



Saxilby's Canal Bridges

Crossing the Canal through the Centuries

Saxilby has had a bridge across the Fossdyke since at least 1648, evolving with the needs of the time to accommodate boats, carts, trains, and later cars.



Early bridges: The first known bridge over the Fossdyke appears on a 1648 map. By the later 1700s, it was in such poor condition that parliament authorised its rebuilding in 1797, funded by tolls of threepence for each vessel passing with its mast raised.



Road bridge: In 1937, the swing bridge was replaced with a fixed road bridge over both canal and railway, ending the delays caused to road traffic by passing boats.



Swing bridge: In 1823, a new hand-cranked swing bridge replaced the old drawbridge on the Lincoln-Worksop turnpike road. The bridge keeper, living nearby, rotated the deck horizontally to let boats pass. When the railway arrived in 1849, the bridge keeper's duties grew to include managing the level crossing gates.



The Footbridge: In 1987, British Rail gifted Saxilby a steel footbridge, recycled from the East Coast Main Line where it had stood since 1883. Installed on Bridge Street, it improved access to the moorings and soon became a familiar local landmark. This achievement was largely thanks to the advocacy and support of the parish council chairman at the time, Robert 'Bob' Ballerini, who championed the project and helped secure the bridge's installation for the village.



Pipe bridge: Built in response to a serious typhoid epidemic in 1904, the pipe bridge was constructed to carry clean, fresh water from Nottinghamshire to the Westgate Tower in Lincoln, a purpose which it still serves today.

Bridge through time:

Imagine crossing the Fossdyke over the years.
Which crossing would you choose?

- 1) A wooden bridge in the 1600s
- 2) Horse and cart in the 1800s
- 3) A motor car in the 1930s
- 4) On today's restored bridge



Saxilby Boarding Kennels

