

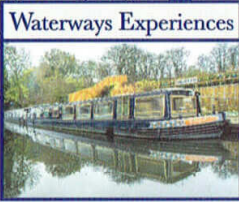
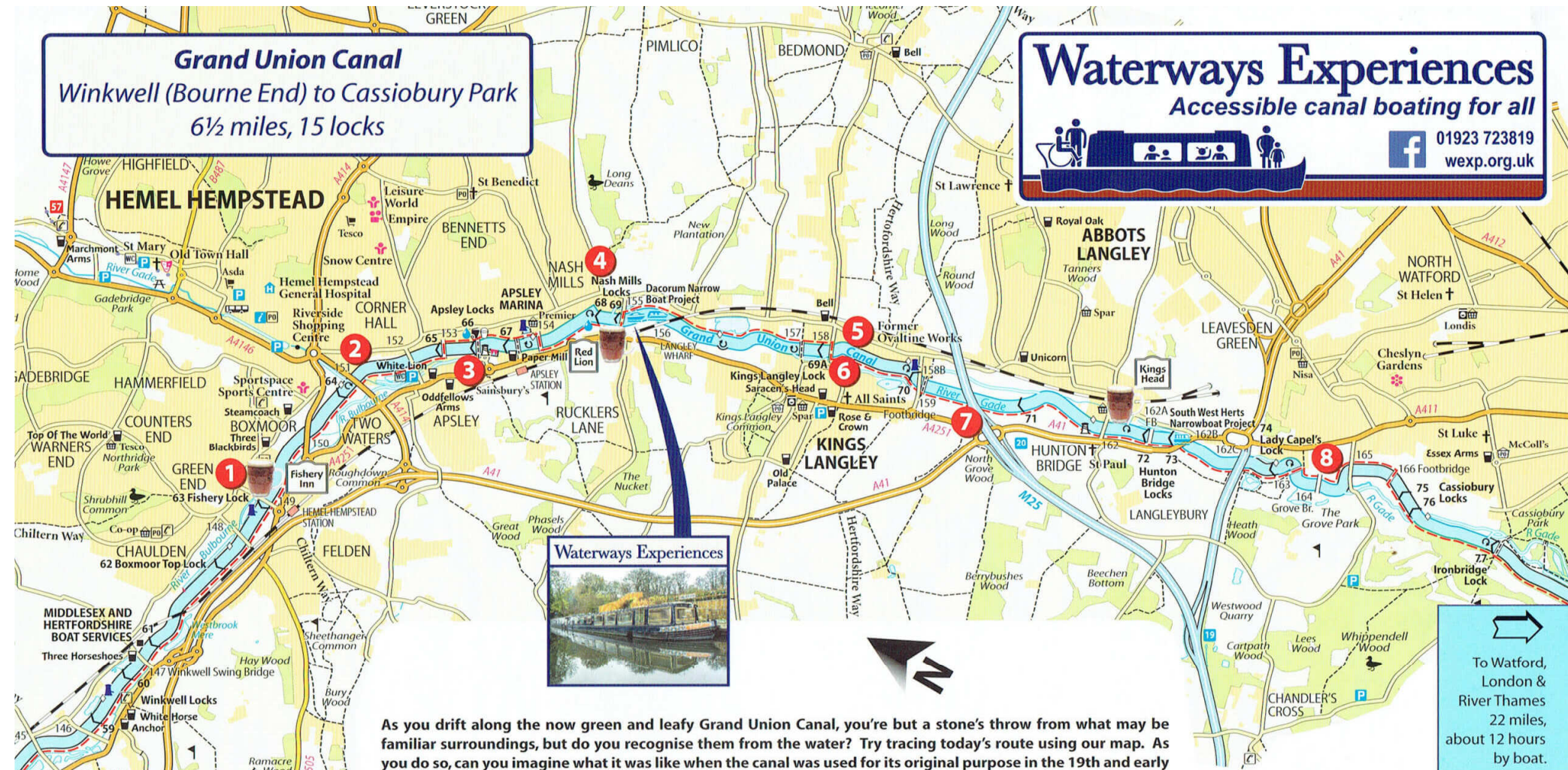
Grand Union Canal
Winkwell (Bourne End) to Cassiobury Park
6½ miles, 15 locks

Waterways Experiences

Accessible canal boating for all



01923 723819
wexp.org.uk



To Watford, London & River Thames
22 miles, about 12 hours by boat.

To Berkhamsted, Northampton & Birmingham
108 miles, about 60 hours by boat.

As you drift along the now green and leafy Grand Union Canal, you're but a stone's throw from what may be familiar surroundings, but do you recognise them from the water? Try tracing today's route using our map. As you do so, can you imagine what it was like when the canal was used for its original purpose in the 19th and early 20th centuries?

- 1 Fishery Inn** A particularly popular stopover for 19th century boat people who'd take advantage of Saturday late night food shopping in the village and good grazing and stabling for the boat horses. The Inn Keeper was James Austin.
- 2 Boxmoor Wharf** Now dominated by B&Q. Had you been here at the beginning of the last century, it's Lime Juice, coal and timber that you would have seen being loaded or unloaded rather than carloads of people!
Just to the east of the Two Waters Bridge, **Sunnyside Rural Trust** now runs the former council nurseries, trading as Hemel Food Garden. If time allows, you might be able to have a quick stop off at their farm shop - ask your skipper.
- 3 Sainsbury's** Until 1992 paper works ran all the way along the canal from Sainsbury's southwards past the Marina to the lock above our boat base. Find out more by visiting the Paper Trail.

- 4 Nash Mills** With the canal playing front of house, it's easy to forget that in bygone days, it was the rivers Gade and Bulbourne that powered local industry. In the early 1800s, John Dickinson started buying up the area's corn mills and turned them into paper-making factories.
When the canal arrived it needed to draw water from the rivers to create a navigable channel with locks to 'step' up or down the valley. This led to problems for mill owners who often found their water flow reduced. John Dickinson forced the Grand Junction Canal Company to re-route to protect his mills.
- 5 Ovaltine** The popular milk, egg and malt bedtime drink used to be manufactured here. The eggs came from two farms now overshadowed by the wind turbine that you see from the M25.
- 6** Watch out for the Loch Ness Monster!

- 7** M25 crossing - compare its design with traditional canal bridges.
- 8 Grove Bridge** What is now the Grove Hotel once belonged to the Earls of Essex and Clarendon. They did not want their grand park sullied by a coarse canal, so insisted that the Grand Junction Canal Company made it a winding route with an elegant bridge and water lilies along the bank - something of an inconvenience for the working boatmen!



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