

KENNET & AVON CANAL – BATH TO DEVIZES

MY LOCAL CANAL

OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

It's quality time
with my family

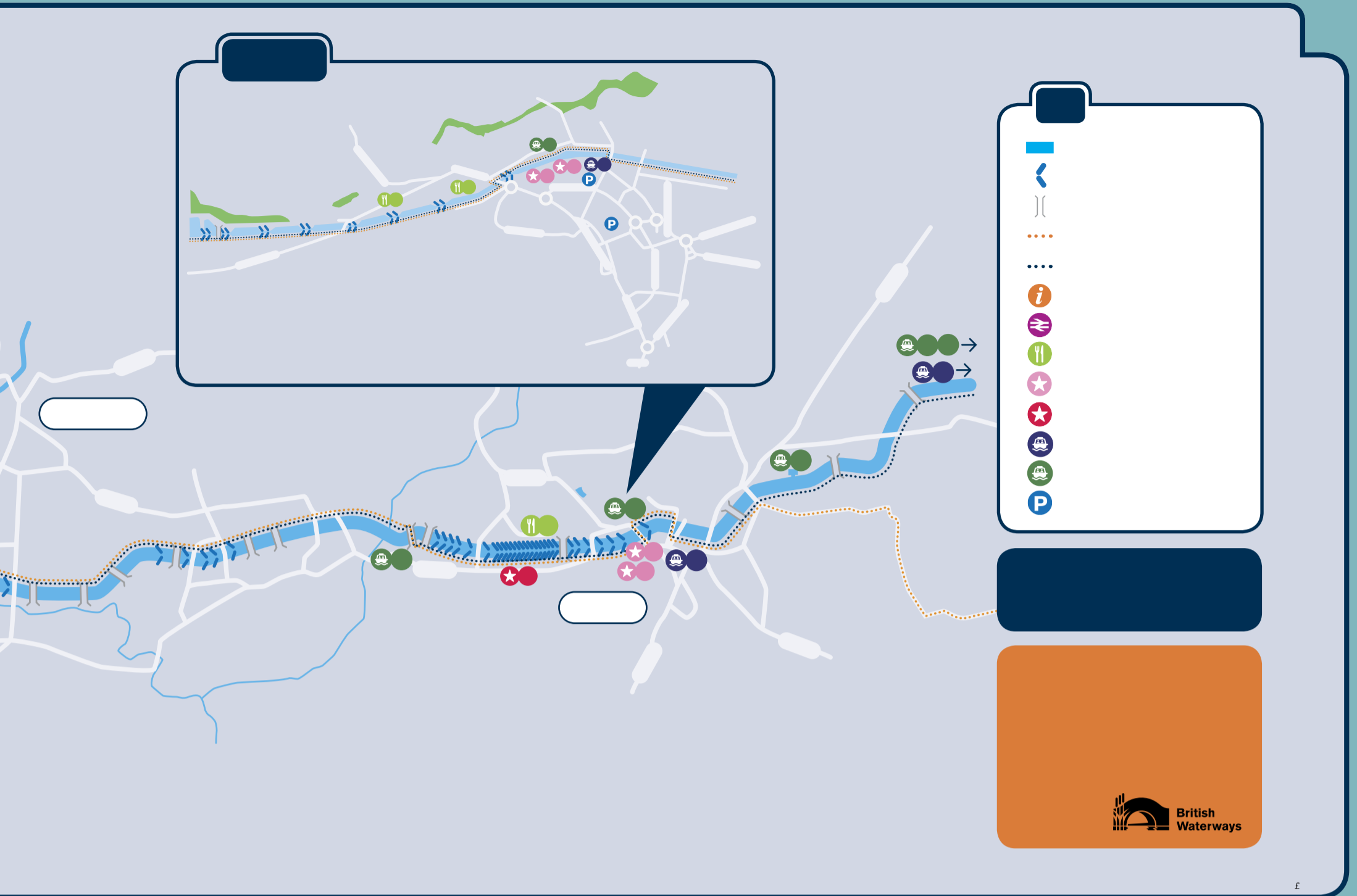


**British
Waterways**

Looking after your canals and rivers

Yours to enjoy anytime

Find your nearest canal at waterscape.com



Two pink star icons are positioned at the top left of the page.

A vertical column of seven green boat icons is located on the left side of the page.

A vertical column of five green boat icons is located on the right side of the page.

A vertical column of seven green fork and knife icons is located on the left side of the page.

A vertical column of seven green fork and knife icons with numbers is located on the right side of the page:

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The K&A 200



The Kennet & Avon Canal is 200 years old!

Since it was completed in 1810, this picturesque canal has seen much change and development, including near dilapidation in the 1960s when this national treasure was nearly lost forever. Luckily, the canal's fate was changed when local people and waterway enthusiasts formed the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust and worked together to restore the canal to its former glory.

In 1990 the Trust's fundraising, campaigning and volunteer work was rewarded when the canal was officially re-opened by HM The Queen. Since then the Trust has worked with local agencies and British Waterways to enhance and develop the waterway for boating and leisure activities. In 2003, following the largest ever single Heritage Lottery grant of £25 million, the restoration was completed and, keeping up the Royal connections, a visit from HRH Prince Charles marked the occasion.

Today the canal is home to a wide range of leisure activities. From cycling and walking to wildlife watching, boat trips, museums and tearooms, the Kennet & Avon Canal is a vibrant piece of living heritage right on your doorstep.

Find out more about the bicentenary celebrations and how you can get involved at www.waterscape.com/k&a200 and from there you can follow us on Twitter and find our Facebook page.

K&A 200 events

A number of local people and interest groups have got together to design a wide range of events to mark this major milestone in the history of the waterway. Here's a taste of the many different activities you can get involved in. You can find many more listed on the dedicated pages on British Waterways' leisure website: www.waterscape.com/k&a200

The Ramblers' Relay, Saturday 8 May – Saturday 15 May 2010 Reading to Bristol

Walk the length of the navigation to mark its 200th birthday as well as the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Ramblers Association. Broken into manageable stages across a week, this route has something for everyone. Find out where they'll be and when at www.ramblers75.org.uk/baton-walks

The RNLI Fun Day, Sunday 30 May 2010 The Caen Hill Flight, Devizes

This fundraising event taking place alongside the magnificent Caen Hill Lock Flight will see this national charity bring stalls, activities and refreshments to the waterside.

For more information, visit: www.rnli.org.uk

Widcombe Rising, Sunday 13 June 2010, Widcombe, Bath

This event brings all manner of performance, music, dance and creative activity to the streets of Bath. This year they will also be celebrating the K&A 200.

Get more information on the event at www.widcombe.net

The Devizes Christmas Festival and Lantern Parade, Friday 26 November 2010, Devizes

This well loved annual event will be one of the key celebrations planned to mark the bicentenary. With a redirected route taking in Devizes Wharf and the waterway, it will bring all the show and spectacle of this lantern parade to the K&A 200 celebrations.

Find out more at www.devizesfestival.org.uk



Local canal activities

Wake up to walking on the Kennet & Avon

While there are plenty of opportunities to sit back, relax and watch the world go by on the waterside, the towpath also offers an ideal walking route through some of Wiltshire and Berkshire's best loved countryside. Navigating this canal has never been so easy with lots of routes across the Kennet & Avon's 87 mile length listed on www.waterscape.com

Waterside wildlife watching

Whether it's a green corridor through the towns and cities, or an aquatic environment in the heart of the countryside, the canals offer plenty of opportunity for ecological escapism. Arm yourself with a British Waterways wildlife survey from www.waterscape.com or simply spot for spotting's sake. Either way there's lots to see on the Kennet & Avon.

See it from the saddle! Cycling alongside the canal

Pedals have never been so popular and the towpath of the Kennet & Avon offers an ideal traffic-free route through some of the most scenic stretches of countryside around. With routes available on www.waterscape.com and excellent signposting by Sustrans it's easy to get back in the frame for biking on the backwaters.

While all waterway users are welcome, it's important that cyclists exercise caution around the canals. Please ensure your bike has a bell and that you use it to warn others of your approach. Remember, ring twice, pass slowly; be nice!

Getting involved

To mark the Kennet & Avon's bicentenary year, British Waterways is launching a £100,000 project to revitalise the waterway around the Bath Flight in the Widcombe and Bathwick areas of the city. British Waterways is calling on local residents and businesses to match this commitment by donating 200 units of their resources to the canal and its surroundings. Whether it's spending 200 minutes of your time tidying the towpath or donating 200 bulbs to be planted on a lock-side, British Waterways would like to hear from you.

Get in touch with your ideas by emailing KA200projects@britishwaterways.co.uk

Find out more about this project and other ways to get involved in volunteering on the Kennet & Avon Canal at www.waterscape.com/k&a200

The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust is a volunteer organisation which has been doing vital work on the K&A for over forty years. With shops, cafés, museums and attractions in their network and many more activities going on on the canal, they offer a range of options for anyone interested in getting out and about on their local waterway.

To find out more visit their web pages at www.katrust.org or get in touch by emailing kavolunteer@btconnect.com

