Welcome to Einstein's Fox

BOATERS MANUAL

Tel: 01380 828795
www.foxhangers.co.uk

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Foxhangers
Boating Holidays on the Kennet and Avon Canal

Helpful Medical and Emergency Contact Information

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 999

Foxhangers Canal Holidays - Office Hours

All Enquiries
Mon – Fri: 08:00 – 18:00
Sat: 09:00 – 17:00

Telephone: 01380 828795

Out of Hours Engineer

Hours: Mon - Fri: 07:00 – 08:00 and 18:00 – 20:00
Sat: 07:00 – 09:00 and 17:00 – 20:00
Sun: 07:00 – 20:00

Telephone: 07808 646 873

Alternate numbers (if no response): 07808 646 872
or Night-time Emergency: 01380 886701

Local NHS Minor Injury Units

Trowbridge
Community Hospital
Adcroft Street,
Trowbridge, BA14 8PH
Telephone: 01225 711300
Open: 07:00-23:00 seven days a week

Chippenham
Community Hospital
Rowden Hill,
Chippenham, SN15 2AJ
Telephone: 01249 447100
Open: 07:00-23:00 seven days a week

Bath Urgent Care Centre
Combe Park
Bath, BA1 3NG
Telephone: 111
Open: 24 hours, 7 days a week

Bristol Minor Injuries Unit
Southmead Hospital
Southmead Road,
Westbury-on-Trym, BS10 5ND
Telephone: 0117 4145100
Open: 24 hours 7 days a week

West Berks Community Hospital
Benham Hill
Thatcham, RG18 3AS
Telephone: 01635 273300
Open: 10am – 10pm 7 days a week

Police for all non-emergency calls - 101

All local police forces use the 101 service – these are:
Wiltshire Constabulary
Avon & Somerset Police
Thames Valley Police

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

NHS 111 – Dial 111 from mobiles and landlines – 24-hour service for all non-emergency medical enquiries

Local A&E Departments:

Bath
Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, BA1 3NG Telephone: 01225 428331

Swindon
Great Western Hospital, Marlborough Rd. SN3 1ED Telephone: 01793 604020

Bristol
Bristol Royal Infirmary, Upper Maudlin St. BS2 8HW Telephone: 01179 230000

Reading
Royal Berks Hospital, Craven Rd. RG1 5AN Telephone: 0118 322 5111

Doctor Surgeries:

Here are some local surgeries in the area, for others please call NHS 111

Southbroom Surgery, The Green, **Devizes** SN10 1LQ Tel: 01380 719959
St Margaret's Surgery, **Bradford-on-Avon** BA15 1BY Tel: 01225 866611
Newbridge Surgery, Newbridge Hill, **Bath** BA1 3PT Tel: 01225 425807
Pewsey Surgery, High Street, **Pewsey** SN9 5AQ Tel: 01672 569990
Hungerford Surgery, The Croft, **Hungerford** RG17 0HY Tel: 01488 682507
Northcroft Surgery, Northcroft Lane, **Newbury** RG14 1BU Tel: 01635 31575

Vets:

Devizes Macqueen Vets 01380 728505. **Trowbridge** Glenleigh Vets 01225 754021. **Bradford on Avon:** Harris, Hill & Gibbons 01225 862656. **Batheaston:** Highcroft Vets 01225 852287. **Bath:** Vets4Pets 01225 472 960. **Bristol:** Bishopston Vets 0117 9424243. **Pewsey:** Belmont Vets 01672563413. **Hungerford:** Vets4Pets 0163 541509. **Reading:** Medivets 0118 975 9582.

Environment Emergencies:

Canal & Rivers Trust emergency helpline - 0800 47 999 47
To report non-medical emergencies like dangerous hazards on the canal or water escaping

Environment Agency - 0800 807 060
To report pollution or fish in distress

Wiltshire Wildlife Hospital- 07850 778752
Local service to report injured swans (call the number before the RSPCA)

RSPCA - 0300 1234 999 - to report animals or birds in distress

Canal & River Trust – 0303 040 4040 - if you have any enquiries about the Kennet and Avon Canal

Welcome aboard Einstein's Fox

This folder contains all you should need to know about your boat, as well as information regarding locks, swing bridges, safety and local amenities.

You should already have filled out and handed in your Customer Competency Form, Customer Log Sheet and a Boat Acceptance Certificate to one of our handover team. If not, please inform a member of Foxhangers staff straight away.

Return time: Please make sure that your boat is returned to our wharf in plenty of time so that you are able to **VACATE Einstein's Fox by 11:00 at the latest** on your final day. This enables us to make the most of our short turn-around period and helps ensure that the next customers are able to start their holiday on time.
Earlier return: Should you wish to vacate on a Sunday when Foxhangers Wharf is not staffed, please make sure all electrical and mechanical equipment is turned off, all sliding windows are closed and doors are locked. Please leave the boats keys in a rear locker by the stern door either with the windlasses & mooring pins or in the gas locker dependant on the boat style. Remember the code to car park exit gate will be included on your welcome aboard letter and also written on your handover acceptance certificate.

You must notify Foxhangers Canal Holidays immediately of any problems with the equipment onboard so that they can be rectified.

PLEASE NOTE in line with our Terms and Conditions we reserve the right to make the following additional charges:

- Late arrival for specified handover £50.00 per hour or part thereof
- Late return and handback of the boat £100.00 per hour or part thereof
- Cleaning surcharge £60.00 per hour or part thereof
- Unblocking toilet due to misuse £75.00 (please refer to page 10 of this manual)
- Evidence of smoking on board £100.00
- Inappropriate behaviour during the hire period £250.00
- Damage to the skeg (steering gear) up to £500.00 excess
- Recovery of abandoned boat to Foxhangers premises £200.00 per hour or part thereof plus compensation fees apply

If you are unsure about anything mentioned in this manual, please do not hesitate to ask.

Your co-operation is very much appreciated.

We hope you enjoy your holiday.

BOAT SAFETY

Skipper's Responsibilities:

Above all else, the skipper is responsible for the safety of the crew and vessel. This includes travelling at a safe and considerate speed, particularly in the vicinity of moored vessels. Ensuring the number of persons on board is kept within the maximum permitted and that the **boat is moored between the hours from Dusk until Dawn** – hire boats are not permitted to travel during these hours.

Always keep your crew informed. One of the most frustrating things for a crew member is not knowing the skipper's plan and/or what the skipper wants them to do. A few moments spent explaining your intentions to your crew will make them feel at ease, even if the plan has to change later due to an unanticipated turn of events.

Make sure crew members are aware of the locations for safety equipment.

People on deck:

Please adhere to these guidelines to ensure the safety of your group:

- Don't let crew members other than the steerer stand or sit in the way of the tiller, this could result in someone being pushed overboard by the tiller, or prevent the steerer from being able to control the boat safely
- Nobody should be permitted on the roof of a moving boat and children should never be allowed at any time
- Don't let small children move around the boat unsupervised, always be aware of where they are and what they are doing
- Be aware of the dangers of ropes and other objects left lying on deck, they can easily be tripped over and possibly cause somebody to go overboard

Falling Overboard:

Please take care when moving about on deck. Apart from a risk of drowning, you could also:

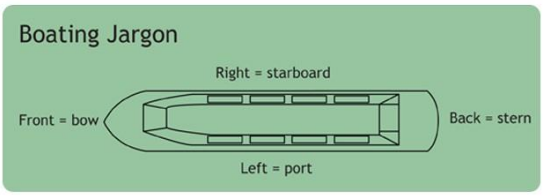
- Be dragged into a moving propeller
- Be crushed between the boat and another object
- Be at risk of infection from the water

What you should do to avoid this:

- If the boat is going to collide with something, the steerer should alert the crew
- Always use the grab rail
- Keep your boat tidy (including ropes)
- Try to step ashore (not jump) when the boat is mooring
- Ensure you wear non-slip deck shoes at all times
- Make sure windlasses, mooring stakes, lump hammer and anchor are stowed safely

Fire Extinguishers:

There are fire extinguishers on board as well as a fire blanket in the galley.
A diagram of the boat is provided at the back of this manual which shows the location of the fire extinguishers and the fire blanket plus the emergency escape routes.



You should also adhere to the following fire safety advice:

- Work out a 'fire action plan' amongst yourselves in case of emergency and ensure everyone knows their nearest exit. Work out a 'fire action plan' amongst yourselves in case of emergency and ensure everyone knows their nearest exit.
- Do NOT use candles they are a common cause of fires on board boats. Other common causes of fires are tea towels and other loose items being left too close to a hob ring and of course smoking. **We have a strict no smoking policy onboard.**

First Aid Kit and Instruction Book:

There is a First Aid Kit and instruction book kept on board for emergency use.
Please ensure all crew members are aware of its location.

Buoyancy Aids / Lifejackets:

In line with instructions set out in the British Marine Federation's Hire Boat Handover Procedures, a Buoyancy Aid/Lifejacket will be provided in the following circumstances:

a) Required that all children under the age of 16 be provided with a buoyancy aid.

b) Required that non-swimmers aboard a boat before 31 March or after 30 September be provided with a buoyancy aid in recognition of the temperature of the canal water.

c) Required at any time of year, non-swimmers and those with no experience of canal boats, be provided with a buoyancy aid when they are aboard a boat, which we are informed intends to cruise the River Avon.

d) Encouraged that all other crew members on board a boat that intends to enter the River Avon to take a buoyancy aid and wear it whilst the boat is on the river.

e) Recommend that all hirers take a buoyancy aid for each crew member if they intend to navigate the Bruce Tunnel on the eastern K&A. Due to dark nature of tunnels there is considerable increased risk to anyone falling overboard.

We remain ready to issue a buoyancy aid to any person outside of the above groups wishing to wear one and will ensure all people boarding our hire boats are offered a buoyancy aid.

Where a person provides their own buoyancy aid/life jacket, we will not insist that they take one of ours, however we cannot not accept any responsibility as to their suitability.

Life-ring:

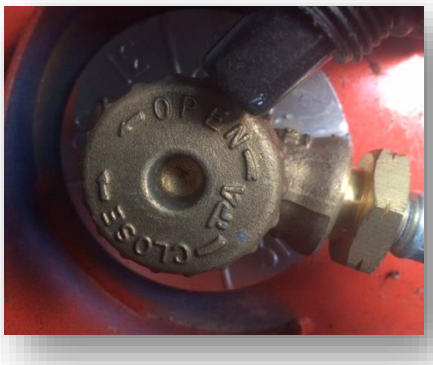
The life ring on this boat is located on the roof. In an emergency situation, when a person has fallen into the water, before you throw the life ring, make sure the line is attached to the boat and that you aim in front of the person in the water and NOT directly at them.

UTILITIES ON BOARD

Gas:

Gas is only used by the cooker - two gas cylinders are carried in the gas locker(s) on all our boats. One cylinder will normally be sufficient for several weeks use, however it may become necessary to change cylinders during your trip.

IN AN EMERGENCY CLOSE THE GAS VALVES ON THE TOP OF EACH GAS CYLINDER



Changing Gas Cylinders:

If you do need to change a gas cylinder, please be aware that all gas cylinder connections have a left-hand thread. There are two gas lockers located in the forward well deck, either side of the front doors. The cylinder in use is located in the starboard locker (the right of the boat looking forward). If this gas does run out, you will need to physically swap the cylinders over.

First, close the valve on the empty cylinder by turning the knob on the top fully clockwise. Then using the gas spanner supplied in the locker, unscrew the connection from the gas cylinder. **NOTING** that the cylinder has a left-hand thread so unscrews (clockwise) and tightens (anti-clockwise) in the opposite direction to a normal thread. Once disconnected, lift the empty cylinder out of the locker and replace it with the spare bottle from the other locker. Re-connect the supply pipe/regulator and on completion, **ensure this nut is tight** before turning the gas on by rotating the knob fully anti-clockwise.

Carbon monoxide & Smoke Alarms:

All boats are fitted with carbon monoxide & smoke alarms. Please refer to appendices

Diesel:

NEVER take on fuel without Foxhangers permission. The boat's tank will be full on your arrival and this will be sufficient for up to a fortnight holiday. If your trip is for longer than 2 weeks take the advice of Foxhangers for a suitable location to refuel if deemed necessary.

Hot Water:

Water is heated on the boat either by the engine running or by heating. To provide enough for a shower, the engine needs to be running for about an hour. Therefore, it is sensible for members of the crew to shower at different times during the day, whilst cruising – rather than everybody trying to shower either in the morning or evening.

Fresh Water:

A storage tank for water is located under the front deck and refilled through a blue filler cap. It is advisable to refill daily for normal use, the location of water filling points along the canal are shown in Nicholson guide provided. A hosepipe is stored in the locker on deck. You may need the BWB/CRT key from on the hook at the front of the cabin to access the water point. If you notice air spluttering though the taps and/or the water pumps located just inside the forward doors, continually running it means the water tank is empty. It is **IMPORTANT** to then switch off the water pumps as they could burn themselves out if left running dry. The on/off switch(es) is/are labelled and located either in the kitchen or in the fuse box near the stern door to the rear deck.

Please note that it would be very much appreciated if the boat is returned with the water tank as full as possible – due to the size of our fleet and limited water pressure on our wharf, we often struggle to get all the boats filled on a busy turn around day in time the next customers.

A typical Canal & River Trust Water Point

12v Electrical Power:

The boat's electrical power is stored in batteries and is replenished by running the engine.

Whilst running the engine, power is transferred into large 12-volt batteries situated in the engine bay, these batteries then supply electricity to the domestic appliances on board. It is **essential** to run the engine for at least 5 hours **everyday**, this will enable your batteries to provide enough power during the evening for use of the television, refrigerator, central heating and interior lighting. If you have not cruised for that duration on a particular day, you will need to run the engine whilst moored, with the gear lever in neutral and the engine running at a fast-idle speed (1200-1400 rpm). Even if the domestic batteries get very low you should always be able to start the main engine as it has a separate battery. You must not run the engine whilst moored before 08:00 or after 20:00 if you are near other craft or houses. During cooler evenings, if you are staying on board you will use more power by using lights, televisions, heating etc. It is then recommended that you run the engine for an hour between 19:00 and 20:00.

230v A/C Electric – Inverter Power

The domestic AC power sockets in the boat are powered by an onboard inverter which converts 12-volt battery power into 230 Volts. IT IS NOT THE SAME AS USING POWER AT HOME!
Keep consumption low, albeit good for small appliances that draw low power such as phone charges. If you notice that there is no 230v A/C power, press the reset button on the RCD circuit breaker situated nearby to the inverter.
ALWAYS ENSURE THE MAIN PROPULSION ENGINE IS RUNNING if high draw appliances are switched on, this will help preserve charge in the 12 Volt battery bank so that the lights, the heating and water pumps continue to work throughout the evening and night.

Central Heating:

There are 2 heating systems each powered by separate diesel fired burners that are independent of the main propulsion engine. The heating can be run when the propulsion engine is off.
Do not be alarmed if you see fumes omitted from the exhaust and hear a whirring combustion noise, this is normal when the heating is switched on.

When the propulsion engine is off and therefore not charging the batteries, please note that the heaters will not run continuously for more than 6 to 8 hours (even when the battery is fully charged). Remember to turn off the heating before you leave the boat or go to bed.

There are detailed operation/timer controls for each burner located in the aft (back) bedroom above the entry steps. However, the following brief guidance will be sufficient for most times of the year.

Burner 1: Heats the underfloor heating

Daily timer: ON:6am OFF:9.30am *Recommended*.
Press **to manually switch on/off at other times as required**

Typically use when you need longer periods of warmth in the morning and evening.

The underfloor heating has hot water pipes in the floor that give an effective and efficient spread of warmth throughout the boat. It will take at least an hour before you feel significant warmth in the cabins. This system cannot be thermostatically controlled and therefore you will need to turn it off when the cabin temperature is sufficiently warm.

Burner 2: Radiator Heating and Hot Water Cylinders

Daily timer: On:5pm Off:6pm *Recommended*
Press **to manually switch on/off at other times as required**

Typically use when you require a quicker supply of heat to the radiators, or you need boost to the domestic hot water system for showers etc.

Radiators are discreetly positioned in each cabin. It will take about 20-30 mins before you feel significant warmth in the radiators. This system cannot be thermostatically controlled and therefore you will need to turn it off when the cabin temperature is sufficiently warm.

APPLIANCES ON BOARD

Refrigerator:

An on/off switch is located on the switch panel **OR** in the galley as demonstrated during your handover. There is a rotary control located inside the refrigerator, which should be set between 3 and 4 to control the temperature. When the light located above the fridge door is flashing, it indicates a low battery warning which means that the refrigerator has switched-off and the temperature inside will slowly rise, in order to rectify this, start the engine to charge the batteries. Please bear in mind the restriction on running the engine between 20:00 and 08:00 when moored near other boats or houses.

Cooker:

The cooker is fitted with a push button ignition system. To light any of the burners (hob, oven or grill) turn on the appropriate knob and push it in whilst pressing the ignition switch. Continue pushing the knob in for 10 seconds after it has lit.

The glass lid over the hob that must kept upright whilst any of the hob burners are lit. Please make sure all four burners are turned off before closing.

Microwave

The microwave works in conjunction with the onboard 230v onboard inverter, however, if the microwave is being used for more than a few seconds you should ensure the engine is running. Due to the high amount of power required by a microwave this will allow the onboard batteries to maintain good charge levels.

Television

To receive a TV signal, turn the aerial booster to the on position (bear in mind that signal strength does vary along the canal and especially in the Avon valley), and that you may need to re-tune the TV as you move to different locations along the canal; for instructions please refer to the manual in the appendices of this folder.

Radio

To listen to the radio in the saloon/galley you will need to turn on the TV to the relevant radio section which will play the audio through the soundbar speaker situated above the TV.

Bluetooth Audio

To connect and play from your personal streaming device in the saloon/galley you will need to turn on the TV to the relevant Bluetooth section which will play the audio through the soundbar speaker situated above the TV.

Coffee Maker and Milk Frother (Supplied):

The coffee maker and milk frother have been chosen to work in conjunction with the onboard 230v inverter, however, due to the high power required; you should ensure the engine is running whilst using it, in order to maintain charge in the batteries.

Onboard Hairdryer (Supplied):

The supplied hairdryer is designed has been chosen to work in conjunction with the onboard 230v inverter, however, due to the high power required; you should ensure the engine is running whilst using it, in order to maintain charge in the batteries.

PLEASE DO NOT USE YOUR OWN APPLIANCES WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION AS DAMAGE COULD BE CAUSED TO YOUR APPLIANCE AND/OR THE BOAT

Ancillary Switches:

Switches for the Horn, Headlight (only needed for tunnels) and to manually operate the bilge pump (in the event of the automatic switch failing) are located within easy reach of the steerer.

ON BOARD MACERATOR TOILETS AND WASTE TANKS

When using the Toilet:

Please DO NOT flush wipes, sanitary products, nappies, bleach, heavily quilted papers or any material-based products into the toilet.

Please DO ONLY use bio-degradable paper.

REMEMBER other than toilet paper, nothing else may be flushed unless it has been digested!

NORMAL FLUSH – push once

ECO FLUSH – push twice

REGRETTABLY, A CHARGE OF £75 WILL BE APPLIED FOR ALL UNBLOCKING PROBLEMS CAUSED BY INCORRECT USE.

Sanitary towel disposal bags are supplied and should be placed in the bin.

The on-board holding tank(s):

All flushed toilet waste remains on board the boat in storage tanks.

Each toilet has its own storage tank which should usually hold sufficient waste for a week's cruise.

Keep an eye on the gauge.

If you think the tank(s) is nearly full then you may need to get a pump out, telephone Foxhangers for advice on the procedure.

For those boats equipped with two toilets, please try and use them both equally to alleviate the need for premature pump-out in one or the other.

PROPULSION ENGINE

Daily Engine Check:
Before starting the engine each day, lift the deckboard(s) in the rear deck:

- **Make sure the engine is OFF and the keys are away from the ignition switch!**
- Find the stern tube greaser (made of brass and located above propeller shaft). Turn the brass handle clockwise until you feel stiffer resistance, then turn it a further half turn. This will reduce the amount of water dripping from the propeller shaft into the engine bay. It is also good practise to repeat the process at the end of the boating day
- Check the oil level on the dip stick (coloured Red, located to one side of the engine)
- Check engine header tank water level. **NEVER TOUCH THE ENGINE HEADER TANK CAP WHEN THE ENGINE IS WARM or HOT**

Starting the Engine:

- To start the engine, first press the button at the base of the engine control lever and push the lever half forward. This will dis-engage the propeller and open the throttle
- Insert the ignition key in the ignition switch, if starting from cold, pre-heat the engine by holding the ignition key in the heat/glow position for about 10seconds; then turn the key to the start position
- When the engine starts, release the key and return the throttle lever to upright position, where it will click into the neutral position. After running the engine for two minutes, it will be warm and ready for you to move off
- Please ensure that the rev counter is reading, as this confirms that the batteries are being charged
- To engage forward - push control lever forward. Pull lever backwards for reverse

DO NOT GO FROM FORWARDS TO REVERSE DIRECTLY - PAUSE IN NEUTRAL FOR ABOUT 3 SECONDS ALLOWING THE SHAFT TO STOP TURNING AND PREVENTING DAMAGE TO THE GEARBOX.

Stopping the Engine: To stop the engine put the control lever into neutral which will reduce the engine speed and then press & hold the stop button, a buzzer will sound when the engine has stopped and reminding you to turn the ignition key to the central (off) position. **DO NOT TURN THE KEY OFF BEFORE STOPPING THE ENGINE AS THIS MAY CAUSE ALTERNATOR DAMAGE**

Important:

- **ALWAYS** monitor the control panel regularly whilst cruising and:
- **STOP IMMEDIATELY;** if ignition buzzer continually sounds whilst engine is running
- **STOP IMMEDIATELY;** if water overheating light is on
- **STOP IMMEDIATELY;** if oil pressure light is on
- **CONTACT FOXHANGERS FOR ASSISTANCE (details on Page 1)**

Clearing the Propeller:

The most common mishap is getting mooring ropes caught around the propellor. If this happens it may stall the engine and take you a very long time to cut off and clear with a **SERATED BLADE.**
If you give up and phone a Foxhangers Engineer for help a callout charge will be made.
To avoid this keep the mooring ropes tidy and safely stowed on deck when you are cruising.

If you find the boat is travelling slower than you feel it should be and the steering is responding poorly there is probably something fouling the propeller. Try putting the engine into reverse (pausing for three seconds while in neutral) and this will often do the trick; if the problem persists, find a spot on the towpath to pull in and moor
Note in autumn 'Leaf Balling' around the propeller can be a problem when travelling though sections of canal which have overhanging vegetation and trees. Fallen leaves become suspended in a 'ball' slowing the boat down, sometimes to near a standstill. The solution is to take the boat out of forward gear and gently engage reverse (after pausing in neutral) in order to clear the leaves from the propeller. This may need to be repeated every few minutes until a clearer stretch of water is reached.
If the above fails to cure the problem and once the boat is securely moored:
MAKE SURE THE ENGINE IS NOT RUNNING, THE IGNITION IS SWITCHED OFF AND THE KEY REMOVED

Lift the rear deck cover in the centre of the boat - you will find a metal box with a red screw handle on the top. Unscrew the handle and lift off the lid. Then you will have to reach inside the box to clear whatever is tangled around the propeller. When replacing the cover, it is extremely important to ensure you have a water-tight seal, otherwise the propeller will throw water into the engine space. Please test that no water is coming in before replacing the deck cover by starting the engine and then engaging forward and reverse gears. Wash hands thoroughly afterwards.
Failure to carry out this fundamental check after accessing the weed hatch, has in the worst cases, resulted in boats sinking.

Speed limits:

The maximum speed permitted on our canals is **4mph**.
If you are making waves or creating a breaking wash, you are going too fast! The most common complaint we receive about our customers is due to speeding. It is very important to consider moored boats and use a very slow speed when passing them, as passing at any more than tick-over can cause violent movement and pull out mooring pins due to the wash created. It is possible that someone on board the moored boat may be pouring boiling water and could be seriously injured by any sudden movement.
In order to slow down, push throttle into reverse (go-astern) for a few seconds and then re-engage forward gear with very low revs.
Other times to maintain a slow cruising speed would be: when approaching bends, junctions, locks, swing bridges and anglers - if there is danger ahead, or another boat, you won't have time to react safely if you are going too fast.

Bow thruster:

The bow thruster is a device built into the hull of the bow and used to push the boat's bow sideways. Controlled from the helm position at the stern, a flick of a switch will provide a boost to make the **bow**/front go port/left or starboard/right without even moving the tiller and without throttling backward or forward.
It is not designed to be used constantly for steering the vessel and is a parking device for mooring the boat. Hydraulically driven off the propulsion engine, by increasing the propulsion engine revs whilst in neutral (out of gear) will increase the power of a thrust without propelling the boat forward or astern at the same time.
Beware of thrusting in around reeds, floating and shallow water means debris can get drawn in through the grills and damage the bow thruster propellor.

Reeds and shallow water:

Try your best to avoid reeds and shallow water, however if you do run aground, the following is a guide to what you should do:

1. Always try reversing off – going further forward is likely to make the situation worse
2. Ask some of the crew to move to the area of the boat that is still floating (but always bear safety in mind before taking any action)
3. Use the pole to push off against a solid object or the canal bed – NB: If you use the pole, do so by pushing straight along its length. Do not use it as a lever - it will probably snap, which could result in a nasty injury from the splintered wood and/or you might fall in!
4. Keep pole end away from face or body in case it suddenly slips

OTHER INFORMATION

Rubbish/Litter:

There are several clearly marked points along the canal where you can deposit your rubbish responsibly (often near water points).

Recycling:

Facilities for recycling are slowly being installed along the canal.
Currently, the Canal & River Trust provide them at the following locations:

- Bradford on Avon wharf
- CRT Office Devizes (by lock 44)
- All Cannings bridge 127
- Pewsey wharf
- Wotton Rivers

We have re-cycling facilities at Foxhangers Wharf.

Please remember:

- Do not litter waterways, take your rubbish with you
- Rubbish can kill wildlife and get caught in props of other boats

Waterway Key:

- To provide access to water points, sanitary stations and to open some swing/lift bridges, there is a Yale type key stamped BWB or CRT on a hook at the front of the cabin. There is also a spare of this key on the boat's main key ring.

WATERWAYS FEATURES - SWING BRIDGES

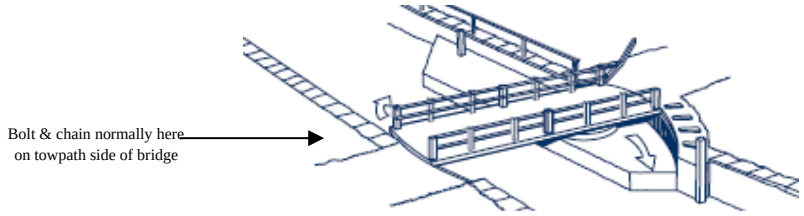
Swing Bridges:

It is possible for a swing bridge to cause serious damage to a boat and/or cause injury if you do not pay attention and operate it correctly. Please adhere to the instructions below to ensure you have a safe and controlled passage:

1. Let crew off well before the bridge, this makes it easier for you to line the boat up correctly
2. Using the windlass, unscrew the retaining square-headed bolt and chain
3. Walk across to pivoting side and push bridge open slowly. You might need to slow the swing bridge down as it approaches fully open, in order to stop it bouncing back across the canal when it hits the buffer
4. Do not let the boat pass through the bridge until it is fully opened and stationary.
5. When boat is safely through, check for other boats approaching
6. If there are any other boats, wait for them all to pass through completely before pushing the bridge back slowly into place and then replace the square-headed bolt and chain

It is important your crew follow this safety advice:

- Do not try to take your boat through until the swing bridge is fully open and secure (they can stick at the wrong moment)
- Watch out for slippery surfaces when you are pushing the bridge
- Only use fit and able crew to operate moving bridges
- Ensure safety of all concerned by keeping a clear area to allow the bridge to swing.



WATERWAYS FEATURES - LOCKS

General rule: boats pass between the GATES, but the water passes through PADDLES which are below the water level. There are two types of paddles, and they are operated by a mechanism on the bank for GROUND PADDLES, or on the lock gate for GATE PADDLES. Both types are turned by your WINDLASS.

DESCENDING A LOCK:

When you arrive, check the status of the lock. If empty, start at ACTION 1, if full go to ACTION 5

ACTION 1 - Check for the arrival of a boat travelling in the opposite direction as they have priority if the lock is set in their favour
ACTION 2 - Make sure all gates of the lock are closed
ACTION 3 - CHECK THAT THE BOTTOM GATE PADDLES ARE CLOSED
ACTION 4 - Open the top paddles with your windlass, which will allow water to fill the lock. Check the paddles on the lower gates – even a small leak can make the lock very slow to fill and may even prevent the lock from filling completely
ACTION 5 - Open top gates when lock is full
ACTION 6 - Steer the boat slowly into the lock
ACTION 7 - Close the top gates behind the boat
ACTION 8 - USING WINDLASS CLOSE THE TOP GATE PADDLES
ACTION 9 - Then open the paddles on the bottom gates and the boat will gently descend to the level of the canal below
ACTION 10 - When the lock is empty, open the bottom gates
ACTION 11 - Steer the boat out of the lock
ACTION 12 - When the boat is completely clear of the lock, close the gates
ACTION 13 - CLOSE THE PADDLES ON THE BOTTOM GATES USING THE WINDLASS

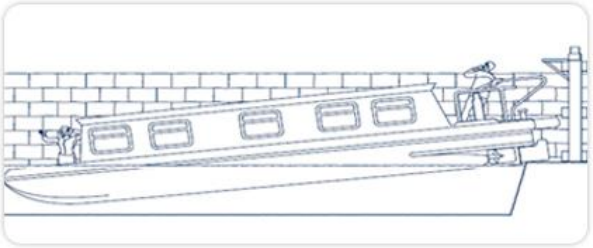
BEWARE OF THE CILL, WHICH IS A CONCRETE STEP THAT MAY EXTEND UPTO 4 FEET INSIDE THE TOP GATES, IT IS IDENTIFIED BY WHITE MARKERS ON LOCK WALLS. KEEP THE BOAT WELL FORWARD OF THESE MARKERS WHILST DESCENDING.

Check the paddles of the top gates - if they are not tightly closed water will continue to pour into the lock preventing it from emptying.

ALWAYS WATCH MOORING LINES AS THE BOAT DESCENDS – MAKE SURE THEY ARE NOT TIED TOO TIGHTLY AND DO NOT SNAG

What can happen if you get the boat caught on the Cill:

1) **damage the rudder**
2) **in extreme cases, cause the boat to sink.**



Locks continued:

ASCENDING A LOCK:

When you arrive, check the status of the lock. If empty, start at ACTION 1, if full go to ACTION 5

ACTION 1 - Check for boats arriving in the opposite direction, as they have priority as the lock is set in their favour
ACTION 2 - Make sure all gates of the lock are closed
ACTION 3 - CHECK THE TOP GROUND PADDLES ARE CLOSED
ACTION 4 - Open the paddles on the bottom gates with the windlass
ACTION 5 - When the lock is COMPLETELY empty, open the bottom gates
ACTION 6 - Slowly steer the boat into the lock
ACTION 7 - Close the gates behind the boat
ACTION 8 - CLOSE THE BOTTOM GATE PADDLES WITH THE WINDLASS
ACTION 9 - Open the top paddles slowly and initially only open by about a third – pause until the water turbulence subsides, then continue to open them slowly. The lock will now fill, raising your boat to the higher level
ACTION 10 - When the lock is full, open the top gates
ACTION 11 - Steer the boat out of the lock
ACTION 12 - When the boat is completely clear of the lock, close the gates
ACTION 13 - CLOSE THE TOP PADDLES USING THE WINDLASS

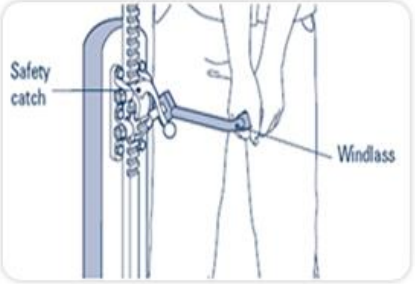
IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Stay observant at all times
- Always enter and leave locks in single file
- Enter and leave locks slowly so collisions are less likely
- Always have a competent person at the helm whilst the boat is in the lock
- Crew members should keep in constant visual and verbal contact with the steerer and each other during the process
- Work out some clear signals so that crew and steerer can communicate efficiently
- Keep the boat well away from the gates and **cill**
- Ensure ropes can run freely and be released quickly if necessary
- Open paddles gradually and close them gently
- Do not use fenders in locks as you may get stuck with other boats (there is only 4 inches spare when 2 boats are alongside each other in a lock)
- Watch out for slippery surfaces when pushing gates
- Ensure windows, hatches and doors are closed to avoid flooding from leaks in walls and gates
- **Always ask** before assisting other boaters with their lock operation
- Watch out for unprotected drops around the lock side, especially when opening gates

Windlass Safety Advice (*and always remember to take the windlass with you!*):

These are a few simple guidelines for operating a windlass:

- Keep a firm grip with your thumb on TOP of the handle
- and don't let go whilst turning
- Only use windlass that fit the spindle snugly
- Make sure the windlass is slotted onto the spindle fully
- Always use the safety catch
- Never leave the windlass on the spindle whilst waiting for the lock to fill or empty
- Keep fingers and clothing away from the mechanism



BOAT HANDLING

BH

Water Conservation Measures for the K&A:

The 200-year-old Kennet & Avon Canal has a limited supply of water especially during Spring and Summer. In order to minimise water wastage, where possible follow the following guidelines:

1. Buddy up with other boats in locks to save water. It is good practice to wait for 20 minutes for another boat instead of locking on your own
2. Be careful when sharing a lock – always enter and leave singularly, as it is possible to get jammed on gates that do not open fully
3. Make sure all gates/paddles are closed when you leave a lock (unless the signs instruct otherwise)
4. Before you operate a lock check to see if there is a boat coming the other way – this may save emptying a full or filling an empty lock
5. Please try not to operate locks later than 19:00 or before 09:00 as this quiet period allows for canal water levels to recover overnight

Other Waterways users:

Waterways are for the enjoyment of everyone, please be considerate and adhere to the following:

- Avoid revving your engine, the unnecessary use of horns, shouting and loud music. These can all be a nuisance to other people and wildlife
- Don't put mooring stakes where others may trip over them
- If passing an angler, keep to the centre of the channel unless they ask otherwise, reduce your wash but keep at a steady pace (at engine tick over position)
- Always slowdown in good time before passing other boats
- Inappropriate behaviour or putting others at risk can result in repossession of the boat. You will still be liable to pay for full hire price with no refund
- Use courtesy towards other boaters i.e.; keeping swing bridges open for approaching boats to pass through before closing, waiting for another boat to join you in a lock if there is room etc.
- If approaching a bridge or narrow section, slow down. If a boat coming from other direction is closer, wave them through and keep your boat well out of the way. If the other boat signals for you to proceed, acknowledge and continue

Keep to the right when passing other boats, but otherwise try to avoid causing a nuisance to fishermen.

Steering, stopping and mooring:

When casting off, push the boat out from the bank if you can. If you have to cast off under power, you should reverse out keeping the propeller away from the shallow sides of the canal.

Do not moor (or leave the boat unattended) on bends, winding holes, lock approaches, swing bridges or narrow sections of the canal and only moor on the towpath side of the canal.

Reversing:

Reversing is very difficult with a narrowboat; try to keep the amount of reversing you have to do to a minimum. The tiller has very limited effect whilst going backwards so it is essential only travel very slowly, as inevitably you will go off course. When you do, use a short burst in forward gear, with appropriate tiller direction in order to straighten up. Position someone at the front of the boat to help push away from possible collisions.

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Turning around:

There are turning points called winding holes on the canal designated for the purpose, as most narrowboats are too long to turn in a canal of normal width.

- Before turning, always consider the wind strength and direction and the effect this may have on the manoeuvre
- By bringing the boat to a halt before attempting to turn, will make the turning circle much tighter and less space required
- In large winding holes, and calm weather, it is possible to turn from a stationary situation, in a space very close to your own length by going forward with the tiller hard over for a few seconds, followed by a few seconds in reverse with the tiller pushed to the other side, then forward again with the tiller in the first position and the boat will slowly turn around (in order to protect the gearbox, it is essential to pause in neutral for a moment when changing gear from forward to reverse & vice versa)
- Where space is more limited, you should aim for the bow of the boat to GENTLY rest against the bank at the centre of the winding semi-circle. Then, with the boat in forward gear, push the tiller towards the direction that you want the stern of the boat to go – the boat will slowly swing around in a semi-circle, till you are facing in the opposite direction. You can then reverse away from the bank before proceeding in the opposite direction. The stern of the boat and hence the propeller should always remain in the main section of the canal – do not reverse into the winding hole, as they are often shallow
- With this technique, it may help if you put one of your crew ashore with the bow rope in order to hold the bow in the required position
- You can turn in high winds, indeed a tail wind will assist the turn, though a head wind will have the opposite effect, with the engine making slow progress against the wind

Please note: Most winding holes will accommodate a full-size narrow boat. However the following ones are shorter (please refer to the front cover of this manual for the length of this boat):-

Above Bath top lock	50 ft	East of Bridge 183	60 ft	West of Bridge 161	65 ft
West of Bridge 129	65 ft	Above Lock 60	50 ft	Above Lock 63	55 ft
Below Lock 64	65 ft	Below Lock 79	50 ft	Below Lock 88	58 ft

THE RIVER AVON

All our boats are equipped for passage along the River Avon between Bath and the Floating Harbour in Bristol.

However, cruising on the River is significantly different from along the canal and we would discourage anyone from descending the canal locks in Bath unless they have previous boating experience.

Please read the navigation notes in the Nicholson's Guide page 59-70

If you do decide to go out onto the river, before beginning to descend the locks in Bath you **MUST** check the current flow and levels on the river. You must be aware of the weather forecast for the next few days, as conditions on the river can change rapidly and you may not be able to make the return journey as planned. We recommend contacting one of the lockkeepers for advice:

- Bath locks – there is often a lockkeeper in attendance on the flight
- Netham lockkeeper – 0117 977 6590 or 07584 140718 (lock at the entrance to Bristol Harbour)
- Hanham local CRT contact – 07717 342265 (this is the last lock before the tidal section of the Avon)
- Bristol Harbourmaster – 0117 977 6590

Safety factors to bear in mind:

1) Remember that unlike on the canal, there are currents and periods of heavy rain will quickly increase the flow speed, as well as the level of the water in the river rising. The flow will have an impact on the speed at which you travel – downstream will be faster and upstream may be very much slower, you also need to consider the amount of space needed when you want to turn around
2) In the unlikely event of you having a major problem i.e.; propulsion failure and you are unable to reach the bank. You will need to use the anchor in order to stop the boat drifting with the flow of the river
3) There is greater danger from falling in, so we recommend all crew wear lifejackets/buoyancy aids. Keep children and animals safely inside the boat
4) All the river locks have gate paddles on the top gates as well as the bottom and there is a danger of swamping the boat if these are opened too quickly. Keep the boat well back from the forward gates when ascending
5) Weirs are sited beside each lock on the river - these are dangerous, **keep well clear**
6) Give way to boats coming downstream - at any narrow sections
7) The locks at Hanham and Netham may have restricted entry times – check with the lockkeepers
8) There are limited mooring places and only 2 water points between Bath and Bristol
9) Fees charged for mooring in Bristol Floating Harbour (£2.05 per meter/24 hrs or £3.45/48 hrs as of Feb 2022)

If mooring on the river, always face upstream and therefore into the flow

Moorings in Bath

On exiting the bottom lock of the Bath flight, it is possible to navigate ¼ mile upstream to Pulteney Weir. Unfortunately, the moorings by the sports centre & Bath Rugby ground have been closed by the Local Authority.

The river is wide here, giving plenty of room for turning. However, the river flow will tend to push the boat sideways downstream and you must ensure you have enough room before reaching the bridge.

There are new moorings downstream from where the K&A canal joins the river, on the starboard side (right) at Broad Quay – pass under four river bridges to reach them. The location is very handy for Sainsbury's supermarket and a short stroll into town.

When mooring on the river, always make sure the upstream end of the boat is moored first and when leaving a mooring, always make sure the helmsman is ready before untying and always release the upstream rope last.

Official visitor moorings on the River:

1) Broad Quay, Bath (see above)
2) Beside Bath Marina (floating pontoons)
3) Below Bitton Railway Bridge (floating pontoons)
4) In the Lock Cutting at Keynsham
5) Above Hanham lock (pontoons outside the pubs)
6) Bristol harbour

Other moorings may possibly be available at Saltford Marina.

Water points

Located above Swineford Lock and at Hanham Lock

On reaching Hanham

Speak to the lockkeeper at Netham Lock (entrance to the Bristol Floating Harbour) before going further as the next section of the River is tidal. Netham Lock 07584 140718 or Bristol Harbourmaster on 0117 977 6590

The river between Hanham and Bristol becomes tidal during spring tides that occur around periods of a new moon and a full moon. If in doubt, always seek advice before proceeding.

On reaching Bristol

Follow the signage by turning right to Netham Lock and away from the big weir. Even though the lock gates are open, you must stop just beyond the lock and go to the lockkeeper's office to purchase a licence that is required to access and moor in the Floating Harbour. You will also be advised on the best locations to moor within the harbour. The lockkeeper will provide a plan of the harbour or you can refer to the Bristol Floating Harbour guidebook that is onboard in the Tourism Folder.

PLANNING YOUR ROUTE

The following information will help you plan your holiday route.

From the table below work out the approximate time it will take to travel distances whilst cruising the canal at a leisurely pace and negotiating locks. To do this add the number of locks to the number of miles and divide by three, this will give the time it will take to travel each section of the canal.

Example: from Foxhangers Wharf to the Barge Inn below Seend lock no.19 is 3 miles plus 3 locks which is 6. Divide the total of 6 by 3 and this leaves you with the answer of 2 hours travelling.

Please note: this is a form of roughly estimating travelling time along the canal, exclude the 29 Devizes flight locks from all calculations due to the density of locks in such a short distance, these locks normally take about 4 hours to negotiate depending on experience and the size of crew.

When planning your route bear in mind the need for the following;

- A winding hole to turn the boat around
- A watering point to refill the boats internal water tank normally at least every 2 days.
- Refuse disposal as storage space for unwanted waste is limited on a boat
- A pump-out service to empty the toilet waste normally only required for cruises longer than a week
- The River Avon between Bath and Bristol is quite often in flood during spring and autumn plus any other periods after prolonged rain

KENNET & AVON CANAL ROUTE PLANNER WEST OF FOXHANGERS

Area of K&A	Details of Area	Number of miles from Foxhangers	Number of Locks from Foxhangers	Hints and tips
Foxhanger Wharf	Foxhangers Canal Holidays base, winding Hole, pump-out, refuse disposal	0	0	Your starting point
Martinslade Bridge	A365 road bridge	0.5	0	
Scotts Wharf bridge no 149	Three Magpies pub, water and refuse disposal	1	0	Popular pub for first or last night
Rusty Lane Swing Bridge	Winding Hole	1.2	0	20 Minute walk to village shop in Seend
Seend Top Lock No 21	The Barge Inn below lock 19 and Brewery Inn ¼ mile south of lock 19	2.4	1	Popular pubs for first night

PLANNING YOUR ROUTE (continued)

KENNET & AVON CANAL ROUTE PLANNER WEST OF FOXHANGERS (CONTINUED)

Area of K&A	Details of Area	Number of miles from Foxhangers	Number of Locks from Foxhangers	Hints and tips
Semington Top Lock No 16	Somerset Arms pub 1/4 mile south of lock 15	4.9	5	Cosy pub with good food
Semington Bottom Lock No 15	Wilts and Berks Canal junction, winding hole below lock 15	5	6	
Semington Swing Bridge	Winding hole before swing bridge	5.6	7	
Hilperton Bridge (B3105)	Hilperton Wharf, water, pump-out, complete marina services, Kings Arms pub	7.5	7	
Widbrook Bridge (A363)	Bradford on Avon Marina, water, pump-out, complete services and restaurant	9.4	7	
Bradford-on-Avon Lock No 14	Water & refuse disposal, Lock Inn Cottage Licensed canalside café	10	7	Canoes and bikes for hire plus a trip boat
Avoncliff Aqueduct	Cross Guns pub, winding hole	11.5	8	Stop and explore!
Limpley Stoke Road Bridge	Hop Pole Inn1/4 miles south-west off B3108 road bridge	13.5	8	Dramatic scenery, worth exploring
Dundas Aqueduct	Junction with the Somerset Coal Canal, Water & refuse disposal, winding Hole	14.5	8	S.C.C. visitor centre; and view aqueduct from river Avon.
Claverton Pumping Station	Open to public every other Saturday from Easter to October. Check website for details	15.8	8	Unique 18th century engineering
Bathampton Bridge	George Inn pub, water, refuse disposal and winding hole	17.5	8	Catch a ferry into Bath on the parallel R. Avon
Sydney Gardens	Two short tunnel-bridges in "fashionable Bath"	18.5	8	A short walk to city centre through landscaped gardens
Sydney Wharf Bridge	Water, pump-out and Winding hole	19	8	
Bath Top Lock No 13	Bath flight of 6 locks No. 7 to 13. Open from 8am and to be clear by 6pm in summer and 8am to clear by 3.30pm in winter	19.1	8	A very helpful lock keeper is normally in attendance, take his advice before navigating the River Avon
Lock 12	Below lock 12 - water, refuse disposal and winding hole	19.3	9	
Lock 8 & 9	Locks 8 and 9 have been combined into a single deep lock.	19.6	12	2nd deepest lock in England

PLANNING YOUR ROUTE (continued)

KENNET & AVON CANAL ROUTE PLANNER WEST OF FOXHANGERS (CONTINUED)

Area of K&A	Details of Area	Number of miles from Foxhangers	Number of Locks from Foxhangers	Hints and tips
Bath Bottom Lock No 7	Junction with the River Avon Section	19.7	13	Turn right and head upstream for Pulteney Weir and Bath Abbey
Pulteney Weir and Bath Abbey	Moorings is no longer permitted in this area	19.9	14	
Broad Key	Overnight river moorings ½m downstream from canal entrance, close to Sainsbury's	19.9	14	Convenient moorings for the southern part of City
Weston Lock No 6	Dolphin Inn Pub	22.2	14	
Bath Marina	Water, pump-out, Caravan park and Boathouse restaurant	22.7	15	
Kelston Lock No 5	Saltford Marina complete services and restaurant	25.2	15	Chargeable overnight moorings.
Saltford Lock No 4	Jolly Sailor Pub	26	16	No moorings
Swineford Lock No 3	Water and pump-out	26.7	17	
Keynsham Lock No 2	A4175 road bridge. The Lock Keeper pub	29	18	Tesco superstore short walk
Hanham Lock No 1	Junction with the tidal Avon, Chequers Inn and Old Lock & Weir pub	31	19	Moorings for patrons
Netham Lock	Netham Lock normally has its gates open to feed water into the floating harbour. Generally, only used against floods and tides that exceed the crest of Netham weir.	34.5	20	Be prepared to pay modest fee to enter Bristol docks
Bristol Floating Harbour	Bristol city, SS Great Britain and the Mathew, maritime heritage centre	37.5	21	Moorings available in floating harbour

PLANNING YOUR ROUTE (continued)

KENNET & AVON CANAL ROUTE PLANNER EAST OF FOXHANGERS

Area of K&A	Details of Area	Number of miles from Foxhangers	Number of Locks from Foxhangers	Hints and tips
Foxhanger Wharf	Foxhangers Canal Holidays base, winding Hole, pump-out, refuse disposal	0	0	Your starting point
Devizes Bottom Lock No 22	Devizes flight of 29 locks, No. 22 to 50	0.1	1	If you don't navigate it at least walk it !
Caen Hill central staircase lock 28	Open from 8am and to be clear by 8pm in summer and 8am to clear by 3.30pm in winter, overnight moorings and winding hole above lock 28	0.7	7	A 15 min.walk to the foot of Caen Hill, it's a must see and will take your breath away.
Caen Hill central staircase lock 44	Tea rooms, overnight moorings, water, pump-out, refuse disposal and winding hole above lock 44	1.3	23	Have rest after 23 of the 29 locks
Prison Bridge lock 47	Black Horse pub	1.5	26	
Devizes Wharf	Water, refuse disposal, winding hole and overnight moorings	2.1	29	Last canalside shopping before Hungerford
Horton Bridge	The Bridge Inn, winding hole	6	29	
Honey Street Wharf	Barge Inn, water, refuse disposal and winding hole	10	29	The 'Mecca' for crop circle enthusiasts
Pewsey Wharf	Canalside café and French Horn Pub, water, pump-out, refuse disposal, winding hole	14	29	Small town a short walk from the canal
Wootton Bottom Lock No 51	Wootton Rivers flight of 4 locks, Royal Oak Pub, water, refuse disposal and winding hole 0.3 mile before lock	17	29	Approaching the summit of the Kennet & Avon canal - it's all downhill from here
Heathy Close Lock No 52	Heathy Close Bridge	17.5	30	
Cadley Lock No 54	Start of short summit pound of K&A	18.3	32	
Burbage Wharf Bridge	Winding hole	18.4	33	
Savernake Tunnel (Bruce Tunnel)	460m long	19.2	33	Let the cabin lights shine on the walls of the tunnel so you keep your bearings
Crofton Top Lock No 55	The Crofton flight No. 55 to 63, 9 locks, winding hole	20.3	33	

PLANNING YOUR ROUTE (continued)

KENNET & AVON CANAL ROUTE PLANNER EAST OF FOXHANGERS (CONTINUED)

Area of K&A	Details of Area	Number of miles from Foxhangers	Number of Locks from Foxhangers	Hints and tips
Crofton Lock No 60	Crofton Pumping Station, water, refuse disposal and winding hole	21.2	38	Oldest steam pumps in the country in working order
Great Bedwyn Bridge	Water, pump-out, refuse disposal and winding hole Cross Keys and Three Tuns Pubs	22.2	43	Small railway station ideal for excursions or picking up friends
Little Bedwyn Lock No 67	Little Bedwyn Bridge, village and Harrow Inn	24.1	45	
Oakfield Down Lock No 68	Winding hole	25	46	
Froxfield Bottom Lock No 70	Winding hole and Pelican Inn	25.4	48	
Hungerford Marsh Lock No 73	Swing bridge over lock.	27.3	51	Remember to open the bridge before entering lock
Hungerford Town Centre	Water, pump-out, refuse disposal, winding hole and overnight moorings	27.9	53	Convenient for shopping and noted for its Antique Shops
Dunn Mill Lock No 75	Winding hole	28.4	56	
Kintbury Lock No 78	Water, pump-out, refuse disposal, winding hole, Dundas Arms and Village	30.9	57	
Drewitts Lock No 79	Winding Hole	32.5	57	
Copse Lock No 80	River Kennet enters canal for first time	33	58	Start to become aware of river influences
Hamstead Lock No 81	River Kennet exits canal for first time and winding hole	33.4	59	
Newbury Lock No 85	Newbury Wharf and end of Kennet and Avon Canal Section, winding hole, pump-out and water	36.9	63	A good-sized town with a broad range of shopping
Monkey Marsh Lock No 90	Thatcham rail station 200 yards east and Swann Inn	39.9	68	A step back in time to see a lock in its earliest form
Midgham Lock No 92	Winding Hole	41.6	70	

PLANNING YOUR ROUTE (continued)

KENNET & AVON CANAL ROUTE PLANNER EAST OF FOXHANGERS (CONTINUED)

Area of K&A	Details of Area	Number of miles from Foxhangers	Number of Locks from Foxhangers	Hints and tips
Woolhampton Mill Lock No 94	Woolhampton Village 200 yards north. **Note: Woolhampton Swing Bridge must be opened before leaving the lock when travelling East**	43.4	72	The river entering the canal below the lock and a sand bank formed at the junction make navigation tricky at this point
Aldermaston Lock No 95	Aldermaston lift bridge below the lock is electrically operated by boaters and spans a busy road, water, pump-out, refuse disposal, winding hole and Butt Inn	45.1	73	Have a look around the visitor centre at Aldermaston wharf
Ufton Swing Bridge	Site of the disused Ufton Lock No 98 and winding hole	46.6	76	
Sulhampstead Lock No 100	Winding hole	48.4	77	
Burghfield Village Road Bridge	Water, pump-out, refuse disposal and winding hole	51.9	81	
County Lock	The end of the River Kennet Section	55.4	83	Concaved lock walls
Blakes Lock 107	Last lock before entering River Thames	55.6	83	Allow 2 weeks to get here from base and back
Junction with Thames at Reading		55.9	84	Your absolute limit of navigation

WARNING

Lock 61 at Crofton

Lock 61 at Crofton is only 70ft in length!

Take exceptional care when descending in order to not catch the cill

ADVICE

Bath Deep Lock

Lock 8/9 - Bath Deep Lock

Please be aware that the bottom gates of this lock are opened using a windlass. This is because the gates are very large and hence very heavy to push open.

Empty the lock in the usual manner using the paddles on the gates.

Then open the gates by turning the shaft on the black pedestals either side of the lock.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Unfortunately, it seems that anti-social behaviour is becoming an ever-wider problem and is creeping into life on our canals. The Canal and River Trust have requested that we include the following section in our manual.

Reporting an incident to the Police

Although the police may not be able to respond immediately to your Concerns, it is important to contact them as they target their resources to address need; if they don't have reports of incidents they are unlikely to be able to target resources to address them.

You should always call 999 if you or someone else is in immediate danger, or if the crime or Anti-social behaviour incident is in progress, otherwise please call the police on 101.

Anti-social behaviour is a broad term used to describe the day-to-day incidents of crime nuisance and disorder that make many people's lives a misery.

Anti-social behaviour can involve damage to property, public drunkenness or aggressive dogs, noisy or abusive people, including those who may be hiring boats on the canal. Such a wide range of behaviours means that responsibility for dealing with anti-social behaviour is shared between several agencies, particularly the police and council.

Some Non-urgent crimes/incidents can also be reported online:

Avon & Somerset Police:
https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report

Wiltshire Police:
Online reporting is currently unavailable, please ring 101.

Reporting an incident to the local authority.

Some incidents related to the environment, such as noise or air pollution, litter and graffiti, dogs, and some anti-social behaviour (ASB), need to be reported to the local authority. It's important that you provide as much detail as possible when you report an incident (see below).

Wiltshire Council:
Customer Services 0300 456 0100
Bath & NE Somerset Council:
Council Connect 01225 394041 (Out of hours 01225 477477)

When reporting incidents make sure that you provide the following:

- Date and time of incident
- Location of the incident
- Details of the incident
- Details of anyone involved - personal description, and the boat name and number if appropriate.
- Secure any evidence, names of any other witnesses, photographs/recordings etc.

CONSIDERATE BOATING

It is important for boaters to consider the enjoyment and safety of other boaters and all the other users of our canals, so that everybody gains the benefits of the rich heritage and maximises their enjoyment.

Please bear the following points in mind:

1. Pass Moored Craft Slowly

Travelling at speed can pull mooring pins out of the ground, knock things off shelves and even cause small children to fall over. If you're travelling at anything more than walking pace, you are probably going too fast.

2. Don't drink and drive

It's that simple. Anyone who is going to be steering the boat, mooring up or operating locks must stay sober. Canals are not risk-free, be aware that the risks greatly increase when people consume alcohol. If you are involved in an accident/incident and under the influence of alcohol this may lead to prosecution by the police.

3. Keep the noise down

If you want to play music or sit up late chatting, then moor up well away from everyone else so that you don't disturb other people. If you are moored up near other boats or houses, keep all noise, including running the generator, to an absolute minimum

4. Behave safely on your boat

For example, to get from one end of the boat to the other, always go inside the boat. Never run on the roof or walk along the sides. Do not jump into the canal from a boat or climb back onboard near the stern whilst the engine is running.

5. Avoid collisions

Always slow down for bends, bridges and tunnels. Always pass to the right-hand side of oncoming craft. If you are heading for another boat, correct your course, put the boat into reverse to avoid an impact and then correct your course again as you move forward.

6. Use locks carefully

Take your time – and keep an eye out for problems. Enter and leave slowly so bumps are less likely to cause damage. Always have a competent person on board while the boat's in the lock. Keep your boat well away from the gates and cill (look for the marker on the stonework at the lock). Boats tend to move about when water flows in and out of a lock – stay alert.

7. Be considerate

Many members of the canal community are offended by shouting, swearing, nudity and loud music. There is no place for these on the canal. The police may well take action if such reports are received, and they will work with The Canal & River Trust and Hire Companies to identify and deal with offenders. Always keep your rubbish on the boat until it can be disposed of properly.

8. Don't disturb others

Between 8pm and 8am don't use any electricity generator, including the Boat's engine, at any mooring along the Waterway unless you are moored in isolation, out of earshot of other people.

GOOD FOOD GUIDE

The following is a guide to some of the best places to go for a meal or a drink, **West** of Foxhangers towards Bath.

THE THREE MAGPIES

Sells Green, Seend, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6RN
Tel: **01380 828389**

This is the closest pub to Foxhangers, only 20 minutes boating away and therefore a good spot to go for dinner on your last night. This is a family friendly, cosy pub selling Wadworths real ale and simple 'pub grub' at reasonable prices. It gets very busy in the summer, but there's a great beer garden to the rear with children's play equipment.

THE BARGE INN

Seend Cleeve, Seend, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6QB
Tel: **01380 828230**

Located 3 locks down from Foxhangers, The Barge Inn is a great place to stop for a well-earned drink. Try sampling the locally brewed Wadworth's real ale. They also provide food, but it can get extremely busy, so it is best to book.

THE BREWERY INN

Seend Cleeve, Seend, Melksham, Wiltshire SN12 6PX
Tel: **01380 828463**

A few minutes' walk from bridge 153 or across the field from bridge 154 towards the pretty village of Seend. The Brewery serves decent pub fayre at reasonable prices with a family pub feel.

THE OLD BEAR INN

Staverton, Wiltshire BA14 6PB
Tel: **01225 782487**

A few minutes' walk from bridge 166, NW along Marsh Rd. Children, dogs & muddy boots are always welcome, why not put them to the test. Friendly staff serving good food. Tuesday special – steak night.

LOCK INN

48 Frome Rd, Bradford-On-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1LE
Tel: **01225 868068**

The Lock Inn welcomes you with quirky menus, a dog and child friendly atmosphere and some of the best pub food on this stretch of the canal. You might want to try their famous 'boatman's breakfast' if you're game. You might need to book ahead on weekends as they are very popular, located directly below Bradford lock on the canal.

THAI BARN

9-10 St Margaret's St, Bradford-On-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1DA
Tel: **01225 866443**

Located in the town centre just before Westbury Gardens is this lovely Thai restaurant. If you've had enough pub fayre and want something a little different, they serve lunch and evening meals, excellent authentic Thai food and reasonably priced. It is advised to book for weekends.

THE CROSS GUNS

Avoncliff, Bradford-On-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2HB
Tel: **01225 862335**

Located by the stunning Avoncliff aqueduct, this pub has one of the best beer gardens on the canal, running down the hill into the River Avon, it's just lovely. They get very busy in the summer months, but worth it for the views.

THE GEORGE

Mill Lane, Bathampton, Bath, Avon BA2 6TR
Tel: **01225 425079**

Perfect spot to moor up for the night with good food and outdoor seating. Fairly reasonable prices, it does get busy in the summer so it may be an idea to book for evening meals. Good local Bath real ales

GOOD FOOD GUIDE

The following is a guide to some of the best places to go for a meal or a drink, **East** of Foxhangers towards Newbury.

THE GEORGE AND DRAGON

High St, Rowde, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2PN
Tel: **01380 723053**

Award winning gastro-pub, famous for seafood. About 20 mins walk into the village of Rowde, from lock 29. Good service, local real ales and good wines. This is not your usual 'pub grub' and more expensive than the average hostelry, but well worth it for their friendly service and exquisite cuisine. Bookings recommended for weekends.

THE PEPPERMILL

40 St.John's St, Devizes SN10 1BL
Tel: **01380 710407**

The Peppermill is an AA 5* restaurant with rooms situated in the heart of the market town of Devizes. The restaurant offers an interesting contemporary British menu, using fresh, seasonal ingredients, locally sourced wherever possible.

MASSIMOS RISTORANTE

Basement, 6 Old Swan Yard, High St, Devizes SN10 1AT
Tel: **01380 724007**

Tucked away in the basement in the cobbled Swan Yard, is this cosy little Italian restaurant. Good food at reasonable prices. Evening bookings advised.

THE BEAR HOTEL

Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 1HS
Tel: **01380 722444**

Lovely big pub in the Market Place, with big wooden tables and fireplaces. Great, inexpensive food, especially the pizzas, lots of seating and a fabulous Jazz Bar in the cellar at weekends.

THE BRIDGE INN

Horton Rd, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2JS
Tel: **01380 860273**

Local beers straight from the barrel in this proper local pub. Good food and moorings. Bridge 134. Children's play area. Dog friendly.

THE KINGS ARMS INN

The Street, All Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 3PA
Tel: **01380 860328**

Approx. 20 min walk south from bridges 127, 128 or 129. Traditional wholesome Pub Food available 6 days a week, plus more adventurous dishes. All home-made from fresh ingredients. No food on Mondays.

THE BARGE INN

Honeystreet, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5PS
Tel: **01672 851222**

Nestled in the heart of 'crop circle country' this lovely country pub attracts all sorts of visitors, unique atmosphere and food. Busy in the summer. Near bridge 126

THE SWAN INN

Wilton, Wiltshire SN8 3SS
Tel: **01672 870274**

Wilton is a traditional farming village, complete with duck pond and Wiltshire's only working windmill. The pub is 10 mins walk south of lock 61 alongside Wilton Water – this is the source of the water pumped into the canal by the Crofton steam engines. Lunch & diners served daily except Sunday evening.

THE THREE TUNS

1 High Street, Gt Bedwyn, Wiltshire SN8 3NU
Tel: **01672 870280**

A freehold village pub situated at the edge of the Savernake Forest, midway between Marlborough and Hungerford. There is a lovely, dog-friendly beer garden with a boules pitch plus roaring fires throughout the pub in the cooler weather. 300 yards North from bridge 95.

THE PELICAN

Bath Road, Froxfield, Wiltshire SN8 3JY
Tel: **01488 682479**

Popular freehouse serving real ales & ciders, traditional pub food. Short walk north of bridge 90.

THREE SWANS HOTEL

High Street, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0LZ
Tel: **01488 682721**

Historic coaching inn serving hand pulled beers with extensive cocktails & gin menu. Restaurant and coffee house.

SHOPS

West of Foxhangers

Seend
A 10-minute walk up the hill from Rusty Lane swing bridge, on the main road is Seend Village Stores, offering Post Office services and basic supplies, alcohol and fresh milk.
Opening hours: Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 09:00 - 17:30, Thur 09:00 - 13.00, Sat 08:30 - 13.00 and Sun 09:30 - 10:00 to allow customers to collect their newspapers

Bower Hill
A short walk north from swing bridge 155 there is a Tesco Express. Follow the footpath from the bridge and signs for convenience store. Open from 06:00 - 23:00 seven days a week.

Hilperton
A short walk from Bridge 166 there is a petrol station with a shop open from 07:30 - 22:00.

There is also a LIDL supermarket; just 5 minutes' walk through the industrial estate, south from the Bridge 168. Open Mon-Sat 08:00-22:00 Sun 10:00-16:00

Bradford-on-Avon
There is a large Sainsbury's just south of bridge 171. The town centre is a 5-minute walk from the lock, offering a new shopping development including an array of smaller independent shops as well as a medium sized Co-op. In the town centre, you will find a variety of older shops selling many things including fresh produce & alcohol!! Farmers market held on the 3rd Thurs of each month.

Dundas
From the water point/Pump out station, walk up the track to the main road, turn left and there is a Spar shop located at the petrol station which is open 07:00 - 22:00 every day.

Bathampton
A short walk up the hill from the canal is a newsagent selling basic supplies and newspapers. You can also catch a bus into Bath from here.

Bath
There are a few major supermarkets in Bath. In the town centre, there is a Waitrose at the Podium Centre located to the right of the Abbey past Pulteney Bridge at the bottom of Walcot Street. A big Morrison's is located on the London Road (A4) 15 min walk from Folly Footbridge. Bath City Centre has some brilliant little food shops and conveniently by bridge 188 at Sydney Wharf is a Tesco Express. Just south of Bath Deep Lock, there is a small Morrisons on Pulteney Road. On the river, heading downstream you will find moorings on the right-hand side. From here, it is a short walk to a big Sainsburys by bridge 200 and a brilliant farmers market on the old Green Park station (Saturdays).

SHOPS

East of Foxhangers

Devizes
There is a good-sized Spar shop (open until 10pm) 2 minutes 'drive from Foxhangers. It is situated on the A361 coming into Devizes from Foxhangers after the dual carriageway has ended, on the left.

There are several major supermarkets in Devizes town centre including, Sainsburys, M&S food and Morrisons. There is a weekly market held on Thursdays in the Market place - watch out for the famous Wadworths shire horses delivering real ale to all the local pubs. Also, lots of great little delis, butchers and local fruit & veg shops …. get exploring!

All Cannings
There is a community store sited in a temporary building in the car park of the village hall in the middle of All Cannings which has a broad range of food, drinks, newspapers and other supplies.

Pewsey
There is a Co-Op supermarket located off the High Street. Opening hours are 08:00 - 22:00 Mon-Sat and 10:00 – 16:00 Sun. There is a store at the Total Garage on Swan Road (open 06:00 – 23:00). If you time it right, there is a farmers' market on the 2nd Thursday of every month.

ANGLING

NAVIGATING PAST PEOPLE FISHING

There is often confusion about the way to approach when boating past anglers, which sometimes leads boaters to disturb waters unnecessarily. Please slow down when approaching anglers and pass keeping as close to the middle of the channel as possible. Do not move to the banks.

FISHING ON THE KENNET & AVON CANAL

Many boaters like nothing more than to moor up at the end of the day and relax by doing a spot of fishing by their boat. And the last couple of hours before darkness can of course be the best fishing times of the day although early morning fishing can also be productive.

Fishing is only permitted on the towpath side of the canal.

The canal has a good stock of Skimmers, Bream, Tench, Roach, Rudd, Perch, Gudgeon, Pike and a few Carp. A wide range of baits work well on this canal with the best baits for general fishing during summer being maggots, caster, worm and sweetcorn. Ground bait, loose feeding and hemp also work well, and bread punch can be very productive in winter. The canal holds a good stock of Pike and produces many specimen fish; best methods are pole or waggler fishing with light tackle, dead baits and lures. Some clubs and associations restrict the period when fishing for Pike is permitted; for example, the Devizes AA observes a Pike 'season' running from 1 October to 31 March in each year.

TICKETS & LICENSES TO FISH

Fishing is permitted throughout the year from the towpath on the Kennet & Avon canal. There are 13 angling clubs who have sole fishing rights to these waters. They operate along varying lengths of canal and river, with many welcoming day ticket fishing.

Tickets are available from Foxhangers Canal Holidays reception for Devizes Angling Association who control approximately 15 miles of prime angling on the Kennet and Avon canal (from Ladies Bridge, Wilcot near Pewsey, westwards through Woodborough, Honeystreet, Stanton St Bernard, All Cannings, Horton, Devizes, Seend and ending at Semington road bridge near Melksham), see their website www.devizesaa.org.uk for more details on club rules.

There is also the requirement of a rod licence. Anyone aged 12 or older needs to be in possession of an Environment Agency rod licence before starting to fish. Single day, 8-day and an annual version are available. Possessing a valid rod licence legalises the use of a fishing rod, it does not give the owner the right to actually fish.

The third, and final consideration before deciding to fish is to consider whether fishing is actually allowed at the particular location. Where fishing is not permitted from the bank it is also not permitted from a boat either. Most fishing rods and poles are made of carbon fibre, a good electrical conductor. Overhead power lines represent a serious threat to life and limb - always look up before starting to fish and if in any doubt don't fish. As a guideline, no fishing should take place within 30 metres of electrical power lines.

ANGLING ASSOCIATIONS ON THE KENNET & AVON CANAL

Heading West from Foxhangers

Devizes AA
Ladies Bridge 120 to Semington Bridge 161
www.devizesaa.org.uk
Contact: Terry Fell terry.w.fell@talktalk.net OR info@devizesaa.org.uk
Purchase day tickets online.

Avon Angling Club
Semington Bridge 161 – Hilperton Road Bridge 166
www.acvonac.co.uk
Contact: R Edwards 01225 705036 avonacmelksham@gmail.com or r.p.edwards@virginmedia.com

Airsprung Angling Club
Hilperton Road Bridge 166 to Avoncliff Aqueduct
www.gethooked.co.uk/fishing-venue/692/airsprung-angling-association-bristol-avon
Contact: Bill Turner 01225 766219 billy561@blueyonder.co.uk

Bathampton AA
Avoncliff Aqueduct to Confluence with River Avon in Bath
www.bathampton.org
Contact: Dave Burnham 07720 882368 daveburnham@hotmail.com

Heading East from Foxhangers

Devizes AA
Ladies Bridge 120 to Semington Bridge 161
www.devizesaa.org.uk
Contact: Terry Fell terry.w.fell@talktalk.net OR info@devizesaa.org.uk
Purchase day tickets online.

Pewsey & District AA
Milkhouse Water Bridge112 to Ladies Bridge 120
https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/fishing/fishery-list/367-pewsey-and-district-angling-association
Contact: Gary Williams 07596 894191 gwill72242@aol.com
Day passes can be obtained from the honesty box located at Pewsey Wharf

Marlborough & District AA
Milkhouse Water Bridge 112 to Froxfield Bridge 90
www.marlboroughangling.co.uk/tickets
Contact: Neil Pegrum neil.pegrum@fsmail.net
Purchase day tickets online.

Hungerford Canal AA
Cobblers Lock to Wire Lock
www.fishinginhungerford.co.uk
Contact: Dave Keen 01672 540177 hungerfordfishing@gmail.com

Civil Service AS
Kintbury Station to Vicarage Footbridge 77
www.civilserviceas.org.uk
Contact: Jeff Fisher 07881 506119
*****No Day Fishing Allowed*****

Newbury AA
Bulls Lock to Ham Lock
Contact: 01635 33362 David Marshall david.marshall.naa@hotmail.co.uk

Abbey Cross AS
Hampstead Weir Foot Bridge 67 to Hampstead Lock

Reed Thatcham AA
Greenham Lock to Whitehouse Bridge 53 and Widemead Lock to Colthrop Lock
Plus Woolhampton Lock to Oxlease Swing Bridge 33
Contact: Jeff Fisher 01635 867242 or 07881 506119 RTAA@hotmail.co.uk
*****No Day Fishing Allowed*****

Reading & District
Oxlease Swing Bridge 33 to the Thames
www.rdaa.co.uk
Contact: Alan Hughes 01189 867430 alan@rdaa.co.uk
Purchase day tickets online.

River Avon

Keynsham
Hanham Lock to Swineford Lock
www.keynsham-angling.co.uk
Contact: P Seymour 07973 736519 keynshamangling@gmail.com

Amalgamated Fisheries
Bath to Swineford Lock
Contact: Patricia Leonard 0117 960 3378 patrica.lenard@homecall.co.uk

PLEASE REMEMBER - In line with our Terms and Conditions, you are not permitted to take live bait aboard any of our boats.

APPENDICES - Web Links

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