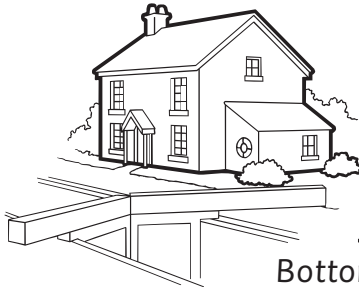


Foxton Locks Trail

wow
wild over waterways

Leicestershire



Bridge 62

Stop 6:
Bottom Lock
& Bridge 61

What are the icebreakers called?



Hauling Wheel
Icebreakers

Bottom basin

Why not cross the bridge and visit the museum?

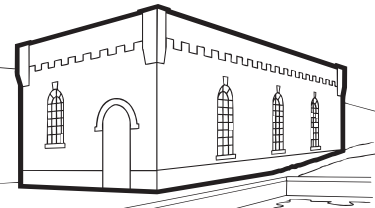


Stop 7: Middle Lock & Passing Pond

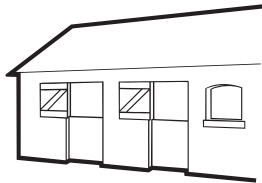
Remains of inclined plane

Museum

Stop 5



Museum



Side Ponds

Stop 4

Stop 8: Top Lock Cottage & Stables

Look out for wildlife while walking to stop 4



Remember the water is deep so Stay Away From the Edge.



Stop 3

Dry canal bed

Stop 2

Grand Union Canal

Watch your head when you walk under bridge 60!

Stop 1

Start here

Bridge 60

Car Park

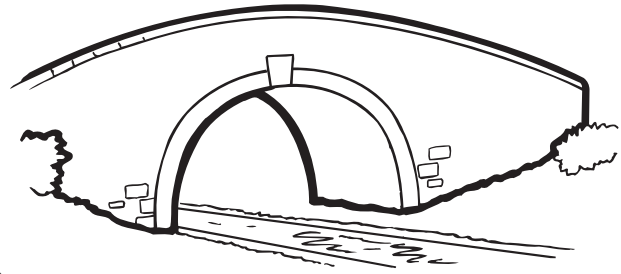


www.wow4water.net

Stop 1: Footbridge beside Bridge 60

The towpath crosses the canal here. Why is it called a towpath?

Why does the new wooden footbridge form an arch?



Why are there steel plates ('piles') on the sides of the canal?

Stop 2: Division of the canal

The canal splits in two; The channel in use leads to Foxton Locks; the disused channel leads to the inclined plane.

Can you work out which channel is used today?



Detective clues: The lock keeper lived in Top Lock Cottage.
Reeds have started to grow across the disused channel.

Write your own clues here:

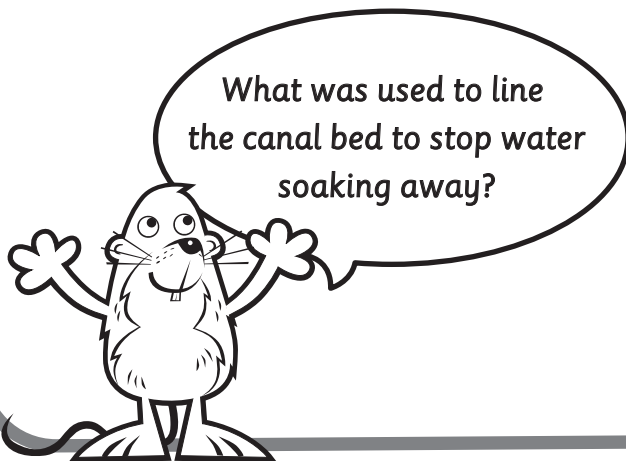
Stop 3: Narrowing of 'Dry Canal'

The canal narrowed here to form a 'stop lock'.

This has been partly filled in. **Can you spot:**

The grooves on the side of the lock chamber where the stop planks slotted in to hold back the water?

The 'dry' canal bed?

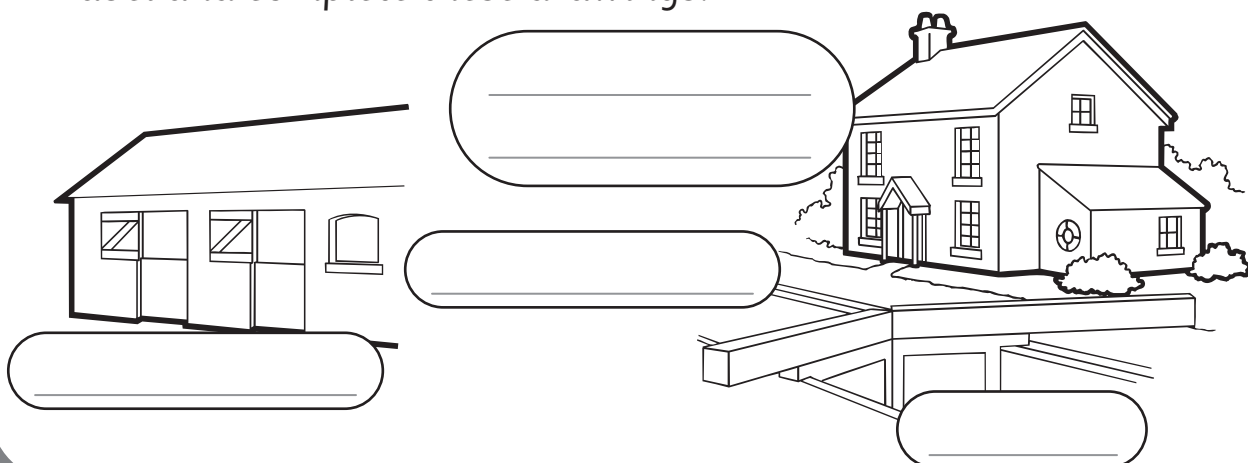


Stop 4: Wooden bridge beside top pond

The lock keeper's cottage was built beside the top lock. Why?

What is the building to the left of the cottage?

Label and complete these drawings:



Stop 5: Top of the inclined plane

Look at the old working boat at the end of the dry canal bed.

What is it made of? _____

What is used to connect the steel plates? _____

Look for evidence of the inclined plane. **Can you spot:**

The bottom basin?

Remains of the concrete sections on which the rails were laid?

Remains of the winding house?

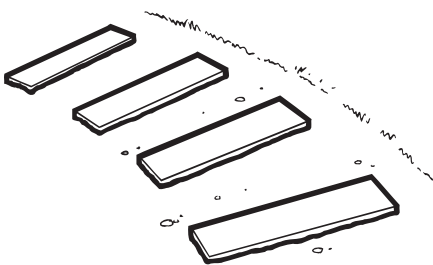
Why does the wall divide the final stretch of the 'dry canal' into two sections? _____

Stop 6: Bridge 61 / Bottom Lock

Walk down the hill past the icebreakers. Can you find the maker's name on the hauling wheel? _____

Locks are like staircases – they carry boats uphill. **Can you spot:**

Paddles to allow water to flow in and out of the locks?



Heel grips under the balance beams to make pushing open the lock gates easier?

Different dates on the brickwork showing continuous rebuilding / upgrading?

Stop 7: Middle Lock passing pond

What is the wider part of the canal in the middle of the flight used for?

Below the meeting pond _____

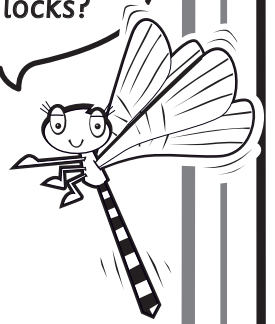
Above the meeting pond _____

The side ponds store water for filling the locks.
Red or White?

The _____ paddle lets water from the side pond into the lock.

The _____ paddle lets water from the lock into the side pond.

Can you count the number of locks?



Stop 8: Top Lock Cottage

Why does the cottage have bay windows?

Narrow boats were towed by horses.
The stables were built for horses to rest overnight.
What evidence is there that the building to the left of the cottage was used as stables?

Why did engines replace horses?



Foxton Locks Trail - Grand Union Canal

The Trail

The trail is a self-guided tour of the site, stopping at selected points from which the children can identify features associated with the locks and the inclined plane. It helps them to imagine how the canal was at its heyday and to see ways in which it has developed and changed over the years.

Each child will need a pencil, clipboard and Trail sheets 1-5.

You may wish to complete the trail as a class or in smaller groups. You might like to visit the museum after Stop 7.

Sheet 2 Answers

Stop 1: Horses towed boats by walking along the towpath. The new wooden bridge forms an arch to blend in with the arch of the original Bridge 60. The “gate” of steel piles shores up the edge of the canal bank to stop erosion.

Stop 2: Other clues: Mooring bollards and narrow boats tied up alongside the “cut”.

Sheet 3 Answers

Stop 3: The canal bed was lined with clay to stop water soaking into the ground.

Stop 4: The lock keeper’s cottage was built to give a good view down the flight of locks. Labels: Stables (on left); Top Lock Cottage; towpath; locks. Side ponds are part of the water management system and are used to store water. Water from the side pond is used to fill the lock below (using the red paddle) before water from the higher lock is discharged into the side pond (using the white paddle).

Walk back towards the dry canal bed, turn left down the path, then fork right to Stop 5.

Sheet 4 Answers

Stop 5: The old working boat is made of steel plates held together by rivets. The wall divided the final stretch of the canal into two as the inclined plane had two giant tanks (“caissons”) which ran on rails up and down the hillside.

Walk down the hillside to Stop 6, passing the icebreakers and hauling wheel. The icebreakers are named after the engineers Thomas Holt and Gordon Thomas. The rope pulley hauling wheel, used on the incline, was manufactured by J&H Gwynne Ltd, Hammersmith, London.

Go down the path to the right before Bridge 61 and cross the canal on the small bridge by lock gate 17 (beside Hall Brook Cottage). Turn left under Bridge 61 to Stop 6.

Stop 6: Dates on the brickwork between lock gates 17 & 16 include:

1996 – on lower left side of lock gate 17.

1909 – on side of lock chamber under Bridge 61.

1998 – on wall by steps on left up to Lock 16.

1910 – below red paddle stand on Lock 16.

1927 – on brickwork below Lock 16 gate.

1992 – on lower left side of lock gate 16.

If you are doing the Maths Follow-up Activity, you should estimate the length and width of one of the locks between Stop 6 and Stop 8.

Sheet 5 Answers

Stop 7: The meeting pond enables boats to pass at the middle of the flight. There are 5 locks below and 5 locks above the passing pond. The red paddle lets water from the side pond into the lock. The white paddle lets water from the lock into the side pond. The museum is housed in the old boiler house for the incline winding engine. The large windows let plenty of light into the boiler house.

Stop 8: The bay windows enabled the lock keeper to see boats approaching. The stable block doors are wide enough for horses. Engines enabled two boats to be worked together, doubling the cargo capacity. This was more efficient to operate than horse-drawn boats.