

Visit Tapton Lock for:

- Picnic area and sensory garden.
- Information and seasonal displays.
- Free leaflets for walking and cycling.
- Fishing permits and boating licences.
- Hot and cold drinks.
- Ice cream and confectionery.
- Maps and books.
- Gifts and souvenirs.
- Nesting boxes.
- Duck food.

All facilities around the Visitor Centre are fully accessible.



Tapton Lock Visitor Centre

Lockford Lane, Chesterfield, S41 7JB
Tel: 01246 551035.



Tapton Lock Visitor Centre

Chesterfield

FREE



Visitor Centre opening hours:

Open: 10am - 4pm, 7 days a week, all year round (closed 1pm - 1.45pm, Monday to Friday).

Closed: (Christmas Day).

N.B. Visitor Centre hours are subject to change, please check our webpage www.derbyshire.gov.uk/taptonlock or our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TaptonLock/>

Toilet facilities/upstairs information area:

Open all year round: 9am - 4pm.

For further information contact:

Derbyshire County Council, Economy, Transport and Communities Department, Shand House, Dale Road South, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3RY.

Call Derbyshire 01629 533190

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside
www.facebook.com/derbyshirecountryside
For public transport information contact Traveline 0871 200 22 33



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Tapton Lock Visitor Centre

The visitor centre is a brilliant place to visit and a great place to start exploring the Chesterfield Canal and Bluebank Pools Local Nature Reserve.

Come inside

You'll find the Visitor Centre on the ground floor of the building, furthest away from the road. We are only small but packed with information and things to do. Our friendly and informative staff have lots of ideas to help you make the most of your visit. Why not have a drink or ice cream while you browse our books and souvenirs?

Take a break outside

Bring your picnic and stay a while enjoying the peace of the canal.

Watch the trip boat cruising through the lock on a Sunday afternoon or buy some duck food from the Visitor Centre.

Walking and cycling leaflets

Get your bike out or your walking boots on! We have lots of information to help you get out and about. Take yourself on a short easy walk from Tapton Lock or on a longer cycle ride along the Trans Pennine Trail. Pick up a leaflet to help you explore North East Derbyshire and all it has to offer.

Boat trips

Enjoy a trip on the Chesterfield Canal Trust boat, 'John Varley', most Sunday afternoons and

Bank Holiday Mondays from Easter to October. Longer trips are also available and you can charter the boat for private parties - we can give you the contact details, just call in and ask.

Wildlife along the canal

A walk on the canal towpath can be full of surprises. You will see many different birds, including visiting grebe and the elusive kingfisher. In the colder months, look out for waxwings in the trees around the Visitor Centre. These beautiful birds, which summer in Scandinavia, often drop in to sample the berries. We've even seen grass snake basking on the towpath or cooling off in the canal on warm summer days.

Volunteering

The Visitor Centre is the base for our Rangers. If you want to get involved, why not join our volunteers. You will make new friends and learn new skills. Call in, or phone us, for more information on 01629 533020.

From left to right: You can explore along the canal on your own mobility scooter or we have an all-terrain Trampler for hire from the Visitor Centre. Kingfishers hunt along the waterway. A wide range of events happen throughout the year.

Events all year round

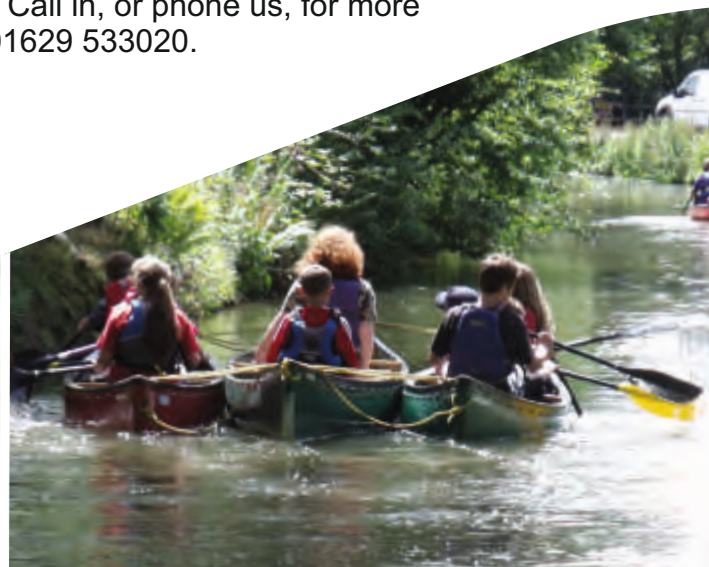
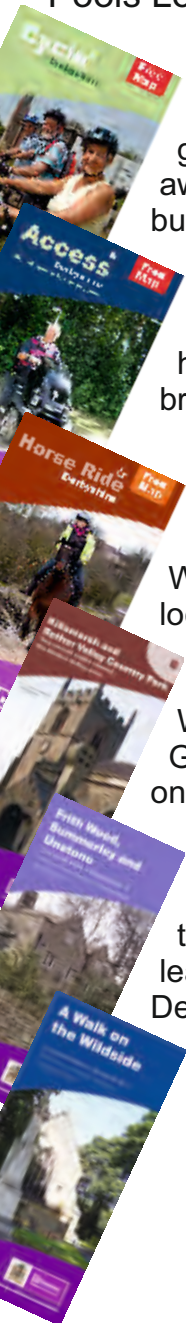
We have lots of events and walks throughout the year - from family fun activities to dawn chorus walks. Pick up an events book, look for our events board or visit our website, to see what's coming up.

Scooter for hire

If you find it hard to get around you can hire our Trampler, an all-terrain mobility scooter, then you can explore the towpath as far as Staveley. The first hour is free. You'll need to bring two forms of identification with you and also a cash deposit. You can just pop in, but it's best to call us and check availability.

If we are closed

The Audio Post, on the towpath opposite the Visitor Centre, tells the story of the Chesterfield Canal. Hear tales from a boatman and a lock keeper and discover things to do.



Chesterfield Canal Green Flag area

What's a Green Flag Award? Why is it so special? You'll have seen Blue Flags at the seaside - well, the Green Flag is the Countryside and Open Spaces equivalent. It means this area is pretty special and well looked after.



From left to right: The John Varley trip boat at Tapton Lock, artwork produced at the Tapton Festival 2013, poppies and other wildflowers grow on the canalside.



The events area

This area is used for all sorts of activities, from canal festivals to pirate days. We've had caravan rallies, canoe taster days and art festivals here. You can also hire this area for your event; call Tapton Lock Visitor Centre for more information, 01629 533020.



The Visitor Centre

At the Visitor Centre you can buy permits to fish or launch your own boat. You can find out about narrow boat trips and any of the events that we run throughout the year. You are welcome to use our picnic tables for your own picnic or you can call into the shop to buy a drink or ice cream.



The canal and towpath are for everyone; walkers, cyclists, mobility scooter users, fishermen, dog walkers and boaters. It is part of the Trans Pennine Trail Southern link.

All we ask is that you respect other users by using the paths sensibly, taking your litter home and clearing up after your dog.

Please remember - Share the towpath with care



National Cycle Network

This sculpture, at St Helena's Floodgate, shows that the canal is part of Route 67 of the National Cycle Network.

From left to right: The Visitor Centre is open all year round with picnic areas and outdoor seating, fun for all the family, commissioned art lines the tunnel near the Visitor Centre, swans are resident all year round.