

The Basingstoke Canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and as you would expect has a diverse range of animal and plantlife in and around it. Here are some of the species you may encounter:



Wildlife on the Canal

Birds - Kingfisher, Mallard, Coot, Moorhen, Egyptian Goose, Mandarin Duck, Swan, Heron, Little Grebe (Dabchick), Little Egret, Great Crested Grebe, Grey Wagtail, Red Kite, and Canada Geese.

Insects (general) - Mayfly, Whirligig Beetle, Greater Water Boatman, Great Diving Beetle, Pond Skater.

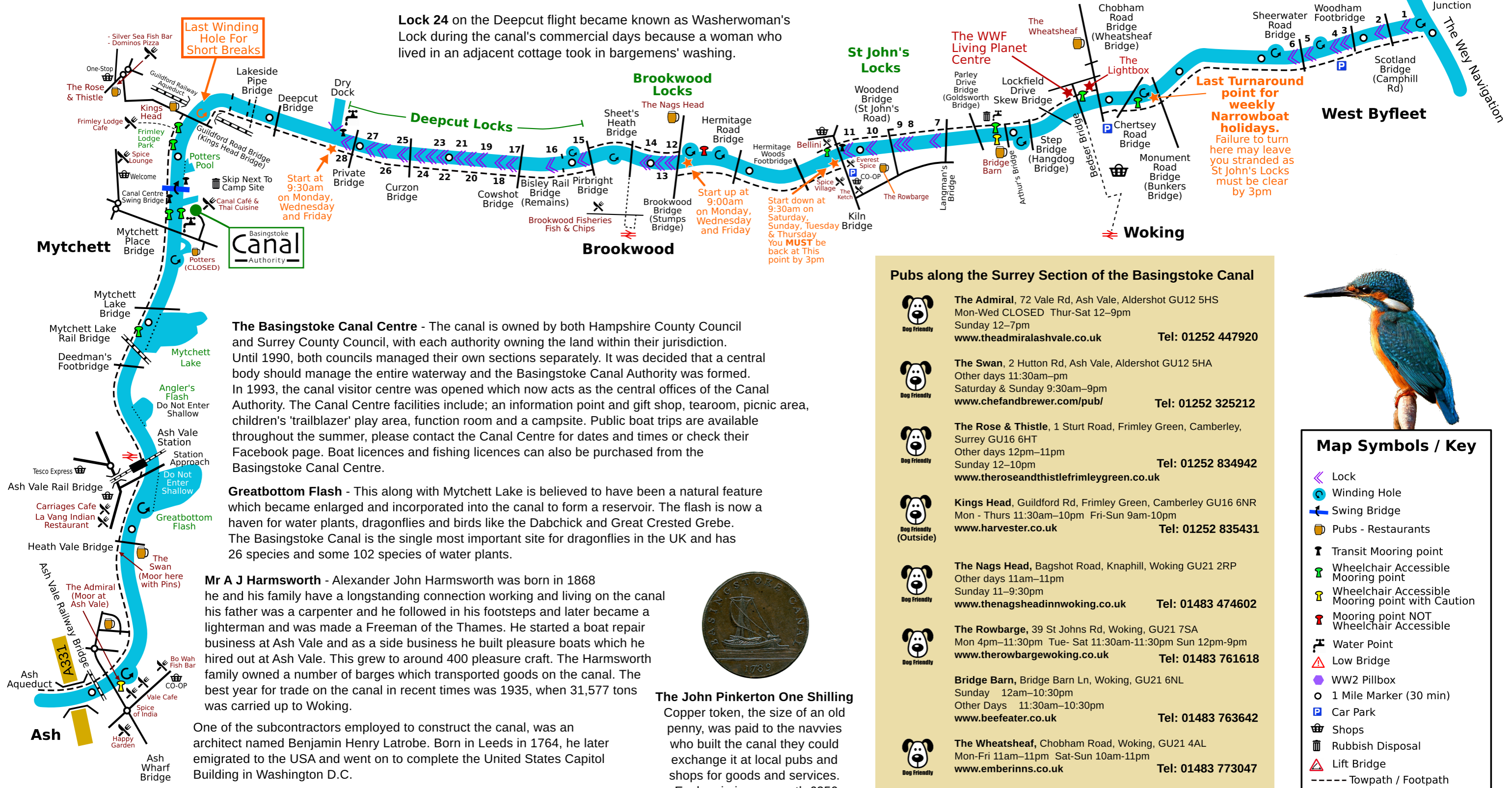
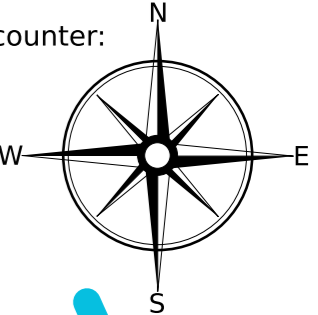
Damselflies and Dragonflies - Common Blue Damselfly, Red Eyed Damselfly, Broad Bodied Chaser, Hairy Dragonfly, Ruddy Darter, Downy Emerald Dragonfly, Brilliant Dragonfly, Red Eyed Dragonfly.

Waterside Plants - Reedmace, Yellow Iris, Purple Loosestrife, Yellow Loosestrife, Flowering Rush, Bogbean, Water Violet.

Water Plants - Water Soldier, Fringed Water Lily, Bladderwort, Water Crowfoot, Frogbit, Duckweed.

Mammals - Watervole, Fox, Badger, Roe Deer, Fallow Deer, Mink, Otter, Natterer's bat, Daubenton's Bat, Whiskered Bat, Brandt's Bat, Brown Long Eared Bat.

Other Animals - Grass Snake, Common Toad, Common Frog, Adder



The Basingstoke Canal Centre - The canal is owned by both Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council, with each authority owning the land within their jurisdiction. Until 1990, both councils managed their own sections separately. It was decided that a central body should manage the entire waterway and the Basingstoke Canal Authority was formed. In 1993, the canal visitor centre was opened which now acts as the central offices of the Canal Authority. The Canal Centre facilities include; an information point and gift shop, tearoom, picnic area, children's 'trailblazer' play area, function room and a campsite. Public boat trips are available throughout the summer, please contact the Canal Centre for dates and times or check their Facebook page. Boat licences and fishing licences can also be purchased from the Basingstoke Canal Centre.

Greatbottom Flash - This along with Mytchett Lake is believed to have been a natural feature which became enlarged and incorporated into the canal to form a reservoir. The flash is now a haven for water plants, dragonflies and birds like the Dabchick and Great Crested Grebe. The Basingstoke Canal is the single most important site for dragonflies in the UK and has 26 species and some 102 species of water plants.

Mr A J Harmsworth - Alexander John Harmsworth was born in 1868 he and his family have a longstanding connection working and living on the canal his father was a carpenter and he followed in his footsteps and later became a lighterman and was made a Freeman of the Thames. He started a boat repair business at Ash Vale and as a side business he built pleasure boats which he hired out at Ash Vale. This grew to around 400 pleasure craft. The Harmsworth family owned a number of barges which transported goods on the canal. The best year for trade on the canal in recent times was 1935, when 31,577 tons was carried up to Woking.

One of the subcontractors employed to construct the canal, was an architect named Benjamin Henry Latrobe. Born in Leeds in 1764, he later emigrated to the USA and went on to complete the United States Capitol Building in Washington D.C.




















The John Pinkerton One Shilling Copper token, the size of an old penny, was paid to the navvies who built the canal they could exchange it at local pubs and shops for goods and services. Each coin is now worth £250

Pubs along the Surrey Section of the Basingstoke Canal

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The Admiral, 72 Vale Rd, Ash Vale, Aldershot GU12 5HS
 Mon-Wed CLOSED Thur-Sat 12-9pm
 Sunday 12-7pm
www.theadmiralashvale.co.uk Tel: 01252 447920
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The Swan, 2 Hutton Rd, Ash Vale, Aldershot GU12 5HA
 Other days 11:30am-pm
 Saturday & Sunday 9:30am-9pm
www.chefandbrewer.com/pub/ Tel: 01252 325212
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The Rose & Thistle, 1 Sturt Road, Frimley Green, Camberley, Surrey GU16 6HT
 Other days 12pm-11pm
 Sunday 12-10pm
www.theroseandthistlefrimleygreen.co.uk Tel: 01252 834942
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Kings Head, Guildford Rd, Frimley Green, Camberley GU16 6NR
 Mon - Thurs 11:30am-10pm Fri-Sun 9am-10pm
www.harvester.co.uk Tel: 01252 835431
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The Nags Head, Bagshot Road, Knaphill, Woking GU21 2RP
 Other days 11am-11pm
 Sunday 11-9:30pm
www.thenagsheadinnwoking.co.uk Tel: 01483 474602
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The Rowbarge, 39 St Johns Rd, Woking, GU21 7SA
 Mon 4pm-11:30pm Tue- Sat 11:30am-11:30pm Sun 12pm-9pm
www.therowbargewoking.co.uk Tel: 01483 761618
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Bridge Barn, Bridge Barn Ln, Woking, GU21 6NL
 Sunday 12am-10:30pm
 Other Days 11:30am-10:30pm
www.beefeater.co.uk Tel: 01483 763642
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The Wheatsheaf, Chobham Road, Woking, GU21 4AL
 Mon-Fri 11am-11pm Sat-Sun 10am-11pm
www.emberinns.co.uk Tel: 01483 773047



Map Symbols / Key

-  Lock
-  Winding Hole
-  Swing Bridge
-  Pubs - Restaurants
-  Transit Mooring point
-  Wheelchair Accessible Mooring point
-  Wheelchair Accessible Mooring point with Caution
-  Mooring point NOT Wheelchair Accessible
-  Water Point
-  Low Bridge
-  WW2 Pillbox
-  1 Mile Marker (30 min)
-  Car Park
-  Shops
-  Rubbish Disposal
-  Lift Bridge
-  Towpath / Footpath