

Kintbury>Bedwyn>Hungerford – The Kennet Valley by Train

11th June

The Kennet and Avon Canal

In March 1778, a group of Gentlemen from Hungerford met to discuss plans to extend the River Kennet navigation upstream from its western limit at Newbury an extra 15 miles to Hungerford. Further discussions involving representatives from Marlborough then took place and, before the year was over, a scheme had been born which would eventually link Newbury with Bath and become the Kennet and Avon Canal.

In 1798, the first cargo to be carried from Newbury on the canal arrived at Hungerford. This consisted of dressed stone for a staircase at Chilton Lodge and casks of Russian tallow. Trade continued on this section until, a year later, the next section westwards was ready and both cargoes and passengers were carried as far as the village of Great Bedwyn.

Hungerford wharf was once an important canal trading centre although, due to housing and other developments, little of the original structure remains today. For over a century, the wharf was partially occupied by the building firm of J Wooldridge and Son. When, in 1852, ownership of the canal passed to the Great Western Railway Company, Wooldridge and Son were contracted to maintain the eastern end of the canal from Wootton Rivers to Reading. The company remained in business on the wharf until 1962 but, by then, the canal had become unnavigable.

Kintbury

The name comes from Saxon *Kennet-Byrig* meaning 'Fort on the River Kennet'.

Bedwyn

The name is thought to have originated from the Celtic words for grave 'bedw' and white 'gwen'.

Hungerford

Hungerford is a Saxon name meaning 'Hanging Wood Ford'. The town's symbol is the six-pointed star and crescent moon

ITINERARY.

No Weatherspoons down this way, the nearest is in Reading for those that require an early pit stop, otherwise train times as follows:

Paddington	d	10:18
Reading	d	10:48
Newbury	d	11:10
Kintbury	a	11:17

Turn left out of the station, over the bridges and about 50 yards on the left.

1. Dundas Arms 53 Station Road Kintbury– www.dundasarms.co.uk

West Berks CAMRA pub of the year for 2009. Local beers from West Berks and Ramsbury breweries, plus Adnams and guest.

Depart Kintbury at 12:17 arrive Bedwyn 12:33

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Turn Right out of Bedwyn station about 100 yards up the road on the Right.

2. Cross Keys High Street Great Bedwyn– www.thexkeys.com

London Pride and Wadworths 6X, food available from 12:00

Choice of two trains back to Hungerford, depends if you are dinning in a hurry or not!!

Bedwyn	d	13:11	13:31
Hungerford	a	13:16	13:38

3. Angle, 50 Church Street, Hungerford

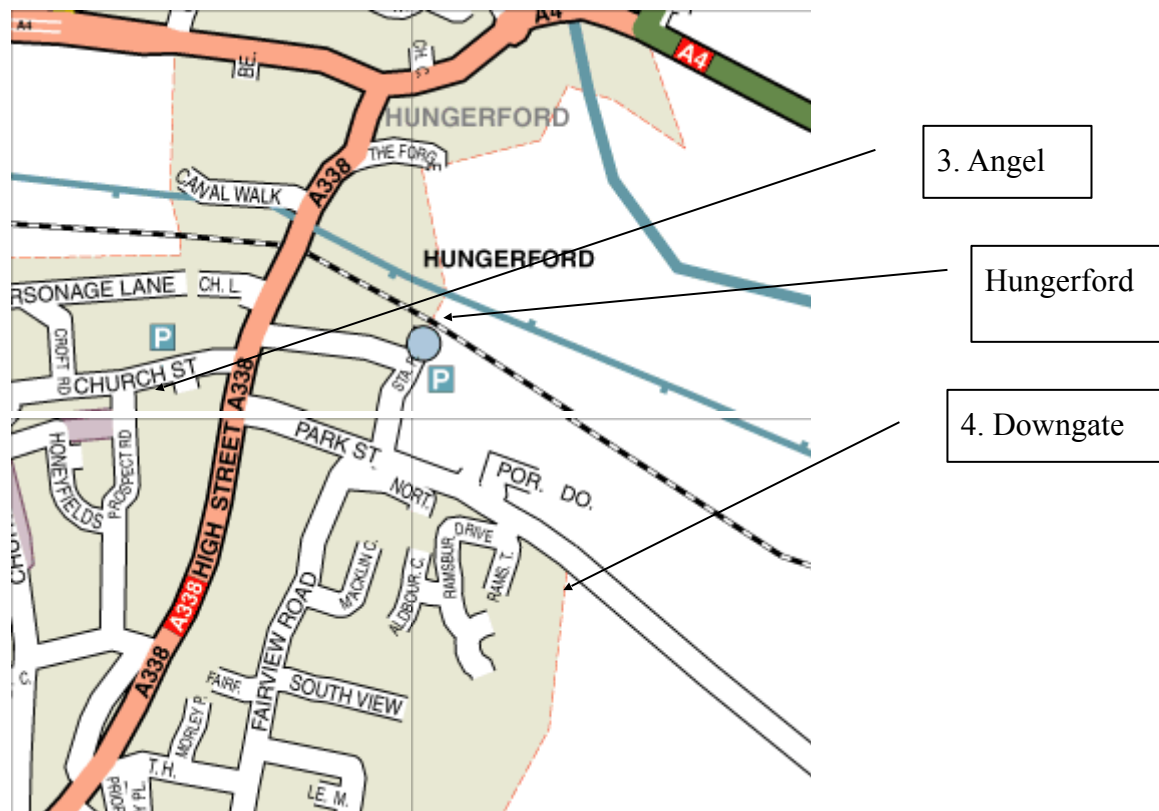
No.3 on map below 5 minutes from station

Feehouse with 3 changing ales, one is usually from a local brewery. Food available.

4. Downgate, Park Street Hungerford - www.the-downgate.co.uk

10 minutes from No.3

.Arkels Pub with 2 and 3 Bs, Kingsdown and Moonlight. Food available until 14:30.



Trains from Hungerford:

Hungerford	d	14:41	15:41
Newbury	a	14:53	15:53

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Reading a 15:17 16:16

Paddington a 15:54 16:54

If you don't fancy the weatherspoons in Reading and would like an early start in Kintbury then another option is to get the 10:30 bus from Newbury, No. 13 to Hungerford, which gets to Kintbury at 10:53; it's about 10 minutes from the village to the Dundas/station so you'll arrive for opening time!!

The Bus Station in Newbury is a few minutes walk, exit the station on the up side, across the council car park which will be on your left, up the slope and past the offices. The Bus station is on the right at the top of the road. Two trains an hour from Reading to Newbury.

In Kintbury head back towards Newbury but stay to the left on the road down the hill. Beware the road is narrow and has no pavement in places.