



Ideals

The English Narrow Canals

The Seven Wonders of the Waterways

The Ideals - english narrow Canals - then... and now?

When planning the canal in 1795/96 Austria had no experience with navigable canals. In those times the industrial ideal was England. Although the technique of building canals had been developed before on the main land England built economic canals used for the so called „Narrowboats“. The planner of the Austrian canal Sebastian von Maillard travelled with a group of experts to the English and Scottish existing canals and the canals in progress and visited horsecars and the recently in Cardiff opened first steam railway.

The following virtual journey leaves from London on the Thames to canals that already existed in 1795/1796 and ends at the Bridgewater Canal in the former coal-mining area and stronghold of der cotton mills around Manchester. The Bridgewater Canal was opened in 1761 and is known as first navigable waterway of the then modern narrow canals in England.



When S. v. Maillard travelled Great Britain at the end of the 18th century there were already about 40 narrow canals operating. In the heyday of the navigable canals in the 19th century there were over 100 navigable canals for freight. Nowadays the onlinelexicon wasserwege.eu knows about 70 touristy used canals in Great Britain.


The waterway via ship from London up to the Bridgewater Canal (Manchester) that might have been visited by Maillard has been navigable at its time like this:

- Thames River
- Oxford Canal
- Coventry Canal
- Trent & Mersey Canal
- Bridgewater Canal


The canals were „children“ of the industrialisation. With the decline of the classic industrialisation also the canals and their maintenance came to a head. But the British are proud of their heritage and connect people with history. So besides the government facilities also the IWA „Inland Waterways Association“ with 16.000 members takes care of the maintenance and and manysided use of the historic heritage.

The Seven Wonders of the Waterways

The seven wonders of the waterways refer to the seven most eye-catching buildings of the english canals in Robert Aickman's book „Know Your Waterways“ (co-founder of the Inland Waterways Association which took care of the maintenance of the historic canals). The book was published approximately 50 years ago. In the meantime new wonders have been added and there are different compilations.

<p>1. Highest aqueduct, Wales, H= 131ft, 1805</p>  <p>Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on the Llangollen C.²</p>	<p>4. Sole rotatable aqueduct, 1894</p>  <p>Barton Swing Aqueduct on the Bridgewater C.³</p>	<p>7. Longest (5.249ft)/highest dam (59ft), 1816</p>  <p>Burnley Embankment on the Leeds & Liverpool C.⁴</p>
<p>2. Longest tunnel, appr. 1.6404ft, 1811</p>  <p>Standedge Tunnel on the Huddersfield C.⁵</p>	<p>5. World's First hydraulic ship hoist, 1875</p>  <p>Anderton Boat Lift, Riv. Weaver, Trent & Mersey⁶</p>	<p>„Giant Weel“-ship hoist opened in 2002</p>  <p>Falkirk Wheel, links the rivers Clyde u. Forth⁷</p>
<p>3. a flight of 29 locks (236ft, 10498ft), 1810</p>  <p>Caen Hill Lock Flight on the Kennet & Avon⁸</p>	<p>6. five locks without pounds between, 1774</p>  <p>Bingley Five Rise Locks on the Leeds & Liverpool C.⁹</p>	<p>one of the swing bridges at Leeds u. Liverpool Kanal</p>  <p>Leeds and Liverpool Swing Bridge¹⁰</p>

Sebastian of Maillard's virtual study trip (planner of the Wiener Neustädter Kanal) in 1795/96

<p>Thames</p> 	<p>The river Thames 1.246.719ft long became one of the most navigated waterways in the world of the 18th century. This was on the one hand due to the fact that London was the center of the British Empire and on the other hand due to the since 1790 navigable canal to the rich in coal Midlands via the Oxford and Coventry canal. With the existence of the Kennet and Avon Canal England has a continuous east-west connection on waterways between Dover and Bristol since 1810. The Thames originates from a height of 360ft above sea level that needs to be overcome by 45 locks. The former haul canal (approx. 951443ft) along the Thames is nowadays a national trail, a long distance hiking trail.</p>
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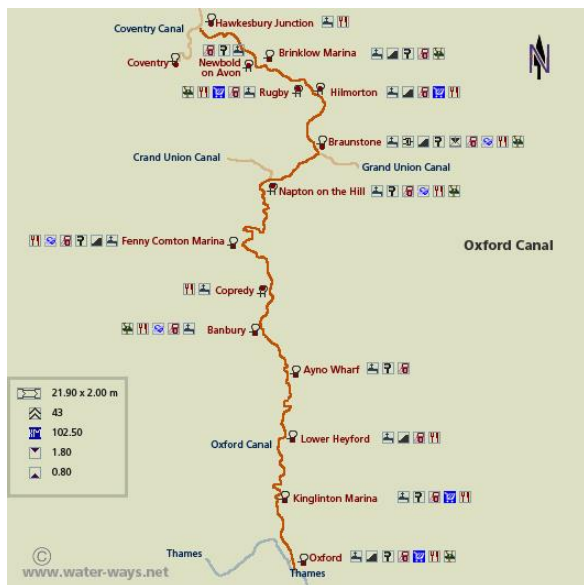
Oxford Canal



The Oxford canal leads through a to a large extent virgin soil from Oxford to Coventry; it was once an important connection between London and the Midlands around Birmingham, the center of coal production and industrialisation. The process of building took from 1769 – 1790. Then the 410.104ft waterway was navigable.

After the Grand Union Canal (that was bigger, broader and more modern) was built the volume of cargo moved there. But the Oxford canal was in use for carriage of freight up to 1960ies. It then fell into oblivion until tourism awoke it. Nowadays the canal is one of the main attractions for fans of narrow boats.

The canal has 46 locks (including secondary canals). The boats measure 71 x 6ft.



Hawkesbury Junction¹¹



Going Down Napton¹²



Braunston Turn¹³

Coventry Canal



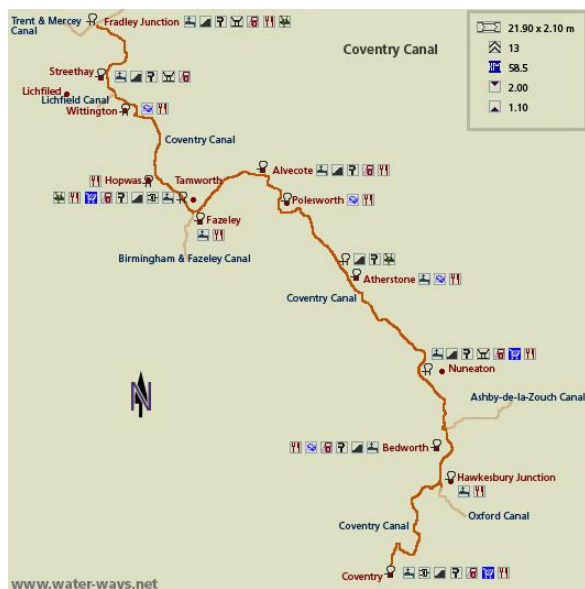
The Coventry canal links Coventry to the Trent & Mersey Canal at Fradley Junction.

The transition from the Oxford canal takes place at the Hawkesbury Junction.

The Coventry canal is also linked to Ashby canal as well as to the Birmingham-and-Fazeley-canal and the Grand-Union-canal.

All in all these canals form the Warwickshire ring an among boat tourists popular circuit.

The Coventry canal is about 200.131ft long and was built between 1769 and 1790. It has 13 locks and can be navigated by narrow boats (71 x 7ft) .



Coventry Canal, house at Hartshill Yard¹⁴



Coal Yard in Atherston¹⁵



Coventry & Oxford Canals at Hawkesbury Junction¹⁶

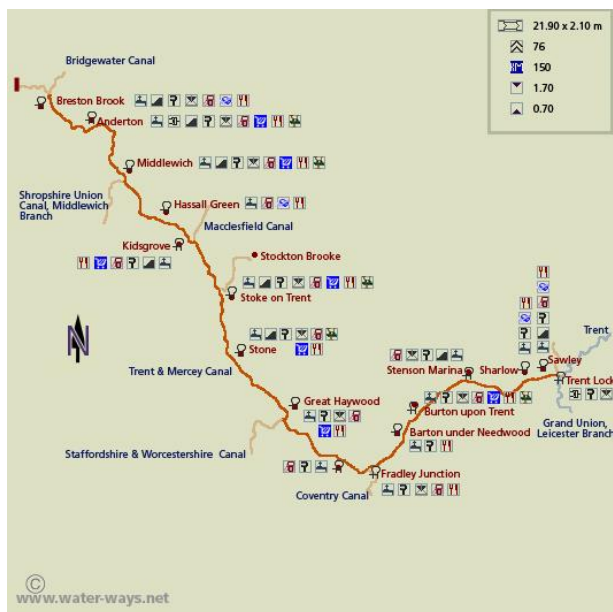
Trent & Mersey Canal



The Trent & Mersey Canal was opened in 1777; it divides to a western and an eastern section at the Fradley Junction where the Coventry canal detours. With a length of 492.125ft it is the longest in here described canal. Sights are the 8530ft Harecastle Tunnel at Kidsgrove and the Anderton boat lift. Maillard is said that he was freaked out by tunnels and therefore he took the level of the Wiener Neustädter canal so no tunnels were necessary. The canal has 76 locks and is navigable by narrow boats.



Shipping pier at Anderton ¹⁷



Harecastle Tunnel ¹⁸



The ships Maria a. Patricia ate Marbury at T & M canal ¹⁹



Entry to Anderton Boat Lift ²⁰

Bridgewater Canal



The Bridgewater canal, built in 1761, was the first canal to accelerate the industrialisation. It has a length of 209.973 ft and does not need locks on the main branch. The canal era and its technology are inextricably linked to James Brindley (picture left).



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Horse drawn Puppis near Preston Brook c.1976²²



Bridgewater Canal, Crossing the Manchester Ship Canal²³



The Bridgewater canal is deeply integrated into public life and local recreation.²⁴



Bridgewater Canal, Worsley²⁵

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- ¹ <http://www.water-ways.net/d/info/grossbritannien/index.php>
 - ² http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llangollen-Kanal#mediaviewer/File:Under_Pontcysyllte.jpg
 - ³ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barton_Swing_Aqueduct#mediaviewer/File:Barton_Swing_Aqueduct.jpg
 - ⁴ <http://www.penninewaterways.co.uk/II/II54.htm>
 - ⁵ http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Standedge_Tunnels?uselang=de#mediaviewer/File:Standedge-tunnel.jpg
 - ⁶ http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schiffshebewerk_Anderton#mediaviewer/File:Anderton_Boat_Lift.jpg
 - ⁷ <https://plus.google.com/+TheFalkirkWheel/about?pid=6025928643522460946&oid=110522110799480174093>
 - ⁸ <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/directory/3044/caen-hill-locks>
 - ⁹ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/leeds_liverpool_canal/photo_gallery?force_theme_id=&pageID=2#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/0/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/leeds_liverpool_canal/photo_gallery?force_theme_id=&pageID=2#prettyPhoto[gallery]/0/) Jacqui Hatcher
 - ¹⁰ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/leeds_liverpool_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/2/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/leeds_liverpool_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/2/) Jennifer Mitchener
 - ¹¹ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/oxford_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/11/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/oxford_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/11/) Phil Sharpe
 - ¹² [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/oxford_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/3/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/oxford_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/3/) Pete Outram
 - ¹³ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/oxford_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/1/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/oxford_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/1/) Adam Porter
 - ¹⁴ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/coventry_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/8/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/coventry_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/8/) Phil Sharpe
 - ¹⁵ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/coventry_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/3/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/coventry_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/3/) Steve Hayes
 - ¹⁶ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/coventry_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/6/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/coventry_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/6/) Phil Sharpe
 - ¹⁷ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/trent_and_mersey/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/1/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/trent_and_mersey/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/1/) Derrek Quilliam
 - ¹⁸ <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fa/HarecastleNorth.JPG>
 - ¹⁹ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/trent_and_mersey/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/2/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/trent_and_mersey/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/2/) Derek Quilliam
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 - ²¹ <http://www.bridgewatercanal.co.uk/todo/>
 - ²² [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/bridgewater_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/3/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/bridgewater_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/3/) Derek Quilliam
 - ²³ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/bridgewater_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/6/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/bridgewater_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/6/) Jacqui Hatcher
 - ²⁴ <http://www.bridgewatercanal.co.uk/todo/events>
 - ²⁵ [https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/bridgewater_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto\[gallery\]/8/](https://www.waterways.org.uk/waterways/canals_rivers/bridgewater_canal/photo_gallery#prettyPhoto[gallery]/8/) A&G. Padfield