

Kennet & Avon Canal Devizes Wharf Trail

The Trail

The [Devizes Wharf Trail](#) begins at the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Museum on the wharf near the centre of Devizes and ends at Kennet Lock near Town Bridge, a distance of approximately half a mile. The walk, with stops, can be completed in about 30 minutes.

The trail can be linked with the [Caen Hill Trail](#) by walking along the towpath between Kennet Lock and the Queen Elizabeth II Lock near the Caen Hill Cafe. This is a little under a mile, and should take approximately 20 minutes. In this case, start the Caen Hill Trail at Stop 2, finishing with stops 4 and 1 near the car park.

You might like to complete the trails before or after a visit to the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Museum.

The Answers

Sheet 2 Answers

Stop 1: The wooden building was originally constructed as a warehouse to store grain from the local area before being sent by canal to the flour mills at Newbury. From 1898 to 1946, the building was a bonded warehouse storing imported wines and spirits brought to Devizes by canal for onward distribution by road. To reach Stop 2, walk **away** from the canal and turn left round the back of the museum building to access the footpath alongside Couch Lane. Walk towards the canal, cross the bridge, and turn left onto the towpath.

Stop 2: The wharf was completed in 1810, the year the canal opened. Imported goods included coal from the Somerset coalfield, Bath stone for building local houses, and manufactured goods from the Midlands. The old warehouse on the wharf is now used as a theatre. The adjacent storage area is now part of the public car park.

Sheet 3 Answers

Stop 3: The single-storey building on the Lower Wharf is an old forge. Wrought iron goods hammered into shape in the forge would have included tools, knives, hinges and nails, not just horseshoes. The wharf is now used by a brewery. Water is pumped up from the bottom of the flight to re-cycle the water used as boats pass through the locks.

Stop 4: Town Bridge and the old canal company house beside Kennet Lock were built with Bath Stone brought along the canal to the foot of Caen Hill. The brick building to the left of the house was built as stables for the horses that pulled the canal boats.

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