

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHICHESTER CANAL

- 1819 Construction authorised by Parliament
- 1822 Canal opened. Total length from Chichester to the sea 4 miles, and could take vessels up to 150 tons.
- 1892 Ownership transferred from the Portsmouth and Arundel Navigation Company to Chichester City Council.
- 1906 The last commercial cargo carried.
- 1928 Chichester City Council abandoned the canal.
- 1957 WSCC purchased the canal from Chichester City Council.
- 1972 The main part of the canal let to the Chichester Anglers' Association for a term of 28 years.
- 1984 The Anglers relinquish their lease which, is taken over by the Chichester Canal Society, now the Chichester Ship Canal Trust.



CHICHESTER CANAL BASIN

Parking Angling Canoeing Rowboating Tripboat

STOCKBRIDGE

DONNINGTON

Parking HUNSTON

CHICHESTER MARINA

HOW TO JOIN THE CHICHESTER SHIP CANAL TRUST

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BIRDHAM

Help to improve and restore the Canal by joining the Trust. The Chichester Ship Canal Trust is a registered charity dedicated to the restoration and re-opening of this historic waterway to through-navigation between Chichester and the Harbour. Please support our aims by joining the Trust - details above.

Salterns Lock The Spinnaker Bar

A nice variety of common waterfowl can be seen here

Pizza Pasta Pub

Pub The Blacksmith Arms

The Spotted Cow Pub

Turner painted the canal, the cathedral, from this spot 1828.

Site of old Poyntz Bridge

Wophams Lane



Take a ride on our trip boats

Trips lasting just over an hour on our scheduled sailings, which are accessible to disabled and elderly people, leave from the Canal Basin. Further information including details of charters is available at the Canal Basin or you can telephone the number included inside this leaflet.



Come Rowboating on the Canal

Skiffs can be hired at the Canal Basin between March and October. What could be better than a leisurely row down the Canal?



Canoeing and small boats

Canoeing is permitted by arrangement for a small charge. If you wish to canoe on the Canal, you can purchase a day permit at the Canal Basin or apply for an annual licence.



Angling

The stretch of Canal between Chichester and Donnington Bridge is renowned for its coarse fishing. Carp are plentiful and there are good stocks of roach, rudd, perch, bream and tench as well as some monster pike. There are also some chub and dace together with gudgeon and eels. Day, weekly and season tickets can be purchased from the bailiff.



Take a stroll down the Towpath

The Chichester Canal runs for 4 miles from the Canal Basin in Chichester to the Harbour at Birdham, most of the way through open farmland; just the place to take a stroll or have a picnic.

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Watch out for Wild Flowers

As the Canal has not been used commercially for many years, it has been colonised by a range of our more unusual wild flowers and plants.



Willow-herb, yellow flag, meadowsweet, speedwell and the less common water plantain, dock and lesser water parsnip are all to be found there. See how many different varieties you can identify!

Painting

The towpath has been a popular spot for artists ever since



J.M.W. Turner painted his famous picture of the Chichester Canal and Cathedral in 1828, whilst staying at Petworth House.



Try some Bird Watching

The Canal is habitat for a wide range of bird life. As well as the more common waterfowl – moorhens, coots, mallard and swans – birds such as the heron, kingfisher, whitethroat, common sandpiper, spotted flycatcher and greater spotted woodpecker can be seen. Sedge and reed warblers visit the Canal in the summer. For the sharp-eyed observer there may be other unusual sightings in store!

Cycling

Cycling is permitted on the towpath, but please give way to pedestrians and show consideration to all other users by keeping your speed down. The towpath is narrow in places so due care must be taken.

Car Parking

Visitors' car parking is available at the Canal Basin, on the A27 By-Pass Bridge, in Hunston Car Park and at Chichester Marina.



In partnership with



THE CHICHESTER SHIP CANAL MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

