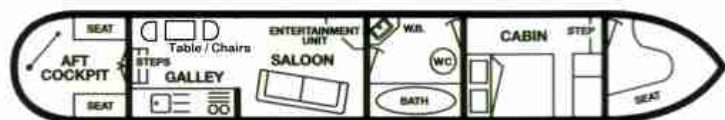


## CANAL BOAT \_ ENGLAND 8. JULY – 15. JULY 2011

Kjell was on a canal boat trip in 1992 and he thought it was a very nice trip. Anne Berit became interested and wanted to go for a trip to see how it was like. We knew that it would be a hard working trip, so we were a bit anxious how it would be. We were now about 20 years older than he was then. We took the chance, anyhow, and booked a trip.

We booked at a company in Great Britain, called [Hoseasons](#). Below are some pictures from their brochure on Internet.

The boat is named [Imogen](#) and the plan view is something like this:



It is about 15m long.

The width is about the same on all boats going on the canals in England. The narrowest width of the canals is allowed to be 2.1m and the boats are usually maximum 2.08m to be able to go through the locks and under the bridges, where it usually is quite narrow.



The boat has all necessary equipment: Kitchen utensils, cooking gas, gas stove, grill, fridge, freezer, TV, CD-player, bath tub, shower, WC, etc..... Absolutely nothing was lacking. There was even a hairdryer.

The boat is powered by a diesel engine, which was very reliable as long as we had it. In short, everything functioned as it should do.

The renting company is called [Napton Narrowboats](#) and lies north west of [Wolverhampton](#). We had some thoughts of how to get there, but in the end we decided to take a plane to [Birmingham](#), train further on to Wolverhampton and taxi from there and to where the boat was lying.

The trip ended then as this:

We went by car very early (04.00 o'clock) the 8<sup>th</sup> of July to [Dalen Parkering](#). From there we were taken to Gardermoen.

06:10 – 07:25 [Oslo, Gardermoen](#) – [København, Kastrup](#).

08:55 – 09:55 [København, Kastrup](#) – [Birmingham](#).

Both of the plain went quite exactly in accordance with the schedule.



Birmingham Airport is located a few kilometers south east of the city. It was opened the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1939.

It is Britain's fifth most busy airport, with nine million passengers a year in 2005.

This is a picture of Terminal 1, which we used.



From the airport to the [railway station](#) goes a track, which is free to use. It is called [AirRail Link](#). There are two cabs, which are alternating back and forth. They are driven by wire and each cab leaves every five minute.

Here comes a cab.

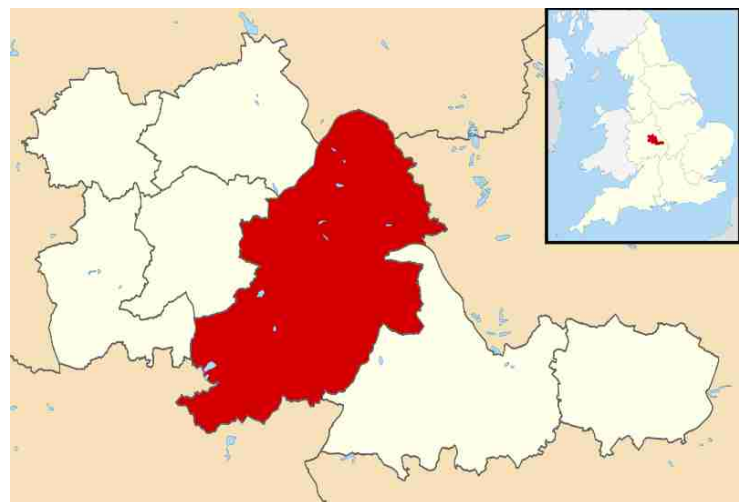


The cab is arriving at the station.

When arriving at the station we bought a ticket to Wolverhampton. It turned out that the first train was leaving in a few minutes. We walked quickly to the right platform, and we reached it just in time.

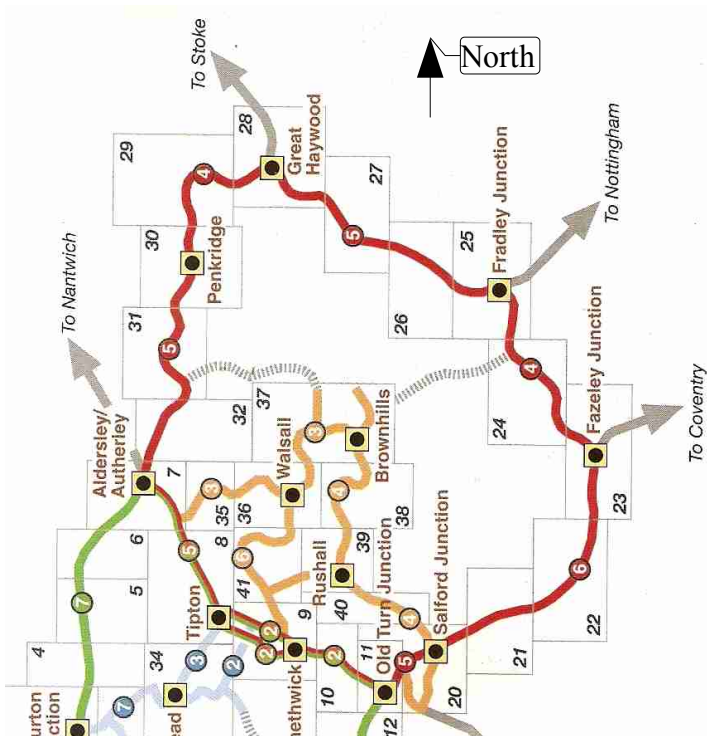
The trip from Birmingham to Wolverhampton took about half an hour.

The taxi driver in Wolverhampton had probably had many passengers to Napton Narrowboats in [Atherley Junction](#), but managed to explain where it was, and he found it without problems.



A

As a matter of form: A map showing the location of Birmingham in England.



This is a map of the stretch we had been thinking of to go. It is called the [Black Country Ring](#).

This name has arisen because of that it in this area was access to much coal and iron and there were a lot of industrial companies here during the industrial revolution during the last century. Now much of this is closed down, and other types of companies have taken over. There was not much soot and smoke to be seen now.

We had planned to go [Atherley](#), [Penkrige](#), [Great Haywood](#), [Fradley Junction](#), [Fazeley Junction](#), [Salford Junction](#), [Old Turn Junction](#), [Smethwick](#), [Tipton](#) and back to Atherley.

This round trip goes through both rural areas, small villages and large cities as Birmingham and Wolverhampton. There are 81 locks on this trip, so it will be a lot of work to operate lock valves and open and close lock gates.



Here we have just started.



Under the first bridge.

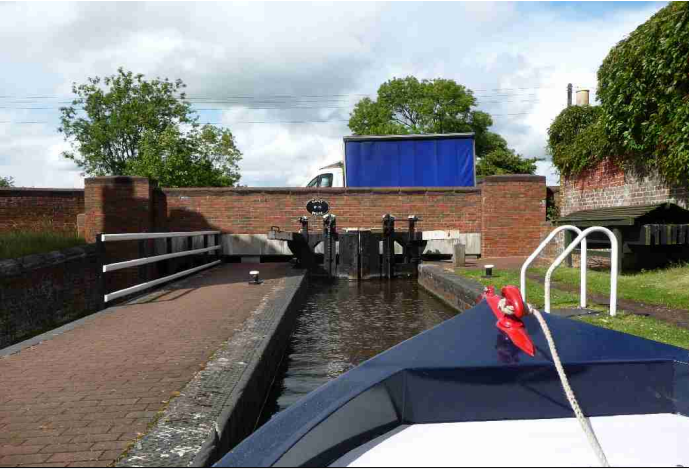


Kjell at the rudder.

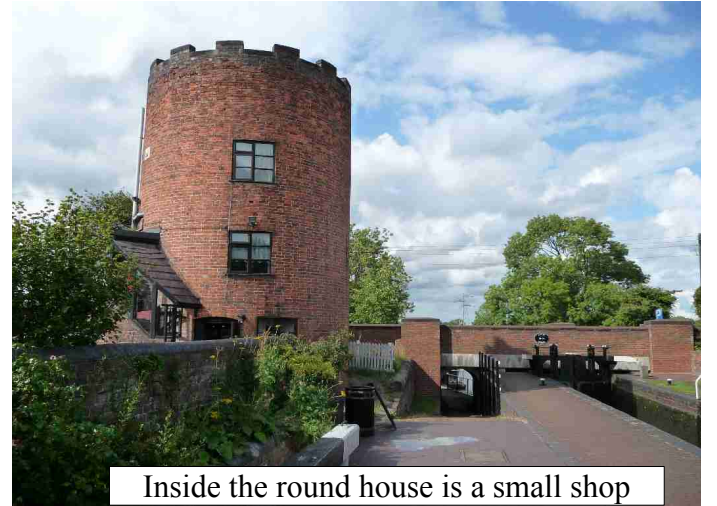


It is allowed to moor anywhere. The only condition is that there will not be problems for others to pass.





The first lock. Here we are going down a couple of meters



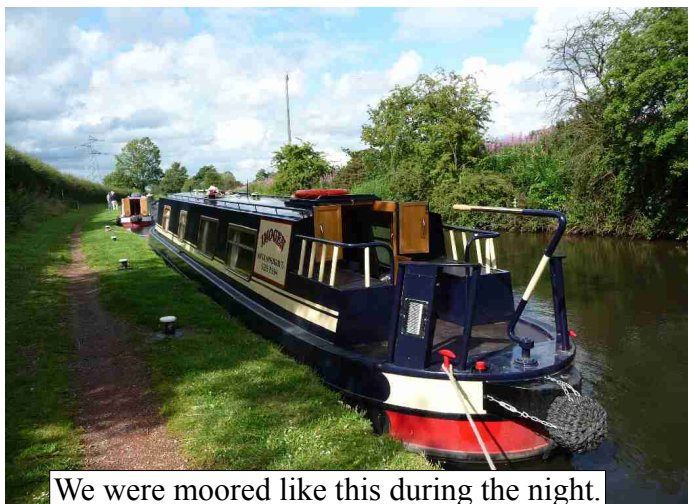
Inside the round house is a small shop



The entrance. We bought milk here



We moored right past the shop



We were moored like this during the night.





We are having a glass of wine before we go early to bed at 20.00



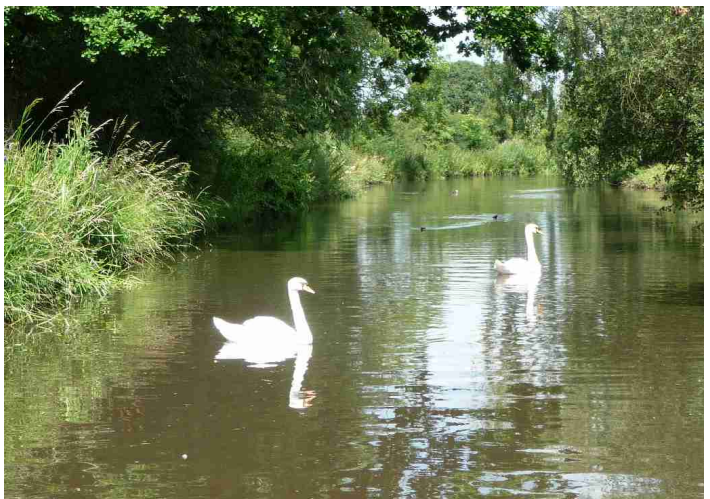
Another boat is coming to moor here too.



The next morning there is breakfast outside in the nice weather

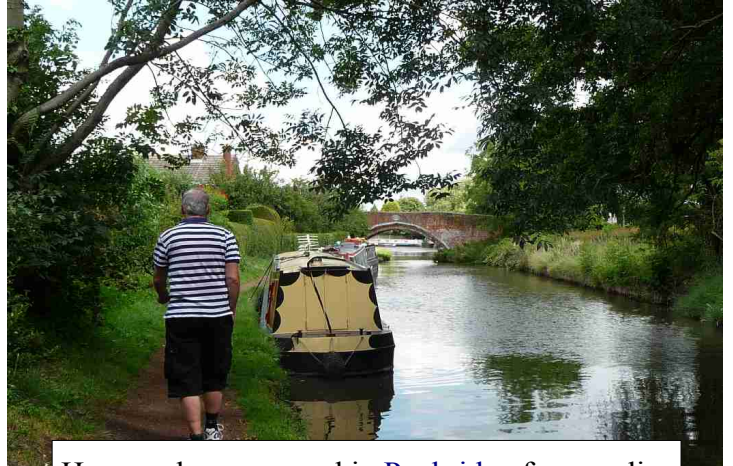


Inside here is a marina





Here is a guy who wants to ask Kjell about something

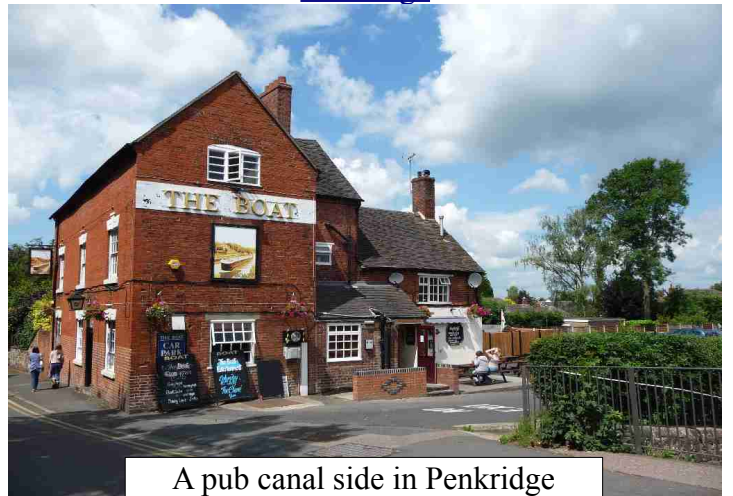


Here we have moored in Penkrige for supplies

Penkrige



Penkrige



A pub canal side in Penkrige





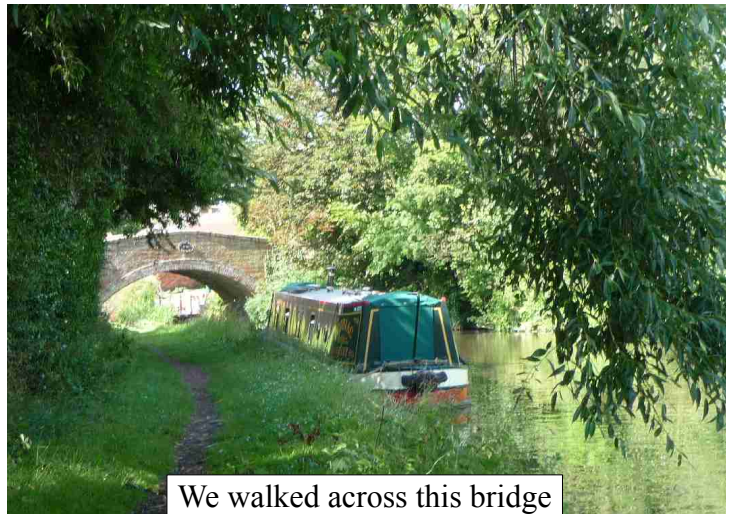
Looking across to Moat House  
[Moat House](#)



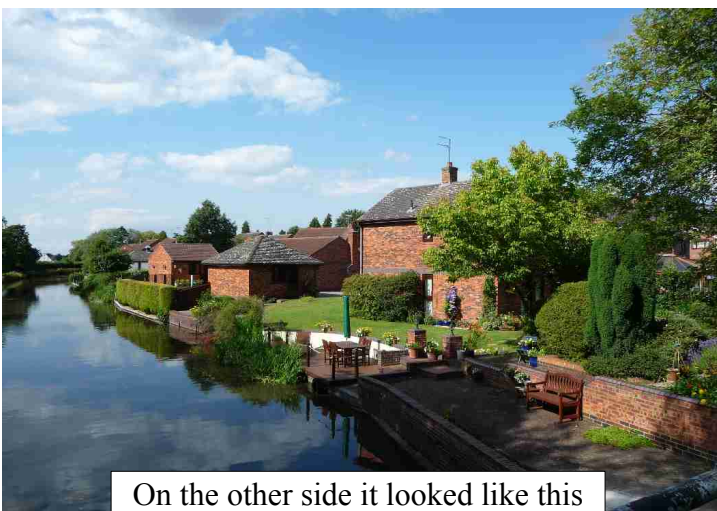
We are planning to cross to have a glass of beer



Kjell is mooring up



We walked across this bridge



On the other side it looked like this



Moat House

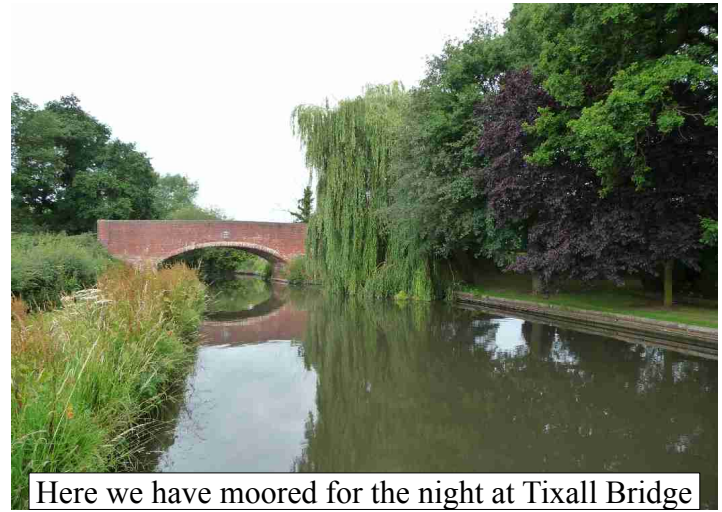




A lot of people were sitting in the park outside



Nice park and good beer



Here we have moored for the night at Tixall Bridge



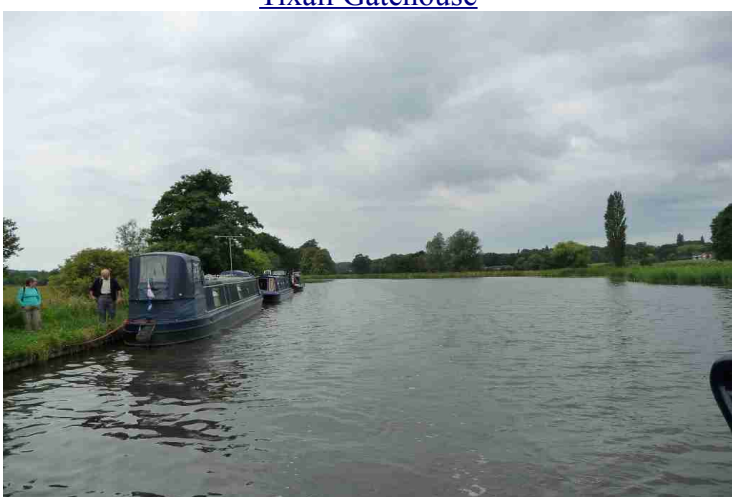
We walked to Milford and had dinner at Barley Mow. They had very good fish. The restaurant was so popular that we had to wait for the table.



Tixall Gatehouse



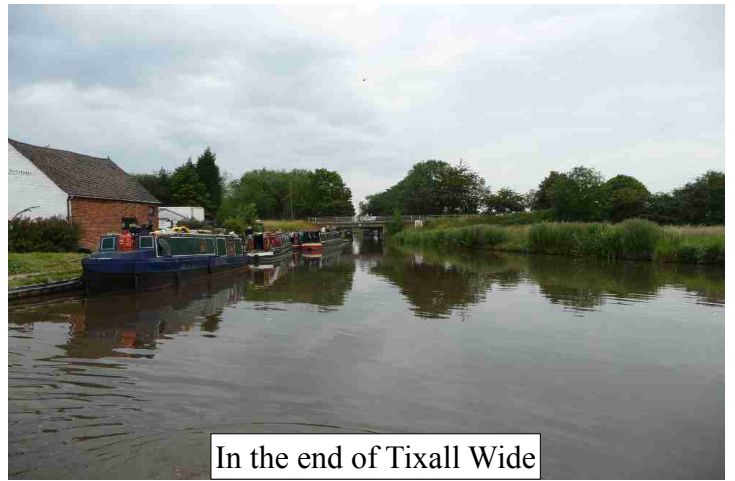
Heron



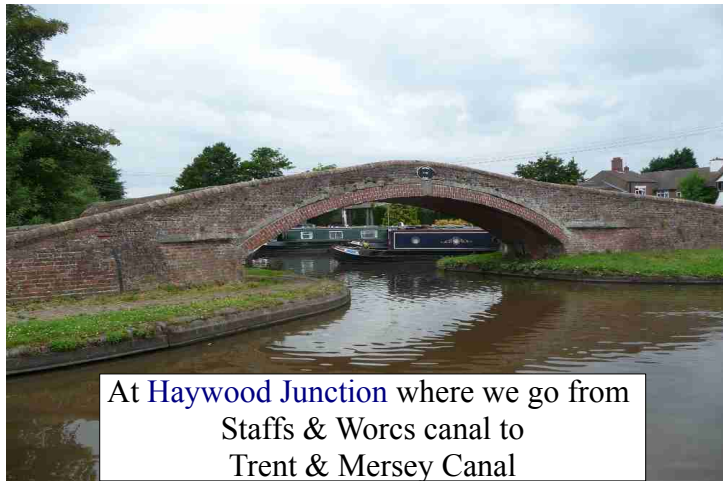
A widening of the canal is called Tixall Wide



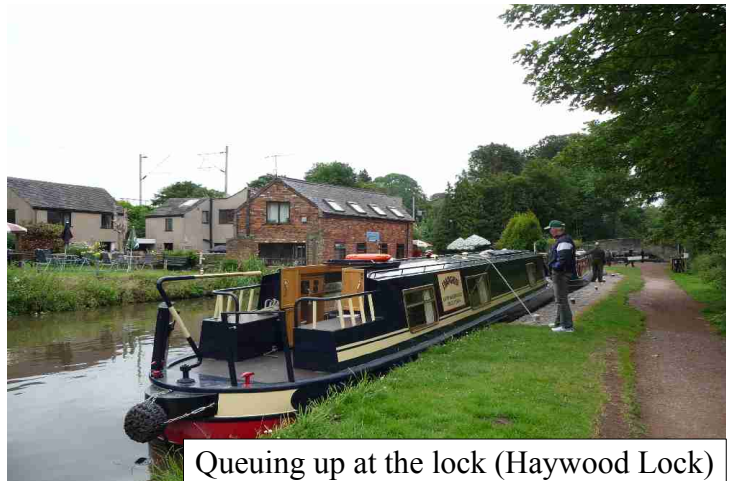
Wild growing rhubarb



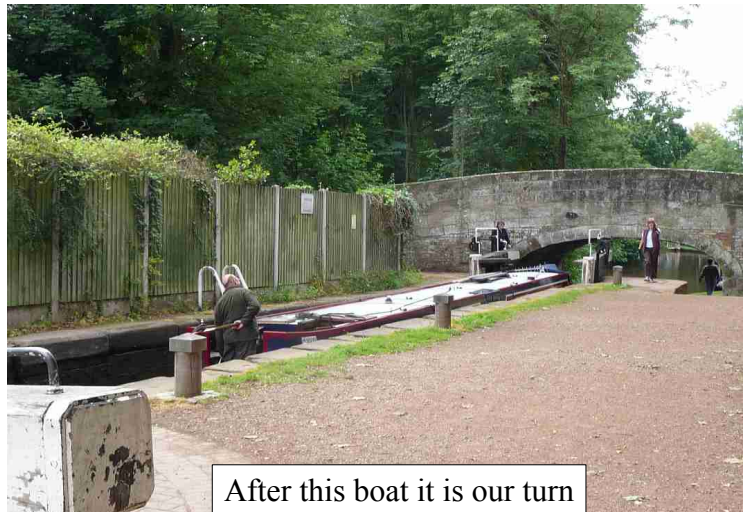
In the end of Tixall Wide



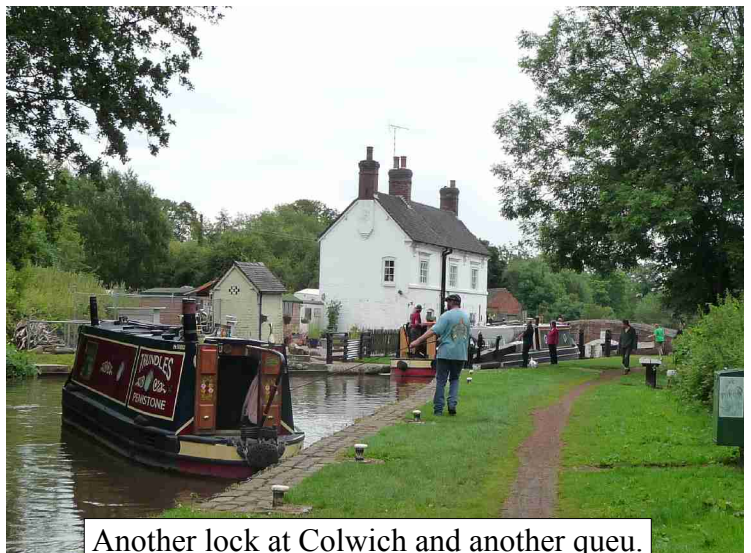
At [Haywood Junction](#) where we go from  
Staffs & Worcs canal to  
Trent & Mersey Canal  
[Haywood Junction](#)



Queuing up at the lock (Haywood Lock)



After this boat it is our turn



Another lock at Colwich and another queue.

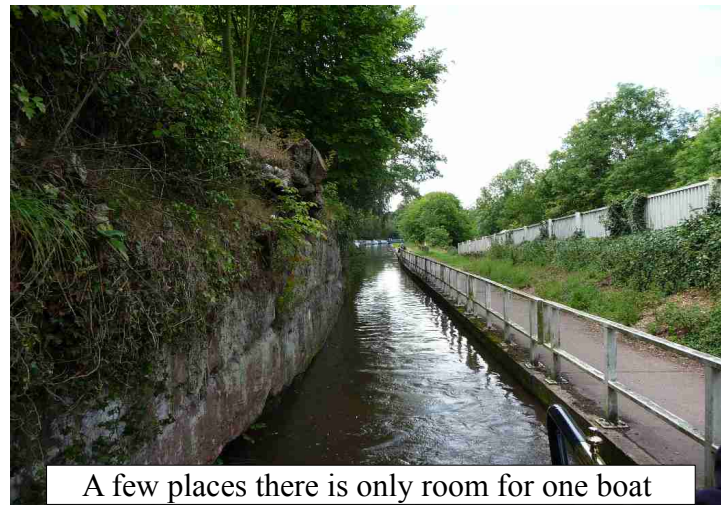
[Colwich](#)



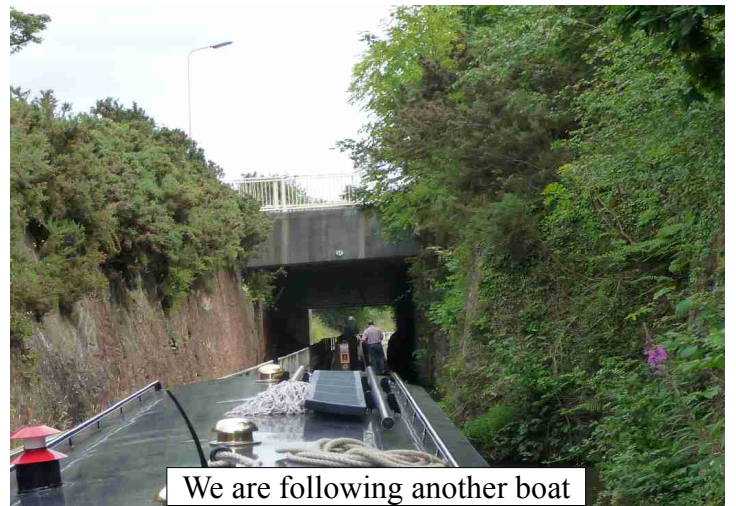
It's Sunday and a lot of boats out



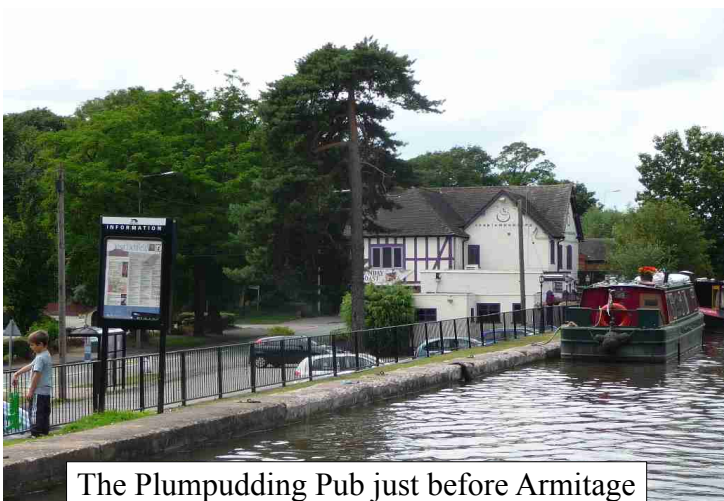
Pig farm



A few places there is only room for one boat

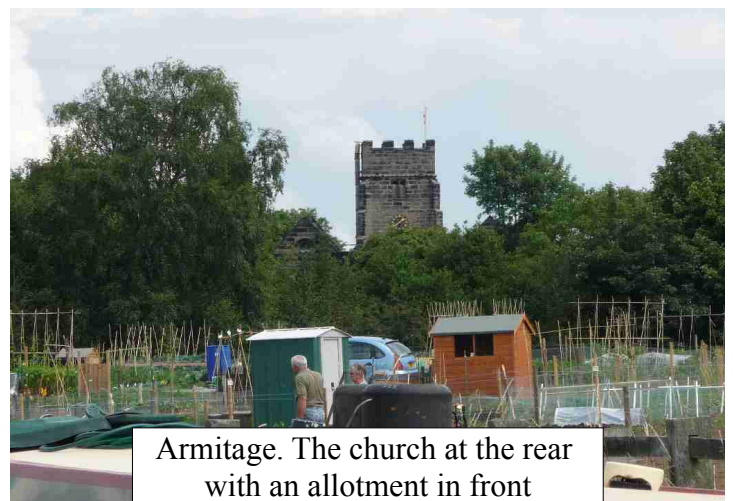


We are following another boat

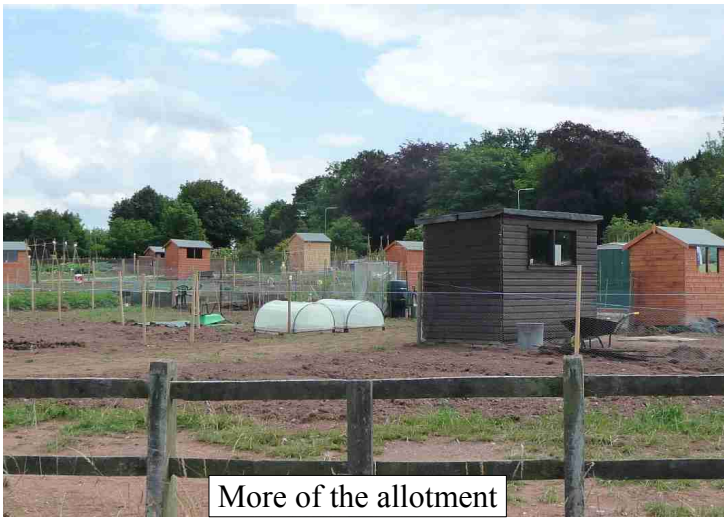


The Plum pudding Pub just before Armitage

Armitage



Armitage. The church at the rear with an allotment in front

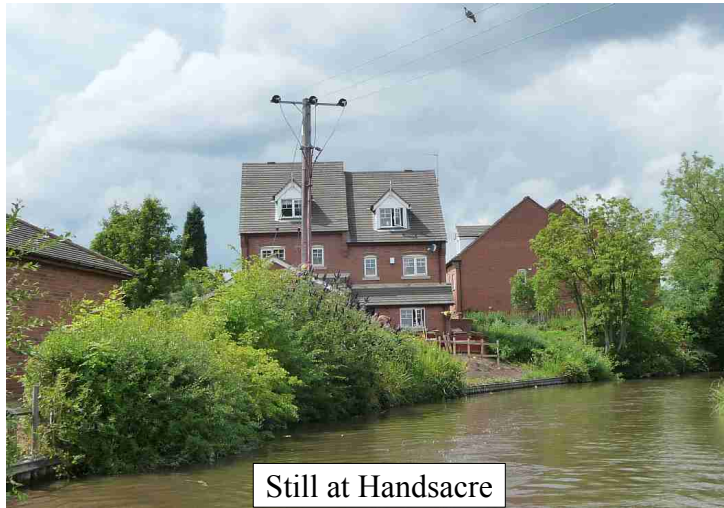


More of the allotment



Handsacre right after Armitage

Handsacre



Still at Handsacre



Corn field



Here is made seats of tree trunks



At Fradley Junction



At the The Swan having a beer.  
Afterward we had a shank of  
lamb with red wine. Very good!



Looking into the pub



There were a lot of people sitting outside too in the nice warm weather



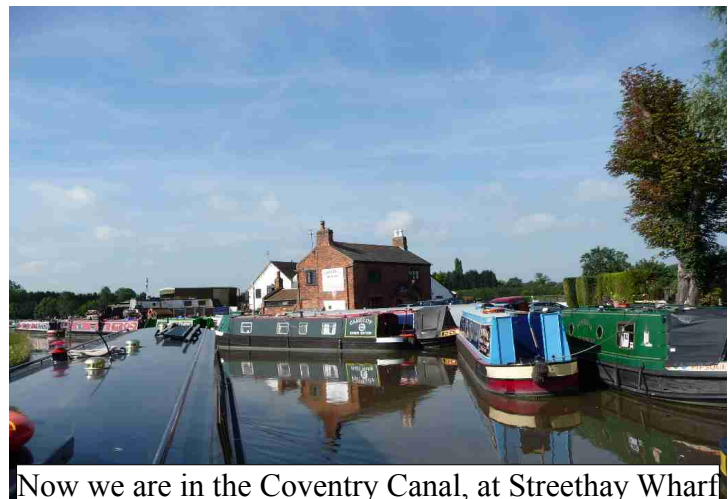
The Swan



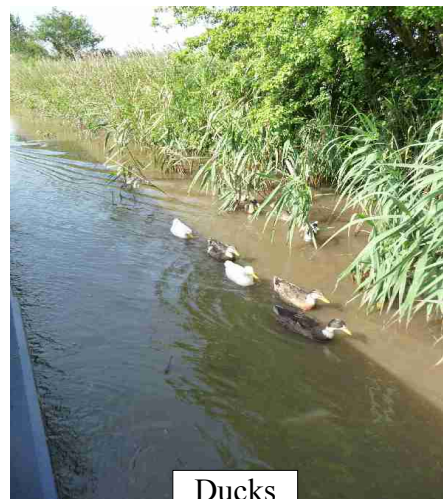
Looking across the canal



We moored for the night just behind the swing bridge



Now we are in the Coventry Canal, at Streethay Wharf  
Coventry Canal



Ducks

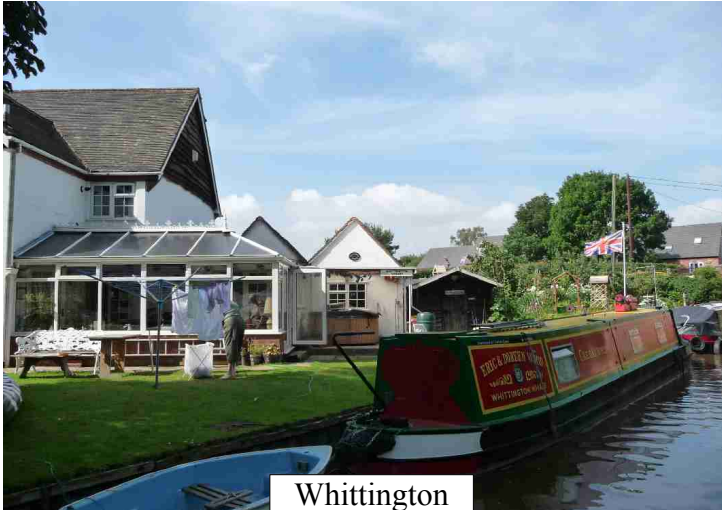


At Huddlesford Junction. Nice weeping willow

Huddlesford Junction



Whittington



Whittington



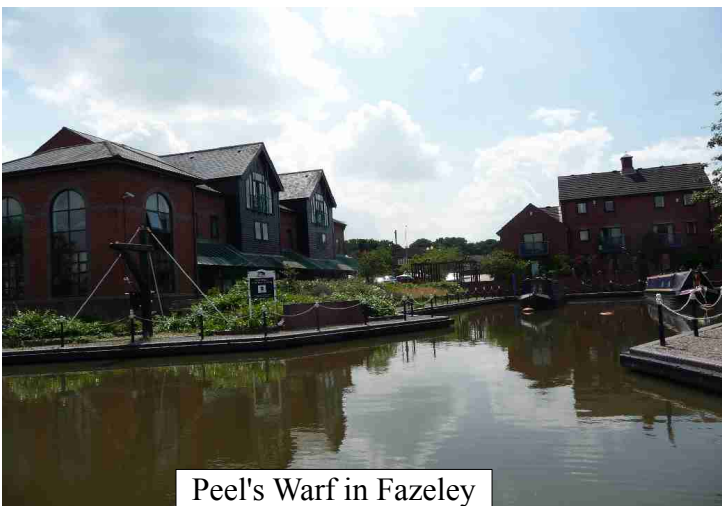
Tame Otter Pub in Hopwas



We had a beer here



Canada geese



Peel's Wharf in Fazeley

Fazeley

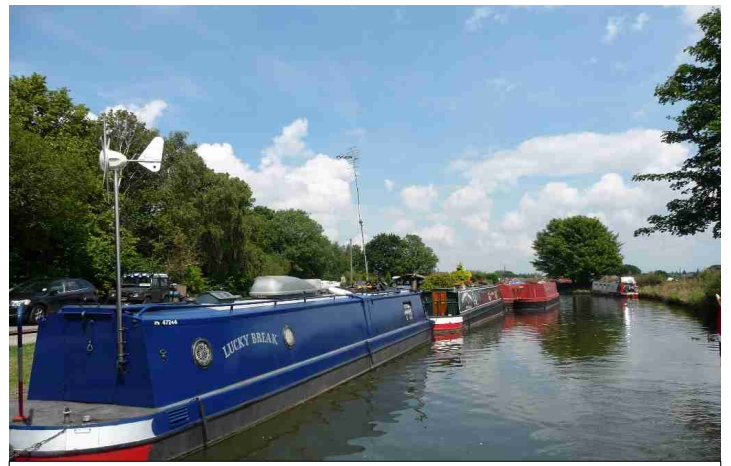


Still at Peel's wharf just before Fazeley Junction

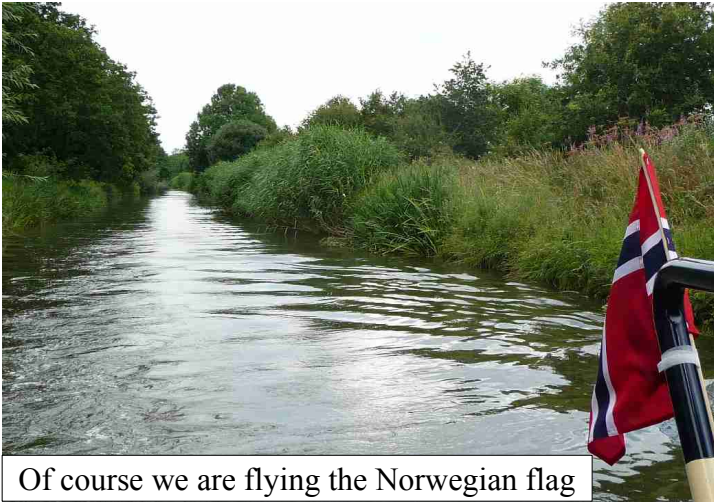
Fazeley Junction



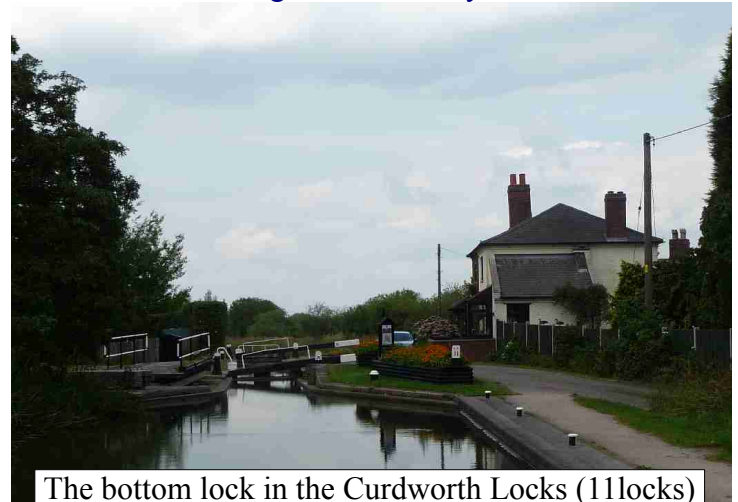
Fazeley



Over in another canal, Birmingham & Fazeley Canal  
[Birmingham & Fazeley Canal](#)



Of course we are flying the Norwegian flag



The bottom lock in the Curdworth Locks (11locks)



Here we have reached Curdworth  
[Curdworth](#)



A beer at the pub [White Horse](#)



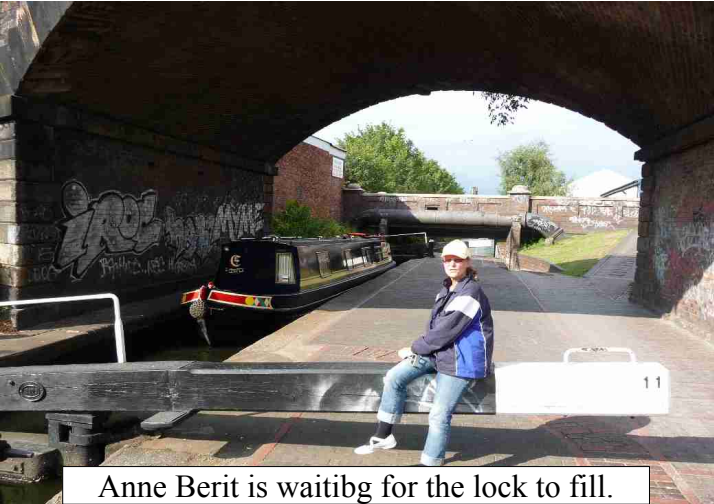
Here we have bought some provisions



Tuesday Kjell had got influenza and fever, so now the continuation looked troublesome. We would have liked to interrupt here, but the rental company had no chance to get the boat. We therefore started again later in the afternoon. Kjell was sick the rest of the week.



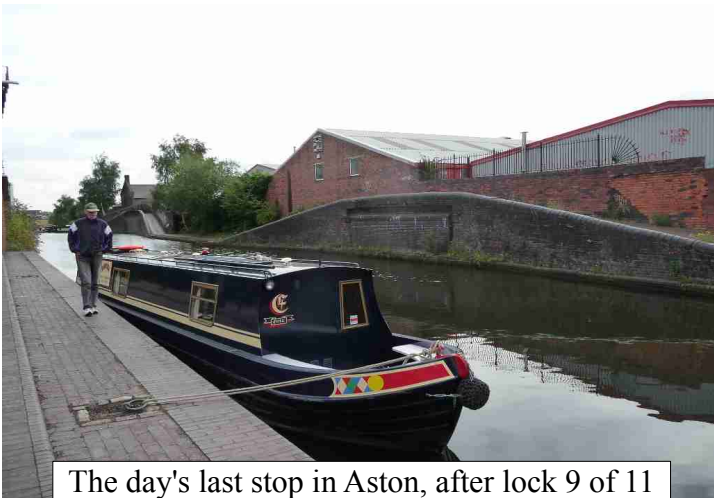
Anne Berit at work with the lock valves. Heavy job. That resulted in a hernia. It was tiresome with 50 locks during two days.



Anne Berit is waiting for the lock to fill.



The lock is filled and the gate can be opened. Heavy job.

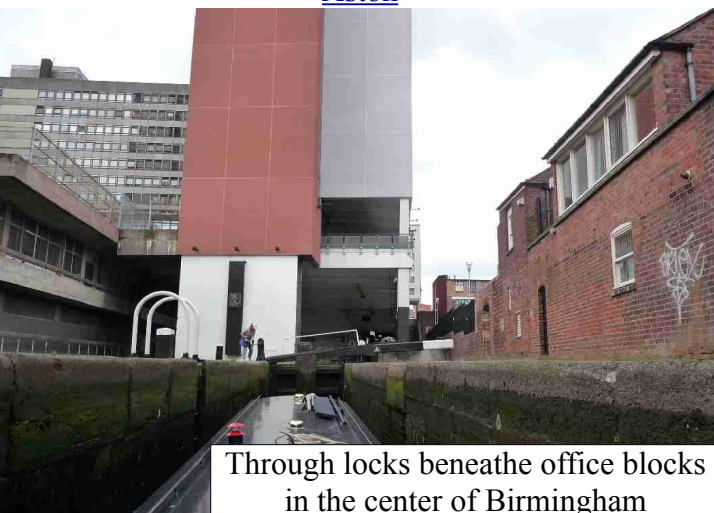


The day's last stop in Aston, after lock 9 of 11

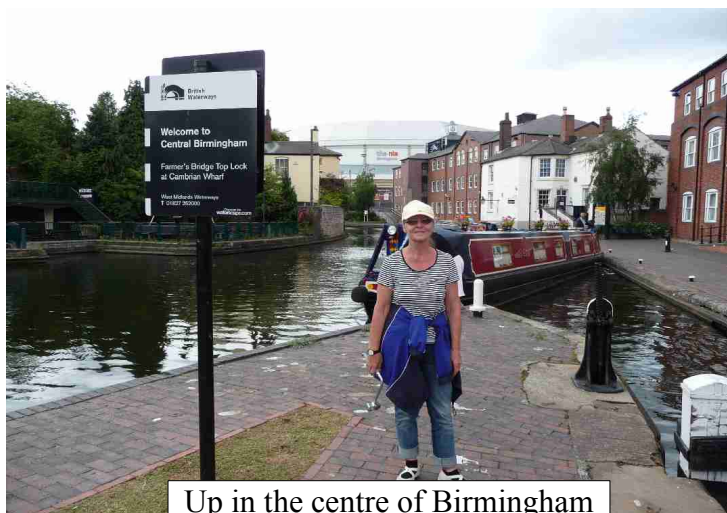
Aston



It looked like this inside the mooring place

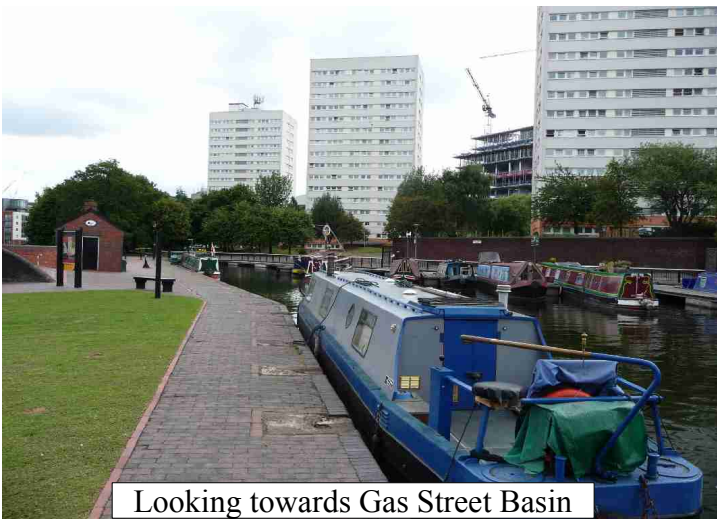


Through locks beneath office blocks in the center of Birmingham



Up in the centre of Birmingham

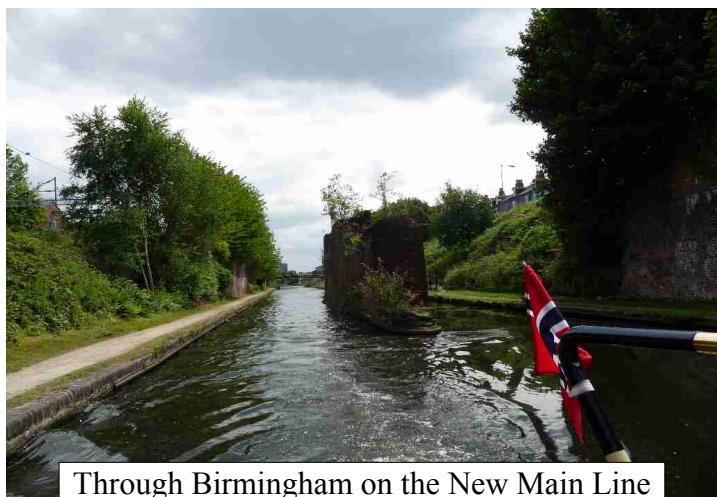




Looking towards Gas Street Basin  
[Gas Street Basin](#)



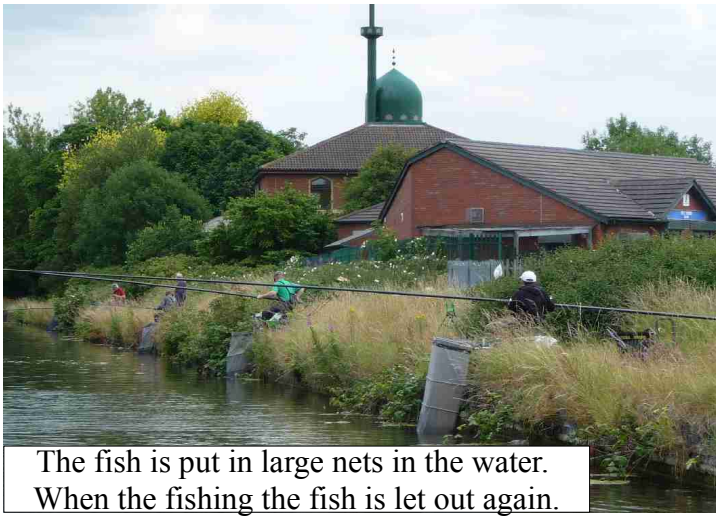
Our boat in the upper lock of the Farmer's Bridge Locks



Through Birmingham on the New Main Line  
[New Main Line](#)



Fishing is popular



The fish is put in large nets in the water. When the fishing the fish is let out again.



Next night is in Tipton  
[Tipton](#)



Here the last provisions were made



The last night before the boat must be returned.



The boat is returned. We made it!!



Getting rid of the garbage



The hire company lies at the Shropshire Union Canal  
[Shropshire Union Canal](#)



The tank is filled up with diesel.



After a taxi to Wolverhampton Railway station, train to Birmingham International and AirRail Link to the airport buildings, we are at this restaurant eating English Breakfast (eggs, bacon, sausages, potatoes, mushroom and tomato). It was excellent.

We had to go outside to smoke.



The night sky on the way from Frankfurt to Gardermoen.

This was Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> of July and the return trip was planned like this:

18:40 – 21:10 Birmingham – [Frankfurt](#)

21:55 – 23:45 Frankfurt – Oslo, Gardermoen

That was the only connection we found at an acceptable price.

The result was a lot of waiting in the airport in Birmingham, so we had time for both breakfast (English Breakfast) and lunch (Moroccan meat balls with couscous).

The plain to Frankfurt was delayed. There was also reconstructions going on at the airport in Frankfurt, so we had to walk (run) a long detour to get to the Oslo plain. We barely got the plain, sweaty and out of breath.