

## Basingstoke Canal Canoe Trail

### General Information



The Basingstoke Canal runs westwards to Basingstoke from its junction with the Wey Navigation, 3 miles from the River Thames. It was conceived in 1769 as an economical means of transport to develop agriculture in central Hampshire. The canal never really proved profitable and by the 1960s it was no longer navigable. In the 1970s Surrey and Hampshire County councils took the canal into public ownership and funded a programme of restoration supported by voluntary working parties. In 1990 work was completed and the canal formally reopened in 1991.



An attractive waterway, the Basingstoke Canal is also a notable wildlife habitat. It has one of the largest varieties of aquatic plants and invertebrates in the UK. 25 of Britain's 39 species of dragonflies and damselflies inhabit the canal. The entire length except for a bit through Woking is a Site of Special scientific Interest (SSSI). Greywell tunnel which marks the end of the navigable section is an internationally important haven for bats.

It is a delightful canal to canoe on as parts of it feel quite remote. It is also an ideal canal to combine cycling and canoeing ... one party on the water and another party on the bank. The choice as to where to go on the canal is yours there are some access points and mileage set out for your information.

### Access

A licence to paddle the Basingstoke Canal is included in the Canoe England membership fee. Otherwise licenses can be obtained from the Basingstoke Canal Authority, Canal Centre, Mytchett Place Road, Mytchett, Surrey. GU16 6DD Telephone - 01252 370073 Fax - 01252 371758

For general enquires please email [info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk](mailto:info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk)

### Maps Covering the Canal

OS Landranger (1:50 000) maps required;

- Sheet 186 for Greywell Tunnel-Fleet-Aldershot-Mytchett –Deepcut -Woking- West Byfleet
- Sheet 176 for Woking-West Byfleet- New Haw

### Access points

Many of the road bridges which cross the canal have access to the towpath. Parking and other facilities as listed are available at the following points (From west to East) Note, not all the pubs have been listed, there are many more!

- |                  |          |                                  |
|------------------|----------|----------------------------------|
| • Colt Hill      | SU747517 | Pub, tap, picnic site, boat hire |
| • Barleymow      | SU778538 | Pub                              |
| • Crookham Wharf | SU792517 | Bottle bank, pub 100m            |

- Reading Road Wharf SU808537 Fleet High street 300m for shops etc
- Norris bridge SU833536
- Farnborough Road Bridge SU860522
- Ash Wharf SU894516 Shops and parking nearby
- Ash Vale Station SU893534 BR station
- Basingstoke Canal
- Visitor Centre SU893551 Tearooms, tap, BBQ & picnic site, camping  
Tel 01252 370073
- Frimley Lodge SU891562 Ice-creams, picnic site, mini railway
- Brookwood Station SU953569 Canal access 200m over Sheet's Heath  
bridge
- Kiln Bridge SU980579 Post Office
- West Byfleet Station TQ042611 Canal Access 200m
- New Haw TQ055628 Wey Navigation

### Distances

- Greywell Tunnel to Visitor Centre Mytchett 19.5 miles 1 portage
- Visitor Centre Mytchett to Wey Navigation 12.5 miles 28 portages
- From Woodham junction with the River Wey to limit of navigation at Greywell  
Tunnell is 31.1 miles.

### Camping

Make a holiday of it to explore the whole canal and surrounding area ...Camping is available at Basingstoke Canal Visitor Centre tel 01252 370073

### Other things to see

- Aldershot Military Museum, Evelyn Woods Road, Aldershot 01252 314598  
<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/museum/aldershot-museum.htm>
- Airborne Forces Museum, Browning Barracks, Aldershot 01252 349619  
<http://www.airborneassault.org.uk/home/html/museum.html>
- Army Medical Services Museum, Mytchett  
<http://www.ams-museum.org.uk/museum/>
- Farnborough Air Sciences Museum, Balloon School House, 85, Farnborough  
Road, Farnborough 01252 375050 <http://www.airsciences.org.uk/museum.html>
- Odiham Castle also known as "King Johns Castle", 13<sup>th</sup> century now in ruins  
SU725519 <http://www.castlexplorer.co.uk/england/odiham/odiham.php>

### Further Information

"Guide to the Basingstoke Canal" by Dieter Jebens, published by Basingstoke Canal Authority and the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society

