

distance from the canal.

There are car parks in the towns of Wendover and Tring but at some

main Grand Union and Tring Reservoirs. Charges apply.

Startops End, Marsworth, HP23 4U A large public car park next to the Aston Clinton road below the reservoir

Wilstone Reservoir, HP23 4DA Free public car park on the Marsworth to car park up the hill from Stable Bridge

Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton, HP22 5ND. This is a small free public **By Car**

Wendover Arm leaves the main line.

for almost two miles northwards to Bulbourne Junction where the

Turn left out of the station to the canal bridge then follow the towpath

Tring Station is a short distance from the main Grand Union Canal.

to Birmingham via Tring.

London Midland (www.londonmidland.com) from London Euston distance along Wharf Road on the left hand side before the school.

on the right at the first mini-roundabout. The canal starts a short Tower, bear left and along Aylesbury Road. Wharf Road is the turning

station walk downhill into Wendover town centre to the Clock

Wendover Station is a half-mile walk from Wharf Road. From the

to Aylesbury via Wendover

The Chiltern Line (www.chilternrailways.com) from London Marylebone

The Wendover Arm is served by two train lines:

By Train

South-East or Intalink (Herts Transport Service) www.intalink.org.uk. For more information contact Arriva Buses www.artivabus.co.uk/

New Mill, Tring

Route 164 (Aylesbury – Leighton Buzzard) for Gannet Bridge, near

Clinton and New Mill, Tring

Route 61 (Luton Airport – Aylesbury) for Buckland Wharf, Aston

and Halton

Route 50/55 (Aylesbury – RAF Halton) for Wharf Road, Wendover

Route 500 (Aylesbury – Watford) for Buckland Wharf, Aston Clinton

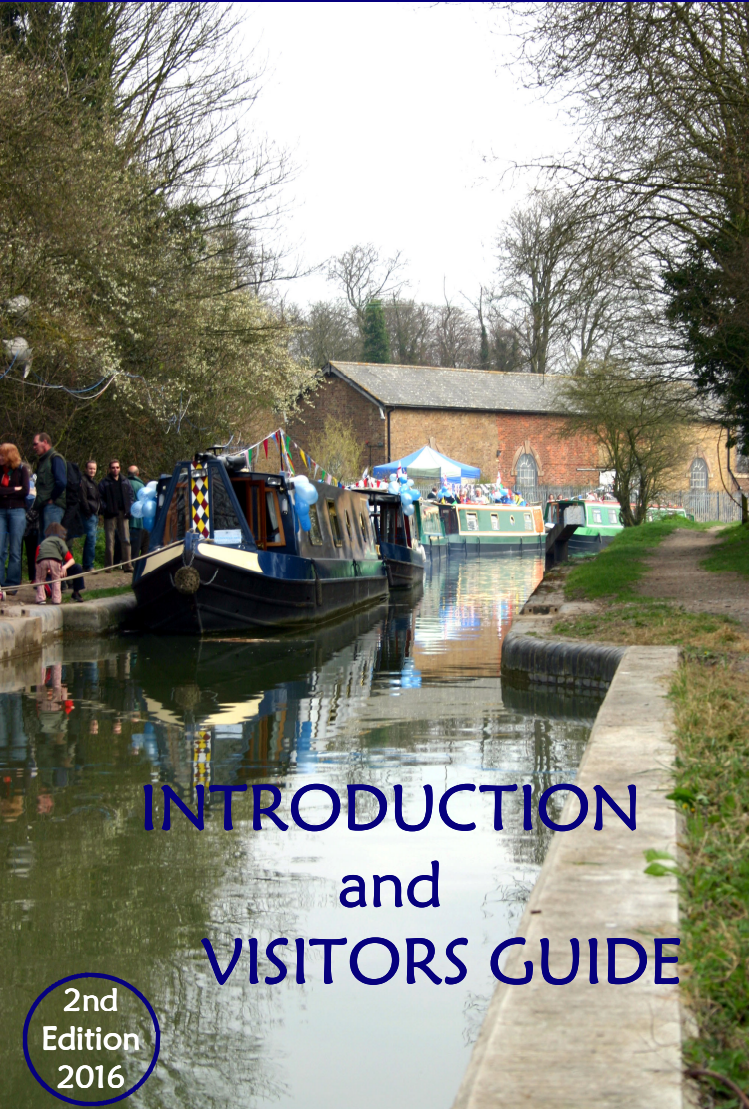
As services can change, please check your route before setting out.

There are several services serving locations along the Wendover Arm.

By Bus

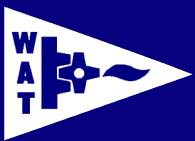
How to get there

The Wendover Arm Canal



INTRODUCTION and VISITORS GUIDE

2nd Edition 2016



Wendover Arm Trust

Wendover Arm Trust

The Trust was formed in 1989 as a registered charity to promote and implement the restoration of the Wendover Arm Canal. Exactly 200 years after the Arm first opened, reconstruction work started in 1997 after several years of preparation, the first stage being to rebuild Little Tring Bridge demolished less than 25-years previously and to construct a ¼ mile section of canal from the stop-lock at Little Tring to a new winding hole (for turning boats) beyond the new bridge. In 1990 the Trust was involved in the public enquiry into the proposed A41 Aston Clinton bypass that resulted in the construction of Saxonway bridge over the canal and restoration of a short section of canal from there to Drayton Beauchamp bridge.

Current restoration work is focussed on re-profiling and lining the dry section of the canal from Drayton Beauchamp to Little Tring. See *Restoration* section in this leaflet.

A fuller guide to the past, current and planned restoration work can be found in our booklet:

Restoration – the Rebirth of the Wendover Arm Canal

The Trust is run by a dedicated team of volunteers and is a membership organisation. There is no local or national government subsidy and although the Canal & River Trust owns the canal, it is only permitted by legal constraints to carry out essential maintenance to keep the towpath clear and to ensure the supply of water from Wendover reaches the Tring summit at Bulbourne Junction. All monies are raised through grants, donations and fund-raising activities. For more details visit our website

www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk

This edition of the introduction and visitors guide kindly sponsored by:



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Wildlife

The Arm provides a rich ecological environment to support a wide range of flora and fauna. It is home to many ducks, swans, little grebes and moorhens. It is possible to see visiting birds such as herons, kingfishers as well as insects such as dragonflies. Friends of Tring Reservoirs (www.fotr.org.uk) is a local conservation organisation that monitors the wildlife around the Tring reservoirs.

services to Cycle Aylesbury.

Berkhamsted Cycling Campaign (www.tbcc.org.uk) provides similar Arm towpath is part of the cycle network. In Hertfordshire, the Tring & Aston Clinton road below the reservoir

Transport for Buckinghamshire's organisation *Cycle Aylesbury*

A mountain bike and helmet are recommended.

become wet and muddy following heavy rain, making cycling difficult.

Arm but please take care and respect other users including walkers and anglers. The route is flat and mostly in good condition, but parts can

It is possible to cycle the towpath along the length of the Wendover

Cycling

Canal for more information.

See our booklet ***Restoration, the Rebirth of the Wendover Arm***

on our website (www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/bridge-plaques.html)

on the bridge. Full details of the bridge plaques scheme are described

supporters have made a donation in return for a personalised plaque

There is a large selection of dedication plaques on the footbridges –

and installed by the Trust so footpaths can cross the completed canal.

Either side of Whitehouses two wooden footbridges were purchased

www.wendoverarmtrust/restoration

For work party dates and information go to:

answer any questions you may have.

to see the restoration volunteers at work and they are always happy to

Regular work parties are held. Visitors are welcome at the work site

and spoil is backfilled to create the finished banks.

which will be hidden below the water level. Coir rolls line the top

makes the canal water-tight; this is protected with concrete blocks.

flat base ready for lining with the clay based liner Bentomat® that

heavy plant equipment to excavate earth to create sloping sides with a

dry canal that adjoin the current working area. Restoration volunteers use

water. Continue towards Little Tring, you will see completed sections of

sections of canal that have already been restored and are already in

Drayton Beauchamp Bridge: from there head east along the towpath past

from Drayton Beauchamp to Little Tring. There is limited parking at

Current work is focussed on re-profiling and lining the section of canal

Restoration

Facilities

The letters or figures in this section relate to points on the map inside.

Toilets:

None on the canal itself. There are public toilets in Wendover and Tring and most public houses and cafés have toilets for customers.

Access:

Except at Little Tring there is a **towpath** all the way along the Arm but it is narrow and uneven in places and can become muddy in wet weather. Walking boots are advisable. (see the *Walking* section in this leaflet for details of the Little Tring footpath diversion.)

Disabled access:

There is step-free access at Wharf Road, Wendover(A), Halton Village (D), Buckland Wharf (F), Drayton Beauchamp (G) and Bulbourne Junction (K) and some lengths of the towpath can be accessed by those with a disability.

Road Crossings:

The towpath meets a road in three place along the Arm and continues on the opposite side of the canal.

Halton Village (D)

Buckland Wharf (F)

Gannet Bridge, New Mill, Tring (J)

There are traffic hazards at all three places and you should take due care in making your crossings.

Benches:

There are numerous benches situated along the Arm so sit down, rest your legs and enjoy the scenery!

Refreshments:

There are no shops, pubs or cafés along the Arm itself but you will find a variety of establishments a short walk from the towpath.

Wendover:

Plenty of shops, pubs and cafes in the town centre, a short walk from Wharf Road.

Halton Village:

Limited availability Halton Tennis Centre,

St Michael and All Angels Church.

Aston Clinton: (a short walk from Wellonhead bridge)

Crows Nest, hotel pub and restaurant (11)

Café in the Park (12)

The Bell, Gastro pub and hotel (13)

Tring:

Plenty of shops, pubs and cafes in the town centre.

Bulbourne:

The Grand Junction Arms, Gastro Pub (2)

Tring Garden Centre, Café (3)

Wilstone: (a short walk from footbridge 4)

P.E. Mead & Sons, Farm Shop and Café (7)

The Half Moon public house (8)

Marsworth:

Bluebells Tea Rooms (4)

The Anglers Retreat public house (5)

The Red Lion public house (6)



Whitehouses: The remains of a second pumping station built in 1802 to pump water from Wilstone Reservoir into the Arm. A nature trail to the site leads from bridge 4 and there are information boards there.

Drayton Beauchamp church: St Mary the Virgin is a beautiful Grade I listed church (www.s-marys.org.uk) dating from the 15th century with earlier features such as a 12th century Norman font and 13th century brasses. The church can be accessed by steep steps from the canal towpath between Saxonway Bridge and Drayton Beauchamp Bridge. It is open weekends from April to September and other times by arrangement. There is a portaloo in the churchyard.

Green Park and the Narrows: This was the location of Sir Anthony Nathan Rothschild's home, Aston Clinton House – demolished in the 1950s. A section of the canal adjacent to Green Park leaked so badly that it apparently flooded the dining room. To overcome this problem the canal banks were lined with concrete to form *The Narrows*, a feature that can still be seen today.

Halton: The canal passes through the village, home to RAF Halton. Halton House was a weekend retreat for Alfred Rothschild, and is now the Officers' Mess. The airfield can be seen from the canal and the ornate Rothschild Bridge links Halton House with the airfield.

The Wides: Leaving Wendover behind, the canal opens up at The Wides, originally a millpond for St John's Mill at Halton, now a reed bed and home to a variety of wildlife.

Little Tring Bridge: is deceptive: it is actually a concrete structure faced with hand-made bricks. The bridge was rebuilt in 2001 in the style of the original bridge, using funds provided by the Trust, and is a striking addition to the local canal-side architecture.

Tringford Pumping Station: is a Grade II listed building housing pumps that take water from the Tring Reservoirs up to the Wendover Arm, where it flows into the main Grand Union at Bulbourne Junction. It was built in 1817 with a Boulton and Watt steam engine that was in service until 1927. Electric pumps were installed in 1928.

Cammel Wharf: is an industrial site beside the canal. Flour was milled using steam power and wind power from the on-site windmill (later demolished). The site is now operated by Heygates and continues to produce flour. Until 1952 Bushell Brothers operated an iconic boat yard alongside

Bulbourne Junction: At Marsworth top lock the Arm leads off to the west. Opposite the entrance to the arm is a working dry dock that was the original canal lock and is alongside the wide lock no. 45 built as part of the extensive refurbishment of the Grand Union in the 1930s. On the towpath side is the Toll House and on the opposite side 200 yards along the summit level are the Grade II listed workshops that made lock gates until the early 2000s

Brief History of the Wendover Arm

The Grand Union Canal, (originally the Grand Junction Canal) is a major inland waterway linking London and the Midlands. As the route reached its summit at Tring in the Chiltern Hills a continuous supply of water was required to replace that lost by the use of the locks at both ends. To overcome this problem, an Act of Parliament was initiated and the construction of the **Wendover Arm** was authorised to carry spring water from a plentiful supply at Wendover to the Tring Summit and its reservoirs.

Construction began in 1793. It was made navigable for a small additional cost and the Arm opened in 1797. the Arm starts in Buckinghamshire at Wharf Road, Wendover, although the water rises from the Wellhead Springs near St Mary's Church. The Arm winds its way for 6¾ miles through the villages of Halton, Buckland Wharf, Drayton Beauchamp and Little Tring following the 390ft contour around the Chiltern Hills before joining the main Grand Union Canal at Bulbourne Junction, near Tring in Hertfordshire. Initially the canal was a success but large volumes of water were being lost due to leakage. Despite many attempts to re-line the canal bed, the leakage increased and the canal closed to navigation in 1904. Sections remained in water in order to fulfil its original objective of feeding water into the canal's summit level: part of the length was reduced in depth and part (a middle section of about 1¾ miles) was allowed to become dry and water was fed to the summit level by a pipe under the canal bed. The initial objective of the Wendover Arm Trust is to restore the dry section to navigation and its ultimate objective is to restore navigation back to Wendover.

In the boxes around the map are places of interest along the Arm.

Wendover Water Gauge: At the very start of the Arm in Wharf Road there is a water flow gauge that has been recording flow rates since 1844, one of the longest continuous measurements in the world.

LOCATIONS

- 1 Tring Station
- 2 The Grand Junction Arms PH, Bulbourne
- 3 Tring Garden Centre Café
- 4 Bluebell's Tea Rooms, Marsworth
- 5 The Angler's Retreat PH, Marsworth
- 6 The Red Lion PH, Marsworth
- 7 PE Mead and Sons Café, Wilstone
- 8 The Half Moon PH, Wilstone
- 9 Bridge 4a
- 10 Bridge 4a
- 11 Crows Nest, hotel, pub and restaurant
- 12 Café in the Park, Aston Clinton
- 13 The Bell, Aston Clinton, Gastro pub and hotel
- 14 Wendover Station

LEGEND

ACCESS POINTS

- A Wharf Road, Wendover
- B Bankside, Wendover
- C Perch Bridge, Halton Lane, Halton
- D Halton Village
- E Wellonhead Bridge, Stablebridge Road, Aston Clinton
- F Buckland Wharf, Aston Clinton
- G Drayton Beauchamp Village (bridge 5)
- H Little Tring Bridge (bridge 3)
- J Cammel Bridge, (bridge 2) New Mill, Tring
- K Bulbourne Junction (bridge 1)

CANAL STATUS

- Dry – awaiting restoration
- Shallow water – awaiting restoration
- Dry – restored awaiting water
- Restored – shallow water
- Restored – navigable
- Navigable

- ➔ Station
- P Parking

Acknowledgments: The map contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright 2014
Cover picture: The stop-lock and pumping station, Little Tring on opening day of the phase I restoration