canal is crossed by several ornate cast iron bridges which were constructed in 1800 as well as two tunnels (Clevedon House is situated on top of one of these tunnels and is 173 feet long). This beautiful Georgian House was at one time used as the old canal company's headquarters. The gardens are certainly worth a look around not only for the gardens but also just to look at these bridges which include several GWR Bridges. The railway cuts right through the gardens and the bridges were constructed in a manner in keeping with the grandeur of this part of Bath.

Holburne Museum (within Sydney Gardens)



On the approach to The Holburne Museum, you can tell you're in for something special as the building's grand façade and impressive gardens provide an inkling of its grandeur and history. The Grade 1 listed building was originally designed and constructed as a hotel, but is now home to a collection of fine and decorative art.

The fascinating pieces that adorn one of Bath's most beautiful buildings vary from Renaissance treasures to masterpieces by Gainsborough. There is so much to see and explore, even if you're a regular visitor you can discover something new with the continually changing temporary exhibitions.

Upstairs you can experience themes of 18th century culture through porcelain, paintings and sculpture. In the impressive former ballroom, silver and china are laid out as though for a banquet, sparkling under a crystal chandelier, while glamorous members of 17th and 18th-century society look down from the walls.

Just across the hallway you'll find the impressive collections of Sir William Holburne, who founded the museum. You'll receive a real sense of what Sir William enjoyed in his art with a strong presence of Golden-Age Dutch works and miniature objects such as gems and portrait miniatures .

The top floor of the museum is home to pieces from the Golden Age of British painting. Discover more about the history of Bath, as some tell stories of what the city once was. The works embrace Bath's history as a fashionable and artistic spa city. William Hoare and Thomas Gainsborough lived in Bath and examples of their work can be found at the Holburne. Their paintings are hung alongside canvases by Zoffany, Ramsay and Stubbs among others.

The museum also has its own Garden Café, which opens onto the historic Sydney Gardens, offering the perfect place to relax after exploring indoors. The Garden Café prides itself on seasonal, delicious, fresh food and has won a Restaurant and Bar Design Award, showing that inspirational design isn't confined to the museum's exhibition rooms.

The Holburne Museum is open 10am to 5pm Monday to Fridays and 11am to 5pm Sundays with free entry (temporary exhibitions are chargeable though.)

Bath Lock walk (from Sydney Gardens)

Walking East through and out of Sydney gardens on the towpath you will eventually come across the Widcombe Lock Flight comprising of 6 locks which takes the Kennet and Avon canal down 60 feet to join the River Avon at Bath Bottom Lock. There were originally 7 locks on the flight but locks 8 and 9 were joined together to make a large Deep Lock which at 19.5 feet deep being the second deepest lock in the U.K. for normal narrowboat use.

Here, it is especially a wonderful site just to watch other boats coming in and out of the locks, rising and falling and is also a good lesson for anyone who really wants to know how they work!

Bath City walk

The Old Roman City of Bath is extremely popular with holiday makers and sightseers with its beautiful churches, old buildings and of course Bath Abbey and the Spas.



Bath Abbey (as pictured above) Bath, BA1 1LT www.bathabbey.org. There is nowhere else quite like Bath Abbey. Magnificent stained glass windows, columns of honey-gold stone and some of the finest fan vaulting in the world, create an extraordinary experience of light and space

Jane Austen Centre 40 Gay Street, Bath BA1 1NT (01225 443000 www.janeausten.co.uk). Enjoy the pleasure of Bath as Jane Austen knew it. A Georgian town house in the heart of the city where the visitor can find out more about the importance of Bath in her life and work. Open daily, Apr-Oct 09.45 -17.30 Charge. Tearooms (free access).

Fashion Museum Assembly Rooms, Bennett Street, Bath BA1 2QH (01225 477789 www.museumofcostume.co.uk). Display of fashion from the 17th C to the present day; one of the largest collections of costume in the world. Open all year.

Postal Museum 27 Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ (01225 460333; www.bathpostalmuseum.co.uk). The place from which the first postage stamp was sent on 2nd May 1840. The history of the postal service and the development of the written word. Open Mon-Sat. Charge.

Roman Baths Museum Stall Street, Bath BA1 1LZ (01225 477785 www.romanbaths.co.uk). The great Bath buildings with their dependent temple were the centre of Roman Bath. Much of these survive, incorporated into the 18th-C Pump Room. The museum, attached to the bath buildings, contains finds excavated from the site. Open daily all year. Charge

1 Royal Crescent Bath BA1 2LR (01225 428126 www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk). The first house of this magnificent crescent built by John Wood the Younger between 1767-74 Complete with original furniture and fittings. Open Tue-Sun. Charge.

Thermae Bath Spa Hetling Pump Room, Hot Bath Street, Bath BA1 1SJ (0844 888 0844; www.thermaebathspa.com). Five historic buildings plus a contemporary addition by Nicholas Grimshaw & Partners allow all-year bathing in natural thermal waters. Full range of spa treatments and complementary therapies, plus views from a roof-top pool! Open daily Closed Xmas Day, New year's Eve and New Year's Day. Charge. Shop, visitor centre, restaurant.

Victoria Art Gallery Corner of Pulteney Bridge and Grand Parade, Bridge Street, Bath BA1 4AT (01225 477233; www.victoriagal.org.uk). Collection of 18th-C and modern paintings, prints and ceramics. Visiting exhibitions. Gallery shop and refreshments. Open Tue-Sat.

Tourist Information Centre Abbey Chambers, Abbey Churchyard, Bath BA1 1LY (0906 711 2000 www.visitbath.co.uk).

Places to eat

Bath is well-endowed with distinguished restaurants, lively wine bars and excellent pubs. The following is a selection of pubs close to the canal.

The Boathouse Newbridge, Bath BA1 3NB (01225 482584; www.boathousebath.com). Just west of New Bridge. Pub and restaurant beside the River Avon. Real ale. Food available daily. Children welcome. Riverside garden and moorings for patrons.

Dolphin Inn 103 Locksbrook Road, Bath BA1 3EN (01225 445048; www.dolphininn.org.uk). On the Weston Cut. Real ales and bar meals available L and E with separate menus for each. Garden and moorings. Children welcome. Darts, dominoes and crib. Open all day.

Golden Fleece 1-3 Avon Buildings, Lower Bristol Road, Bath BA2 1ES (01225 429572). 50yds south of the river, serving a selection of real ales. Traditional pub games.'

Kindling Coffee 9A Claverton Buildings, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LD (01225 442125 www.kindlingcoffee.co.uk). Friendly, enticing cafe serving Fairtrade teas and coffees, together with a range of home-made snacks and light meals — made from local ingredients — in a relaxed atmosphere Organic bread sandwiches. Unlimited coffee top-ups just £1 each! Outside seating. Children welcome.

The Ram 20 Claverton Buildings, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LD(01225 421938). Pleasant, traditional pub, serving real ales and ciders, which encourages you to bring your own food from local takeaways. The landlord provides complimentary crockery, cutlery and condiments. Dogs welcome. Open fires and outside seating. Regular quiz nights. Open all day.

Bathampton (Home mooring)



Bathampton is great for a lazy afternoon drink either at the boat Café or The George Pub overlooking the canal. A very good picnic spot is to the left of the George – great to feed the ducks! Bathampton is a quieter spot to spend the night in too if you don't fancy The City of Bath.

Places to Eat

The George Inn ~ Mill Ln, Bathampton, Bath BA2 6TR (01225 425073)

The Bathampton Mill ~ Mill Lane, Bathampton, Bath BA2 6TS (01225 469758) – Walk down the lane away from the canal and the George to find The Bathampton Mill over the railway bridge on the left overlooking the river Avon!

Claverton,

Open country continues, allowing views across the valley to Bathford church and Warleigh Manor. The navigation follows the contours of the land as it leaves Bath, maintaining the level of the nine mile pound that runs from Bath Top Lock to Bradford. The waterway approaches a thickly wooded stretch passing Claverton to the west. Although the village flanks the canal it is all but hidden by the folds of the land. Access is easy and both the village and Claverton Manor are worth a visit.

Claverton Pumping Station - Ferry Lane, Claverton BA2 7BH 01225 483001

At Claverton, Warleigh Weir interrupts the River Avon and enables water to be diverted for use by Claverton Mill. However this mill was subsequently purchased by the canal company and converted into a pumping station to supply the Kennet and Avon Canal with water from the River Avon. The mill's beam pumps were used to lift the water 50 feet up to the canal and the pumps were capable of moving 100,000 gallons of water an hour. This unique pumping station started operation in 1813 and pumped water to the nine mile pound from Bradford on Avon to Bath. The pump station is clearly marked from the canal and involves a short but steep walk down hill on a small road into the valley and then crossing the railway line - there is a fee to go inside the pumping station.

Wild Summer swimming, Warleigh Weir, Claverton (At end of ferry lane, down hill from canal



Just alongside Claverton Pumping station is the most amazing summer 'wild swimming spot' on the Avon River. Lots of Bath residents will frequent here instead of the public swimming pools to do a spot of wild swimming or just a paddle! Recommended for all but children must be accompanied!

American Museum - Claverton Manor, Bath BA2 7BD 01225 460503

The museum takes you on a journey through the history of America, from its early settlers to the 20th century. With its remarkable collection of folk and decorative arts, the museum shows the diverse and complex nature of American culture. The only museum of Americana outside the United States, the museum was founded to bring American history and cultures to the people of Britain and Europe.

The museum's collection of furniture, paintings, quilts, silver and glass is presented in a series of period rooms within the historic Claverton Manor. The textile and map collections are also on show in the Textile Room and Map Room. In the basement is the new permanent American

Heritage Exhibition, which tells the stories of the Founding Fathers, Native Americans and the Civil War, through a series of interactive galleries that bring the development of America and American culture to life with bright and tactile exhibits - great for kids of all ages!

The American Museum in Britain is located in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The hilltop site of the museum's home, Claverton Manor, takes full advantage of the spectacular views over the Limpley Stoke Valley and the River Avon.

The grounds total some 120 acres, of which 40 are open to visitors. An arboretum devoted to American trees and shrubs flanks a unique replica of George Washington's flower garden at Mount Vernon, Virginia. Below this has been added the Lewis and Clark trail, containing trees and shrubs discovered on the pioneering expedition across the States, over 200 years ago. The parkland, with its majestic old cedars, provides a circular walk through ancient meadows, while above the house a path has been created through woodland. A small vegetable garden, dye plant area and colonial herb garden give a flavour of early colonial plantings.

Dundas and Avon Cliff Aqueducts

Leaving Claverton the canal will bring you shortly to Dundas aqueduct (pictured below).



With the Great Western Railway line and the windy course of the River Avon stretching out eastwards in the valley below two amazing aqueducts pass elegantly over head on this section of the canal. Both were built and designed by John Rennie and Chief Engineer John Thomas. Each have magnificent arches and are constructed of golden Bath stone and have Doric style (ancient Greek) pilasters, balustrades at each end and have a smaller oval arch on either side of the main arch.

By Dundas Aqueduct is the entrance to the **Somerset Coal Canal** – probably the shortest canal in existence! At the end of this there is a cafe and toilet facilities with cycle hire. The Somerset Coal Canal opened in 1805 for the purpose of moving coal from the North Somerset coalfields around Timsbury, Paulton and Radstock to the Kennet and Avon Canal and thus onto various locations such as Bath and Bristol and at it's peak carried around 100,000 tons a year. Traffic decreased quite rapidly in the 1880s with the coming of the railways - the canal ceased operations around 1898 and was officially closed by 1904.



Passing the village of Limpley Stoke, scattered over the valley side, the navigation runs through thick woods clinging to steep banks until the countryside again opens out on the approach to Avoncliff Aqueduct (as pictured above).

Places to Eat (between Dundas and Avoncliffe)

Angelfish Cafe/Restaurant (at the end of Somerset Coal Canal) - Brassknocker Basin, Monkton Combe BA2 7JD (01225 723483). Generous portions of appetising, home-made food served in an attractive setting with a distinctly continental feel. Tea, coffee, home-made cakes, filled baguettes and crepes, hot meals, drinks and ice creams. Family orientated. Cafe open daily. Also opens for functions and pre-booked groups. Regular events.

Rose and Crown Middle Stoke BA2 7GE (01225 722237) Village pub serving real ale. Focused on serving good food. Children welcome. Garden and great views across the valley.

Hop Pole - Woods Hill BA2 7FS (01225 723134) Moor at Limpley Stoke Bridge, walk down to the railway bridge and turn left to find this popular traditional oak-panelled pub, featured in the film 'Remains of the Day' The building is at least 400 years old, originally the monks' wine lodge — it is now famous for its Hop Pole pies. Real ale. Extensive bar and a la carte menu and wine list L and E daily. Children welcome in designated areas, as are dogs. Old English country garden.

The Inn at Freshford - The Hill, Freshford BA2 7WG (01225 723483; www.theinnatfreshford.co.uk). It is well worth the walk to this splendid, traditional pub overlooking the river. Real ales. Bar meals available L and E daily. Traditional jazz every Thu. Garden. Dogs and children welcome.

Cross Guns Avoncliff Aqueduct, BA15 2HB(01225 862335, www.crossguns.net). One of the most attractive pubs on the navigation with its low ceilings, stone walls and flagged floors. The terraced gardens are busy in summer with people enjoying this beautiful setting in a wooded valley. Real ales including their own brew. Good selection of imaginative, well-priced home-made food L and E. Children and dogs welcome. Open all day, every day.

Bradford Upon Avon

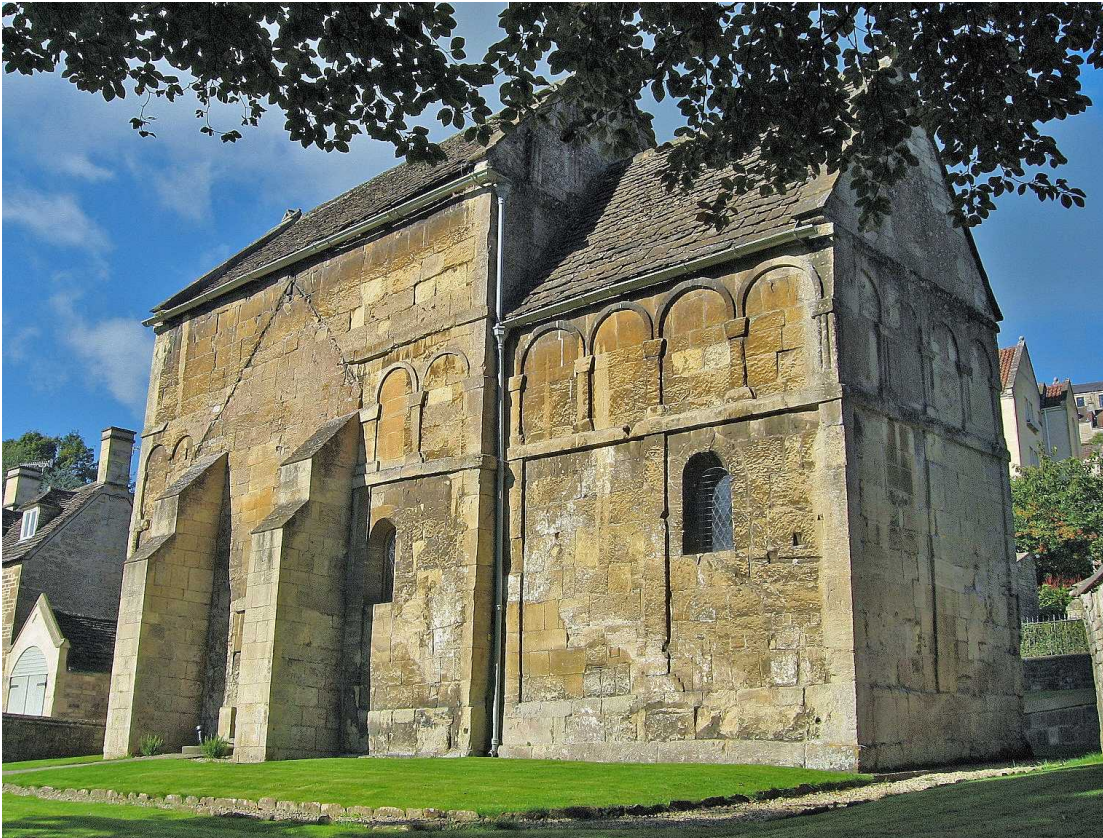


Set in the steeply wooded Avon valley, Bradford is one of the beauty spots of Wiltshire, and one of the highlights of the canal. Rather like a miniature Bath, the town is composed of fine stone terraces rising sharply away from the river, which cuts through the centre of the town. Until the 19th C it was a prosperous centre for weaving, but a depression killed the industry and drove most of the workers away. At the time that the canal was built Bradford had no less than 30 water-powered cloth factories and some of these buildings still survive. Bradford is rich in architectural treasures from the Saxon period to the 19th C, while the abundance of fine 18th-C houses make the exploration of the town a positive pleasure. The centre is very compact, and so the walk down the hill from the canal wharf lays most of it open to inspection, including the town bridge, Holy Trinity Church, the Victorian town hall and the fine Gothic Revival factory that dominates the riverside. There is also a swimming pool near the canal.

Things to see

Bradford Upper Wharf BA15 2EA The canal wharf is particularly attractive. There is a small dock with some of the original buildings still standing, plenty of mooring space, and an old canal pub beside the lock. The lock here was built to raise the canal to the same level as the Wilts and Berks Canal which joins the canal at Semington.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Wharf Cottage, Bradford Lock, Bradford on Avon BA15 1LE (www.katrust.co.uk). Canal shop and exhibition, range of canal books, souvenirs, gifts, light refreshments and boat trips at weekends. Tea garden. Open Easter-Oct



Saxon Church of St Lawrence (pictured above) Mount Pleasant, Bradford on Avon BA15 1SJ. Founded in AD705, this tiny church was enlarged in the 10th C. Since then it has survived essentially unchanged, having been at various times a school, a cottage and a slaughterhouse. The true origins and purpose of the building were only discovered in the 19th C, and so it remains one of the best-preserved Saxon churches in England.



Great Tithe Barn (pictured above) - Bradford on Avon BA15 2EF (www.english-heritage.org.uk). Standing below the canal embankment, this great stone building is one of the finest tithe barns in England. It was built in the 14th C. by the Abbess of Shaftesbury. Its cathedral-like structure (168ft long) is broken by two porches, with massive doors that open to reveal the beamed roof. The barn is part of Barton Farm, a medieval farm which was part of the monastic estate of Shaftesbury Abbey. The Granary and Cow Byres now house craft shops and galleries.

Holy Trinity Church - Church Street, Bradford on Avon BA15 1LN. Basically a 12th-C building with additions dating over the next three centuries. Inside are some medieval wall paintings, and fine 18th-C monuments. Many of the names that appear relate to the wool industry.

Town Bridge The nine-arched bridge is unusual in having a chapel in the middle, one of only four still surviving in Britain. Parts of the bridge, including the chapel, are medieval, but much dates from a 17th-C rebuilding. During the 17th and 18th C the chapel fell out of use, and was turned into a small prison, serving as the town lock up.

Westwood Manor Lower Westwood BA15 OAF (01225 863374; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/westwood-monor). One mile south west of Bradford. This 15th-C stone manor house contains original Jacobean plaster and woodwork, although much was lost when the manor became a farm in the 18th C. Skilful restoration by the National Trust has returned the manor to its former glory. Open Apr-Sep, Charge.

Tourist Information Centre 50 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon BA15 1DE (01225 865797)

Places to eat

Lock inn 48 Frome Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1LE (01225 867187; [www the lockinn.co.uk](http://www.the-lockinn.co.uk)). A unique establishment whose proprietors openly admit to scant portion control; welcome (amongst others) 'kids, cats and dogs, muddy boots, scaffolders, bankers, plumbers (when they turn up) and old age travellers', whilst justifiably claiming to be 'suppliers of happiness and laughter'. Excellent, appetising and inexpensive food for all the family, served in the cafe including death-defying boatmen's breakfasts daily 08.45-18.00, and a tantalising restaurant menu L and E. Only moaners and unruly parents are banned!

Canal Tavern 49 Frome Road, Lower Wharf, Bradford on Avon BA15 1LE (01225 867426). It was outside the back door of this friendly pub that the first sod for the commencement of the canal was cut. The pub continues to benefit from its trade with an attractive terrace overlooking the navigation. Real ale. Home-made food L and E. Children and dogs welcome. Garden with patio.

Meharja - 12 Frome Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 1LE (01225 866424 www.themaharajarestaurant.co.uk). Across the road from the Canal Tavern. Authentic Indian food served by friendly, attentive staff.

Barge inn -17 Frome Road, Bradford on Avon BA15 2EA (01225 863403; www.thebargeinn.co.uk). Comfortable one-bar pub. Good choice of real ale and wine list. Attractive eating area, decorated with canal ware, Food served daily. Children and dogs welcome. Canal side garden.

Beef and Barge - Bradford on Avon Manna, Bradford on Avon BA15 1UD (01225 862004) Overlooking the marina this establishment serves real ales and food L and E. Children's play area. Garden and patio. Barbecues on summer weekends.



The Barge Inn – Bradford upon Avon.

Beyond Bradford upon Avon ~ Open Country

River and canal make their separate departures from the town to converge again with the canal high above in a side cutting, initially shielded by trees. Then views northwards open out over the Avon valley as the waterway crosses first the River Biss, followed by the railway on two, splendid stone aqueducts. The classical arch over the river is particularly handsome; it is necessary to walk down the side of the embankment to see it properly.

To the west of Hilperton, the canal passes the grounds of Wyke House, whose Jacobean-style towers stand among the trees. Passing the boatyard and large marina basin the navigation curves around Hilperton; although the main part of the village is a mile to the south. There is a convenient pub, post office, garage and stores beside Bridge 166.

Beyond, the countryside opens out into the wide Avon valley as the canal makes a beeline for Devizes and the Caen Hill Lock Flight.

Staverton ~ The village lies to the north of the canal, spreading down to the bank of the Avon. A small isolated part of the Avon is navigable here, and is used by a few pleasure boats. In the village are terraces of weavers' cottages, a sign of what was once the staple trade of the area.

Hilperton ~ A scattered village that stretches away from the settlement by the canal wharf. Wyke House stands to the west of the village. This very ornate Jacobean mansion was in fact built in 1865, a replica of the original house. House not open to the public. Post Office, Garage, Stores

Semington ~ Semington is a pretty village. There are several large, handsome houses with fine gardens, one dating from the 18th C. The little stone church, crowned with a bellcote, is at the end of a lane to the west of the village.

Scend Cleeve ~ An agricultural village built on the steep slopes of the hills that overlook the canal.

Seend ~ Although the main road cuts the village in half, Seend is still attractive. Elegant 18th-C houses flank the road, and conceal the lane that leads to the battlemented Perpendicular church. Post Office, Store..

Sells Green ~ A scattered main road village, the houses doing their best to hide from the traffic behind decorative gardens.

Places to Eat

Kings Arms 5A Castle Street, Trowbridge BA14 8AN (01225 751310; www.thekingsarmstrowbridge.co.uk). A bit of a hike into Trowbridge but well worth taking the track south from Bridge 168. A changing selection of real ales and real cider in this pub that serves home-made food. Cosy, 'snug' drinking areas and an outside patio. Regular quiz and real fires. Open all day.

Old Bear Inn ~ Staverton BA14 6PB (01225 782487; www.theoldbearinn.co.uk). 1/2 mile north west of Hilperton Bridge. Nicely kept 300-year-old inn. Real ales. Extensive menu available in the bar and restaurant L and E. Children and dogs welcome. Garden with covered patio. Open L and E. Mon-Fri and all day Sat & Sun.

Somerset Arms - High Street, Semington BA14 6JR (01380 870067; www.somersetarmssemington.co.uk). About 1/4 mile south of Semington Bridge 160. A traditional village pub, more than 400 years old, serving real ales and meals in the bar and restaurant. Children and dogs welcome. Large Garden.

Brewery Inn - Seend Cleeve SN12 6PX (01380 828463) 200 yds south of Lock 19. A genuine, unadulterated village local. Real ales and traditional ciders. Appetising home-made food. Children and dogs welcome. Large garden with decking and children's play area. Traditional pub games and a selection of board games.



Barge Inn – Seend

Barge Inn - Seend Cleeve SN12 6QB (01380 828230); www.bargeinnseend.co.uk). By Lock 19. An extensive and extremely popular pub occupying the former wharf house and stables, dating back to 1805. The house was once the home of the Wiltshire Giant, Fred Kempster, who reached the inconvenient height of 7ft 9 inches. Real ales. Meals in the bar and restaurant all day. Children and dogs welcome. Canal side garden. Weekend barbecues in summer.

Bell Inn - Seend Cleeve SN12 6SA (01380 828338; www.thebellseend.co.uk). 1/2 mile south of Lock 21. A conversion of an old brew house once patronised by Cromwell and his troops when they breakfasted here on their way to attack Devizes Castle in 1645. Real ales. Food served in the bar and restaurant. Booking advisable at weekends. Function room available. Children and dogs welcome. Outside beer garden with panoramic views over Salisbury Plain.

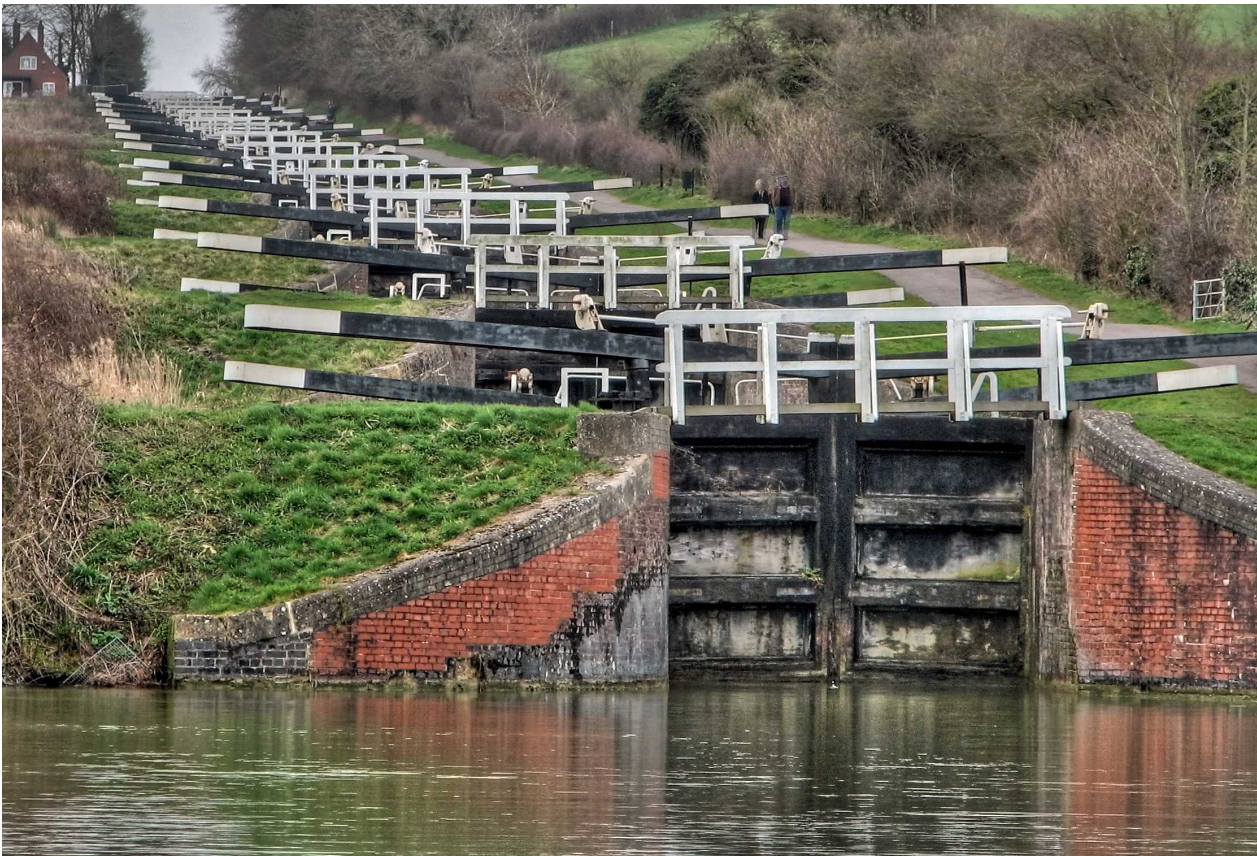
Three Magpies - Sells Green, Seend, Melksham SN12 6RN (01380 828389 www.threemagpies.co.uk). ¼ mile north of Sells Green Bridge 149. A comfortable pub, with converted stables housing the restaurant. Real ale. Food available Mon-Thur L and E and all day Fri-Sun. (winter times may vary). Garden. Children's play area and camping.

Caen Hill Locks

Barge owners can get themselves warmed up after Sells Green as there are several locks before looking forward to the main event at the highly impressive Caen Hill Flight of locks a little further along the route. From Kennet Lock 22 there are 29 locks to negotiate over a 2.25 mile stretch of the canal ending at Caen Lock 50- a rise of 230 feet.

Tips for going through the series of Locks

- Take your time
- Help one another with the paddles on the lock gates but always have someone by the tiller
- Help other boaters ahead or behind you if you are waiting but ALWAYS 'man the tiller'.
- Take a break half way up and moor in the side 'ponds' – visit the café for a cup of tea!



Devizes

Despite the effects of traffic, Devizes still retains the atmosphere of an old country market town. Originally the town grew up around the castle, but as this lost its significance the large marketplace became the focal point. In the early 19th C Devizes held the largest corn market in the west of England and was also a centre for the selling of hops, cattle, horses and cloth, there being many manufacturers of wool and silk in the area. The lower floor of the town hall was the site of the cheese market. Handsome 18th-C buildings now command the square, while the market cross records the sad story of Ruth Pierce. Elsewhere there are timbered buildings from the 16th C. The two fine churches, one built for the castle and the other for the parish, tend to

dominate the town, and hold it well together. Only the mount and related earthworks survive of the original Norman castle; the present building is an extravagant Victorian folly. The town's own brewery, Wadworth, in Northgate Street, fills the air with the aroma of malt and hops. Wadworth still deliver their beer around the town by horse and dray.

Devizes has lots of shops, pubs and restaurants as well as a cinema.

Places to see

Wiltshire Heritage Museum - 41 Long Street, Devizes SN10 1NS (01380 727369; www.wiltshireheritage.org.uk). One of the finest prehistoric collections in Europe including finds from the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age sites in Wiltshire, the most famous being the Stourhead collection of relics excavated from barrow mounds on Salisbury Plain. There are also Roman exhibits. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 12.00 -6.00 and Bank Hols. Charge.

Kennet & Avon Canal Trust - Canal Centre, Couch Lane, Devizes SN10 1EB (01380 721279; www.katrust.co.uk). The Trust's headquarters with an award-winning museum tracing the history of the canal by interactive video and exhibitions. Small charge. Meeting room and well-stocked shop with large selection of canal books, souvenirs, maps and videos. Canal information centre open daily Feb-Dec 10.00 – 17.00 (16.00 in winter). Cafe open daily.

St John's Church – SN10 1NS. Built by Bishop Roger of Sarum, who was also responsible for the castle, this 12th-C church with its massive crossing tower is still largely original. There are 15th-C and 19th-C additions, but they do not affect the Norman feeling of the whole.

St Mary's Church - Dating from the same time as St John's, this church was more extensively rebuilt in the 15th C; plenty of Norman work still survives, however.

Wadworth Visitor Centre and Brewery New Park Street, Devizes SN10 1JW (01380 732277; www.wadworthvisitorcentre.co.uk). Interactive brewing process exhibition, working cooper, shire horses, brewery tours, tastings, shop. Telephone or visit website for times and details.

Wharf Theatre - The Wharf, Devizes SN10 1EB (01380 724741; www.wharftheatre.co.uk). Small, ambient canalside theatre hosting a variety of performances throughout the year. Telephone or visit website for details.

Tourist Information Contact the Heritage Museum or visit the Wadworth Visitor Centre.

There are also several **Wiltshire white horses decorating the hillsides** in the area - for instance one can be seen from Alton Barnes and from Devizes Marina.

Places to Eat

There are many good pubs and restaurants in Devizes. The following are simply a convenient selection.

The George & Dragon - High Street, Rowde, near Devizes SN10 2PN (01380 723053; www.thegeorgeanddragonrowde.co.uk). This pub is held in high esteem for its award-winning food, all freshly cooked to order, served L and E. Fresh fish is a specialty. Real ales. Traditional pub games and open fires. Children and dogs welcome. Cottage-style garden.

Caen Hill Tearooms - The Locks, Devizes, SN10 1QR (01380 724880). Beside Lock 44. Local ice creams, tea, cream teas, coffee, home-made cakes, pasties and sandwiches. Open daily.



The Black Horse (pictured above) ~ Bath Road, Devizes SN10 2AU (01380 723930; www.wadsworth.co.uk/devizes/blackhorse). By Lock 48, on the Caen Hill section. Well placed to refresh those exhausted by the locks. Real ale and food L and E. Children and dogs welcome. Canal side garden. Darts, skittles and pool.

The Lamb ~ 20 St John's Street, Devizes SN10 1BT (01380 725426). Old-fashioned local drinking house dispensing real ale. Traditional pub games and enclosed yard. Children and dogs welcome.

The Hare & Hounds ~ Hare & Hounds Street, Devizes SN10 1LZ (01380 723231). A range of real ales served in traditional pub surroundings together with food L and E. Children and dogs welcome Garden, open fires and pub games. Open all day.

The British Lion ~ 9 Estcourt Street, Devizes SN10 1LQ (01380 723231 www.britishliondevizes.co.uk). Traditional, good value, down-to-earth local, attracting a mix of customers of all ages who appreciate real ale, cider and good conversation. Open all day.

The White Bear ~ Monday Market Street, Devizes SN10 1DN (01380 727588). Real ale served in a popular, town local together with meals L and E. Open fires.

Wharfside Restaurant ~ 13 Couch Lane, The Wharf, Devizes SN10 1EB (01380 726051) Farmhouse cooking in a canal side restaurant. Also morning coffee, afternoon teas and home-made snacks.

The Hourglass ~ Horton Avenue, Devizes SN10 2RH (01380 727313; www.hourglassdevizes.com). Modern bar-restaurant, serving traditional pub meals, Sun roasts and a la carte menu Land E daily (not Sun E in winter). Large canal side terrace. Free Wi-Fi

Beyond Devizes

At Horton Bridge, where there is a convenient canal side pub, the waterway leaves another short cutting and the tower of Bishop Canning church comes into view, half hidden by trees: a footpath from the swing bridge is the quickest way into the village. The rolling hills climb fairly steeply to the north, while the pasture falls away to the south. Beyond Horton, the lock-free pound now extends eastwards all the way to Wootton Rivers. Following the contour of the land, it swings in a series of wide arcs past All Cannings, curling around the Knoll, a major feature of the landscape to the north. Several villages are near the navigation, all visible and easily accessible from the many bridges but none actually approach the waterside. Their interests lie rather in the rich agricultural lands that flank the canal. The waterway continues to meander through the open countryside, roughly following a contour line to maintain its level. Its progress is marked by a series of shallow cuttings and low embankments. The navigation passes the delightfully named Honeystreet with its pub, boatyard and canalside cafe and shop. Beyond the village, to the north, can be seen the white horse cut into the hill, a copy of the one at Cherhill. Approaching Woodborough Hill, the tower of Alton Priors church comes into view as the long pound continues eastwards. To the south the land falls away while to the north the hills take on an almost sculptural quality as evidence of ancient terracing can be seen.



Bishops Cannings

Apart from one or two old cottages, the main feature of this village is the very grand church. This cruciform building, with its central tower and spire, is almost entirely Early English instyle; its magnificence is unexpected in so small a village. Traces of the earlier Norman building survive. Inside is a 17th -C penitential seat, surmounted by a giant hand painted on the wall with suitable inscriptions about sin and death.

Allington

A small agricultural village with picturesque cottages scattered around a Victorian church. East of the village is All Cannings Cross, a large Iron Age settlement.

All Cannings

An attractive village built around a square, with houses of all periods. To the south there is a large green, overlooked by the church with its tall central tower. There is a useful shop selling food, beer, wine and newspapers.

Stanton St Bernard

Built in a curve of the hills, the village has one main street, flanked by pretty gardens. The best building is the 19th-C manor, which incorporates relics of an earlier house. The battlemented church is Victorian.

Alton Priors

Approached along a footpath from Alton Barnes churchyard, the isolated church is the best feature of this scattered hamlet. This pretty Perpendicular building with its wide, well-lit nave contains a most interesting monument: a big box tomb is surmounted with a large engraved Dutch brass plate, dated 1590, rich in extravagant symbolism. To the east of the village the Ridgeway runs southwards towards Salisbury; this Bronze Age drover's road swings north east along the downs for 50 miles, finally joining the Thames valley at Streatley.

Alton Barnes

The village runs along the road northwards from Honey Street. The best part is clustered around the church. Fine farm buildings and an 18th-C rectory are half hidden among the trees. The church is essentially Anglo Saxon, but has been heavily restored; everything is in miniature, the tiny gallery, pulpit and pews emphasising the compact scale of the whole building.

Honeystreet

A traditional canal side village, complete with sawmills, incorporating some new development and, arguably, one of the most attractively landscaped and charming on the waterways.

Places to Eat

Bridge Inn - Horton Road, Devizes, SN10 2JS (01380 860273; www.thebridgeinnathorton.co.uk). Beside Horton Bndge 134. Attractive, welcoming pub with mellow brick interior. Real ales and food available in the bar and restaurant L and E daily Sunday roasts and children's menu. Dogs and children welcome. Canal side garden and patio. Moorings.

Crown Inn - Chandlers Lane, Bishops Cannings SN10 2JZ (01380 860218 www).

crownbishopsconnings.co.uk). Friendly village pub serving real ale. Traditional pub meals L and E Mon-Sat and all day Sun. (booking advisable). Children welcome. Spacious garden and small campsite. Quiz Thu.

Kings Arms - Pub Lane, All Cannings SN10 3PA (01380 860328; www.kingsarmsallcannings.co.uk). 1/4 mile south of Woodway Bndge 128.. Comfortable and charming village pub, serving good selection of real ale, and good value, home-made bar food + Open fires. Darts, pool, dominoes and crib. Children and dogs welcome. Large garden with spectacular views over the Vale of Pewsey.



Barge Inn - Honeystreet, Pewsey SN9 5PS (01672 851705; www.the-barge-inn.corn). An imposing canal side pub which was once a slaughterhouse, a bake house, a brewery and a grocers; now functioning as a community pub. Real ale and food served L and E. Open daily. Children and dogs welcome. Canal side beer garden. Regular live music. International crop circle centre. Temporary moonngs. Camping, toilets and showers.

The Honeystreet Cafe and Tee Gardens - Old Builders Wharf, Honeystreet, Pewsey (01672851232; www.honeystreetcafe.co.uk). Charming canal side tea gardens, nestled in the Pewsey Vale (with views of the white horse) offering freshly made cakes, tasty sandwiches, homemade scones, tea, coffee and daily specials, together with the opportunity to indulge in a hearty breakfast!

Towards Pewsey

The canal skirts Woodborough Hill giving views to the south over open countryside to the village of Woodborough itself. The equally dominant Pickled Hill now fills the north bank, giving a good view of the field terracing that is a relic of Celtic and medieval cultivation. Further east, the waterway passes through the elaborately decorated Lady's Bridge and enters the tranquil, wooded Wide Water In 1793 this stretch was owned by Lady Susannah Wroughton who objected to the canal cutting through her land. She was appeased by £500, the building of a highly ornate bridge (dated 1808 and attributed to Rennie) and the landscaping of the marshy area around it.

Beyond, a straight stretch leads to the first cottages of Wilcot; the rest of the village is to the south. Woods lead the waterway past Stowell Park, whose landscaped grounds extend to the north. The house, built early in the 19th-C, can be seen clearly from the canal. Closer to the navigation is a selection of delightful estate cottages built in the picturesque style. A miniature suspension bridge, the only surviving example of its kind, carries a private footpath from the park across the canal which now approaches Pewsey Wharf in a low, wooded cutting. The waterway passes well outside the town which fills the Vale to the south. Pewsey Wharf is 2 mile from the town centre and so has developed as a separate canal side settlement, with a pub, cottages and warehouse buildings. To the north, hills descend to the water's edge and to the south the land opens out, giving fine views over the Vale of Pewsey. The 15-mile-long pound continues east, now accompanied by the railway, passing New Mill — a small hamlet to the south of the canal — where there is still evidence of a small wharf.

Places to see/visit

Wilcot

A pretty village scattered round the green; there are several thatched houses, and a converted village school with a prominent bell. Parts of the church date from the 12th C, but it was mostly rebuilt in 1876 after a fire. An important event in the village is the annual carnival dating back to 1898. Lasting for two weeks it commences on the third Satin Sep — drawing large crowds — and there is at least one event every evening thereafter.

Pewsey

The little town is set compactly in the Vale of Pewsey. At its centre is a fine statue of King Alfred, erected in 1911, from where all the roads radiate. There is the usual mixture of buildings; but while many are attractive, none are noteworthy. The church is mostly 13th- and 15th-C, but parts of the nave are late Norman: the altar rails were made from timbers of the San Josef, captured by Nelson in 1797. The immaculate railway station harks back to the former days of CWR supremacy and is a joy to patronise.

New Mill

A pretty hamlet scattered below the canal. The mill that gave it its name is now a house, with a fine garden.

Places to Eat

Golden Swan ~ Wilcot, Pewsey SN9 5NN (01672 564004; www.thegoldenswan.co.uk). A one-handed ghost is said to haunt this pub, which stands beyond the green at the far end of the

village. However, in the flesh, there is an affable landlord and friendly locals together with real ale and home-made bar meals served Tue-Sun L and E (not Sun). Open fire and garden. Families welcome. Three cricket teams are based at the pub. Camping.

Coopers Arms 37- 39 Ball Road, Pewsey SN9 5BL (01672 562495; www.thecoopersarms.com). Characterful thatched pub, tucked away up a side street. Real ale and cider. Outside seating, open fires in winter. Pub games, children's room. Dogs welcome. Quiz Sun E (winter), live music Fri.

Crown - 60 Wilcot Road, Pewsey (01672 562653; www.thecrownatpewsey.co.uk) This is a serious (and very welcoming) real ale pub with its own micro brewery producing 4 beers. Additional ales from local micro breweries (together with ciders and perrys) are also available, as are inexpensive, home-made bar meals Fn E and a full roast Sun L. Dogs and children welcome. Garden and play area. Pub games and log fires.

Chequers Bistro 39-41 High Street, Pewsey, SN9 5AF (01672 564004). A bright, cheerful establishment serving coffees, teas, snacks and lunches Mon-Sat and dinner Fri E. Opens Tue-Thur E on request.

Waterfront - Pewsey Wharf, Marlborough Road, Pewsey SN9 SNU (01672 564020) Bar and bistro. Everything from snacks to steaks. Children and dogs welcome. Wharfside seating area and garden. Also long-term mooring, slipway, water, pump out.

Royal Oak - 35 North Street, Pewsey SN9 5ES (01672 563426). In the town centre — a family pub with a warm welcome. Real ale and an appetising range of inexpensive, home-made food available L and E. Garden and children's play area. Dogs welcome. Darts, pool, crib and dominoes. Winter events.

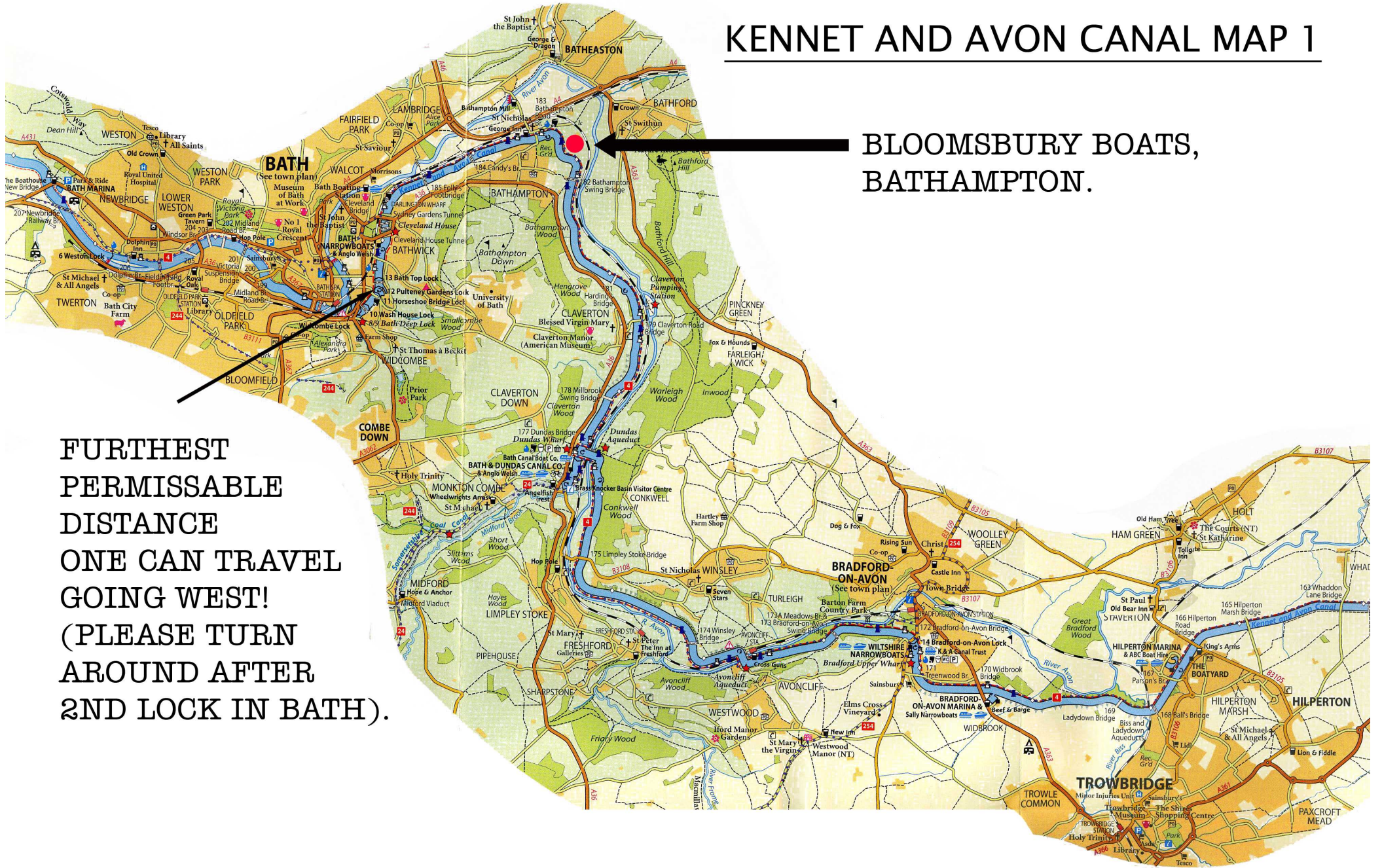
French Horn - Marlborough Road, Pewsey SN9 5NT (01672 562443; www.frenchhornpewsey.com). Just north of Pewsey Wharf, on the A345. A friendly pub serving real ale together with bar snacks and main meals, produced using local produce where possible, L and E, daily. Interesting a la carte menu (specialising in fresh fish) available in the bar and restaurant. The emphasis is very much on family eating. Garden overlooking canal



A peaceful and picturesque place to stop for a picnic at Wootton Rivers (just past Pewsey if you get that far!

Have a very safe trip! Please refer to the boat manual in regards to cruising tips and boat systems (you can download a copy via the link sent to you in the confirmation email as well as there being a copy on board when you get here) but all tuition will be given once you get here!

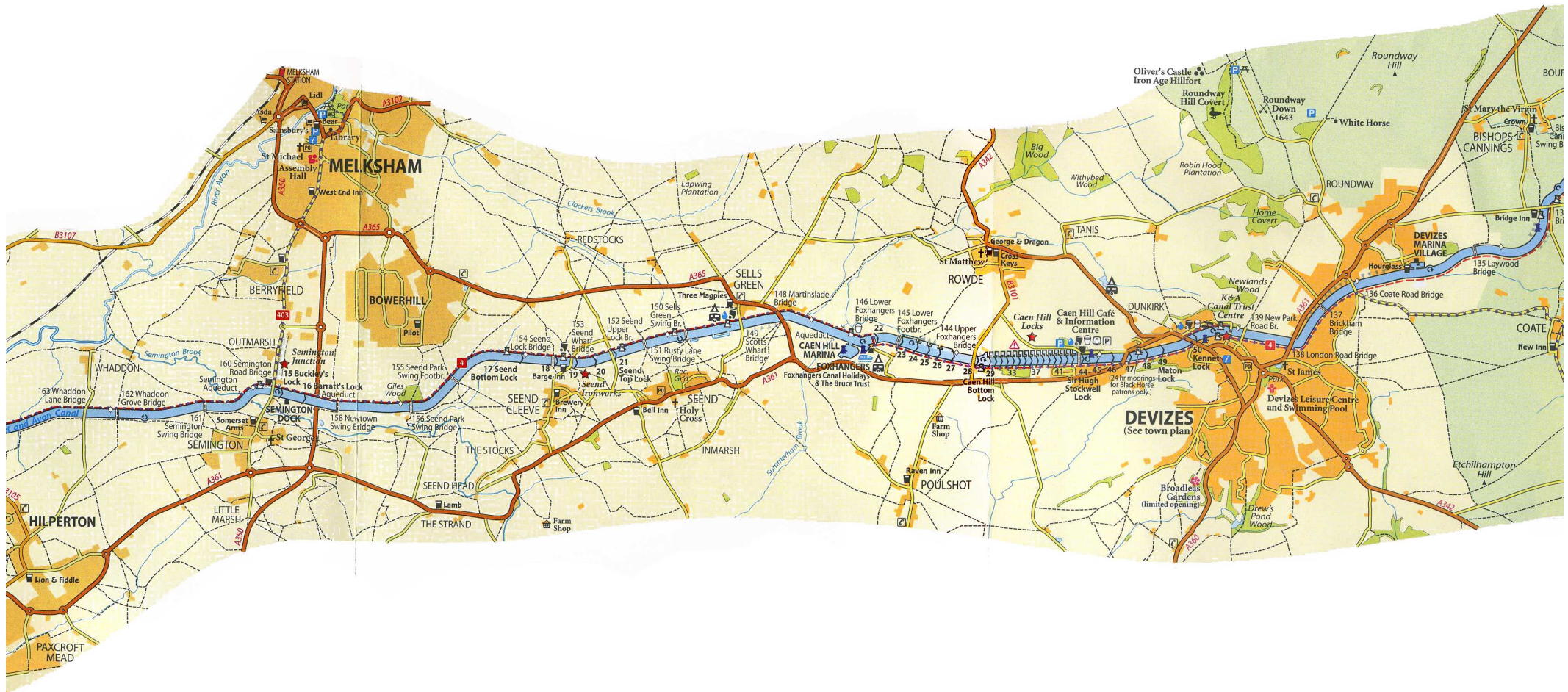
KENNET AND AVON CANAL MAP 1



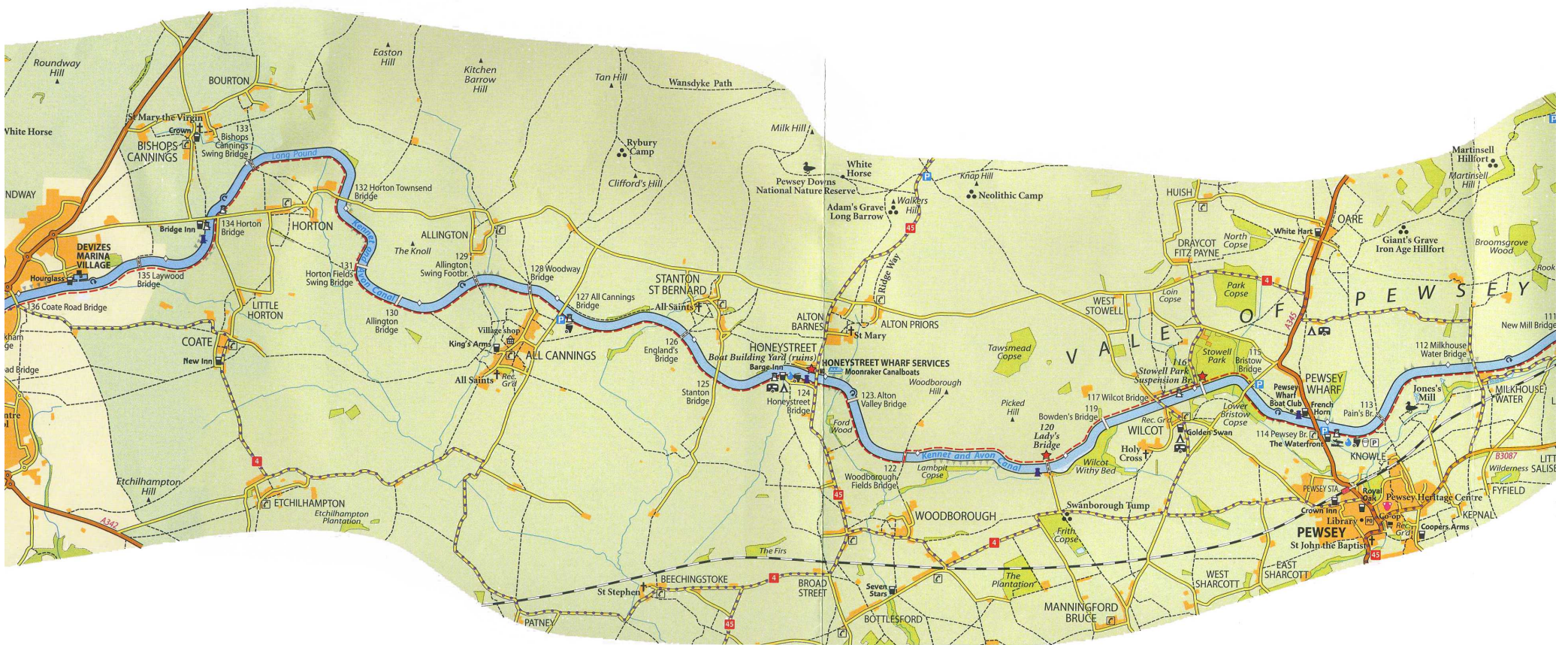
BLOOMSBURY BOATS,
BATHAMPTON.

FURTHEST
PERMISSABLE
DISTANCE
ONE CAN TRAVEL
GOING WEST!
(PLEASE TURN
AROUND AFTER
2ND LOCK IN BATH).

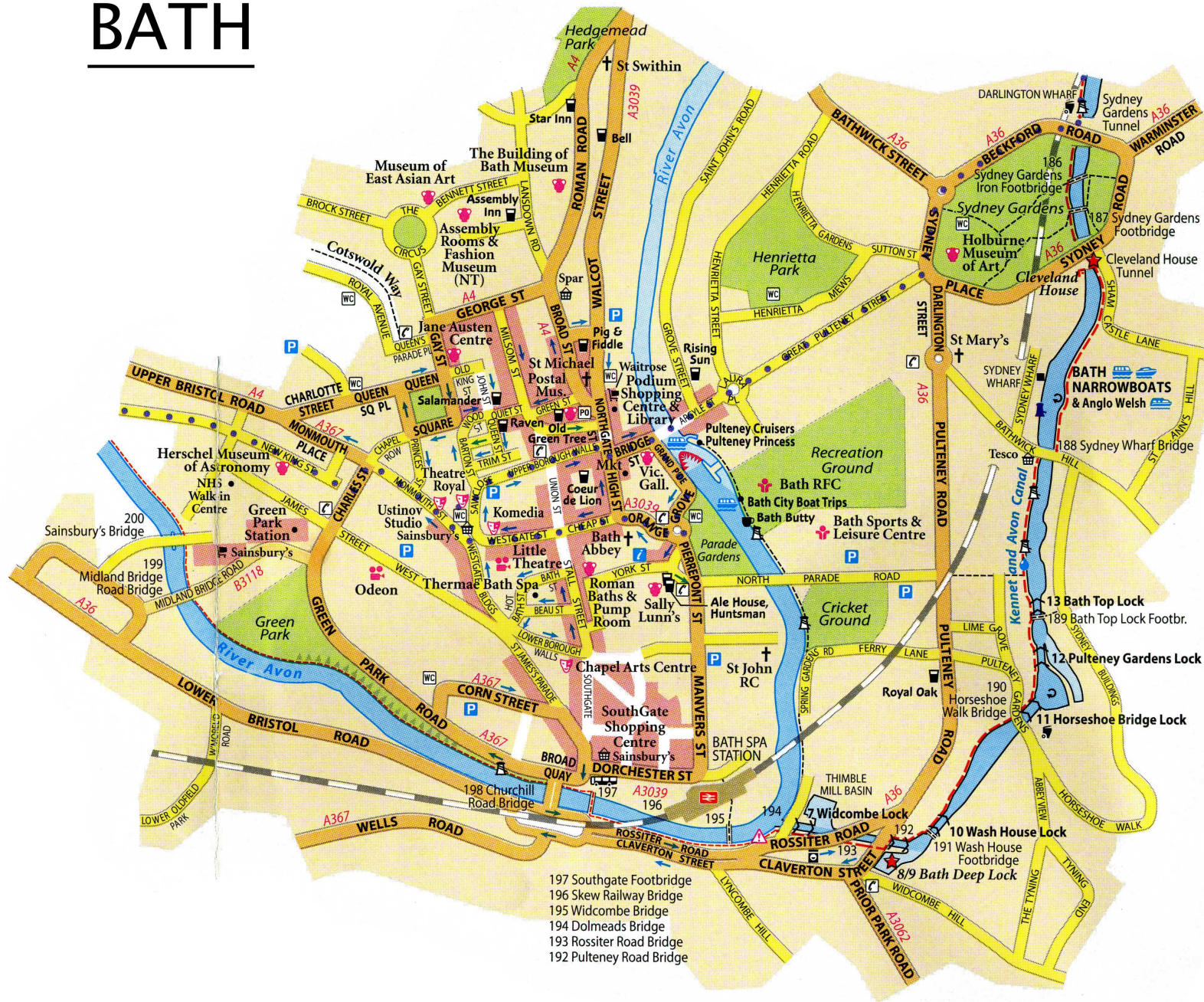
KENNET AND AVON CANAL MAP 2



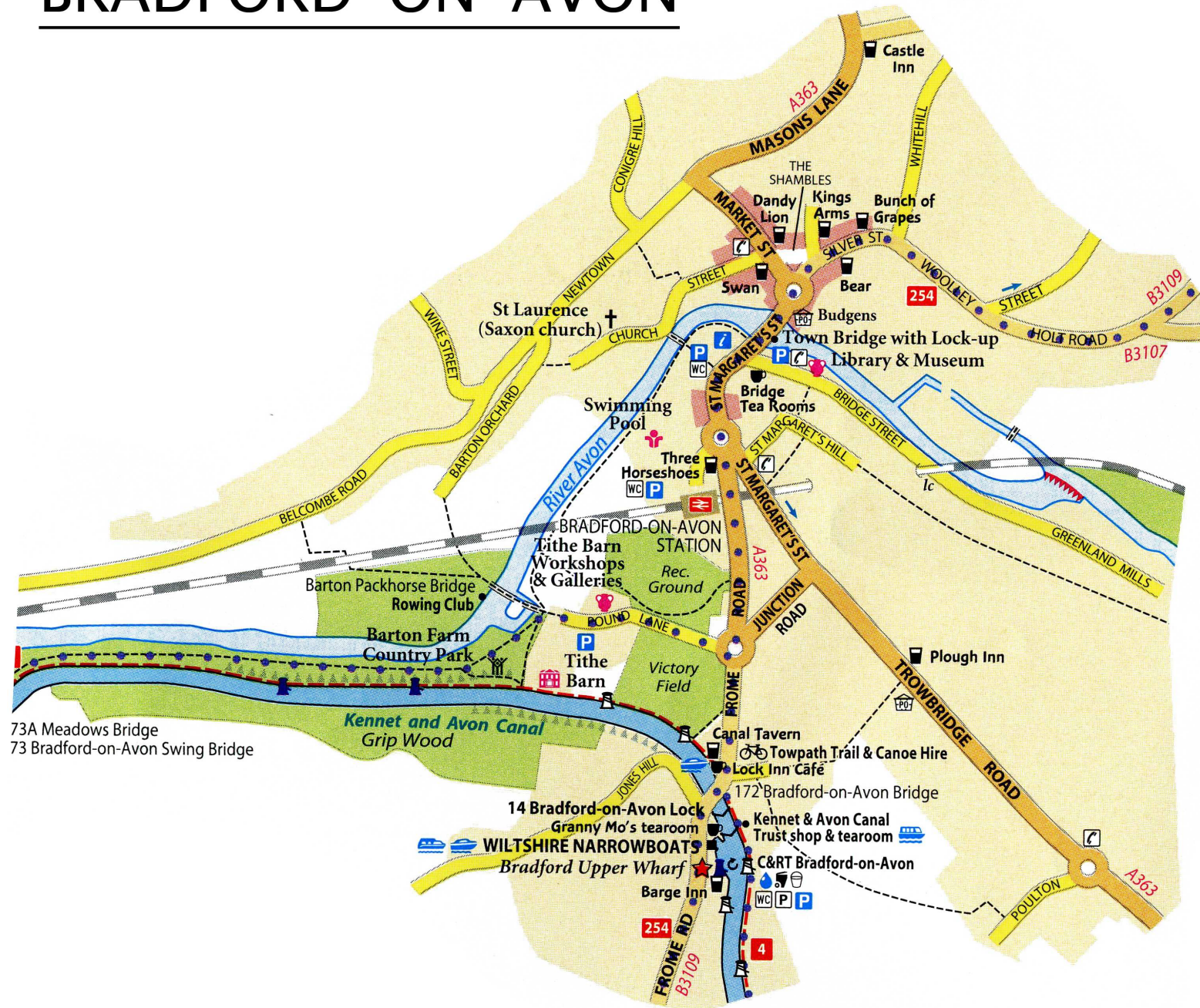
KENNET AND AVON CANAL MAP 3



BATH



BRADFORD-ON-AVON





DEVIZES