

Black Sluice Navigation

Anglian
Waterways

There are many beautiful rivers and watercourses across the Anglian region. Below is an overview of the Black Sluice Navigation from which you can explore the countryside by water.

The Black Sluice Navigation is situated on the South Forty Foot Drain and reopened for navigation in 2009. It had not been accessible for nearly 40 years since improvements to the pumping station led to the lock entrance being removed in 1971. It was upgraded and a new entrance to the lock was completed in 2008 as part of the Fens Waterways Link. It is a typical Fen drain, gathering the waters from the surrounding fens enabling them to be discharged to the tidal waters of The Haven at Boston, in Lincolnshire. It provides 31km / 19 miles of navigation to the west of Boston.

The navigation is entered through Black Sluice Lock, which was constructed on the site of the original lock. The lock connects the Black Sluice Navigation with the tidal Boston Haven.

Quick Facts

- 19 miles of navigable river
- It has history going back to the 1630s to make Fen land available for agriculture

There are short stay moorings on The Haven and near the Black Sluice pumping station. Above Donnington Bridge, access is only possible for small unpowered boats, such as canoes and kayaks. This is due to limited water depth, headroom and width above this point, and environmental and wildlife considerations. Black Sluice Navigation is also a great location to go paddling and there is a slipway at Hubberts Bridge for which an Environment Agency navigation key is required for access. Views across the sprawling Lincolnshire countryside from the water provide many opportunities to spot wildlife.

To enter the navigation via the lock you need to book a minimum of 48hrs in advance. To make a booking call our River Inspector on **07775 228323** (Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm). If you are planning to use Grand Sluice Lock as part of your journey they will also be able to help you with this.

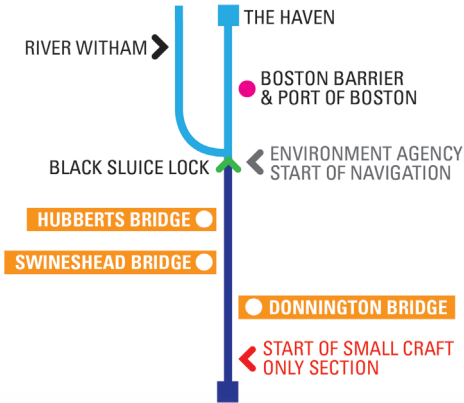
Useful Information

Lock Length	21 metres / 70 feet
Lock Width	6 metres / 20 feet
Draft	Normal water depth in the lock is 2.8 metres / 9 feet - this may vary on certain tides
Airdraft	Headroom at lock not restricted - London Road Bridge between 1.7 to 3.4 metres
Facilities	Cafe, information centre, showers and toilet.

Boston Barrier

At the end of the Black Sluice Navigation is the Boston barrier which has been completed and now provides flood protection to over 800 properties.

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Please note

Please be aware that your booking doesn't guarantee passage through the lock at the time arranged.

Occasionally bookings will have to be postponed or cancelled - this could be due to:

- The Port of Boston requiring the area of water in front of the lock to turn large seagoing vessels.
- Flooding incidents: the Black Sluice Lock can be used to discharge flood water from the South Forty Foot Drain. At this time the lock will not be available for use and red warning flags will be flying at the lock.

We will endeavour to give you as much warning as possible if such a situation occurs, so that alternative arrangements can be made.



Useful Contacts and Information

Environment Agency Tel 03708 506506

Black Sluice River Inspector 07775 228323

Go Paddling <https://gopaddling.info/canals/black-sluice-navigation>

Canal Plan <https://canalplan.co.uk/waterway/3cwr>



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