

Kennet & Avon Canal Caen Hill Trail

The Trail

The [Caen Hill Trail](#) is a circular walk beginning and ending at the British Waterways car park beside the Caen Hill flight of locks, a mile south of Devizes in Wiltshire. The walk, with stops, can be completed in about 30 minutes. You might like to complete the trail before or after a visit to the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust Museum at Devizes Wharf.

The Answers

Sheet 2 Answers

Stop 1: The information board explains the working of the locks. The lock gates hold back the water until the water in the lock is at the same level as the water on the other side of the lock gates. A flight of 16 locks was needed as the hillside is very steep. The side ponds store water to ensure that there is enough to fill the locks.

Stop 2: The plaque was unveiled by HRH The Prince of Wales on 23 May 2003. The steps on the side of the lock are there in case anyone falls into the lock and has to climb out.

Sheet 3 Answers

Stop 3: Her Majesty The Queen re-opened the canal on 8 August 1990. The cottage was built at the top of the flight so the lock-keeper could look down the whole flight of locks. The cottage is now used by British Waterways as a cafe and information centre.

Stop 4: Other birds that might be spotted on the side ponds include coots and moorhens, Canada geese and herons. In addition, 13 species of dragonfly have been recorded.

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