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## Burbage Wharf

Shortly after leaving the western end of the Bruce Tunnel, Burbage Wharf appears on the north side of the canal.

It was built in 1831 by the Marquess of Ailesbury, the owner of Savernake Forest (**see Savernake Forest**), to handle goods for his estate. The brick buildings on the wharf are contemporary with its construction, and the nearest building would have had a doorway large enough for a horse and cart to enter it.

Beside the buildings is a surviving Grade II listed timber crane, which is typical of the cranes which were once frequent along the length of the canal. By the 1970s the crane had fallen into disrepair, and using the original metal framework a team under the Wiltshire Industrial Archaeological Society restored the crane over the period 1972-8. Following further deterioration, the crane was again rebuilt in 2003-2011, using oak timber, by volunteers from the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust and other organisations.

A noticeboard on the canal towpath opposite the wharf explains the history of the crane and how it functioned.

**(NB. The wharf and crane are now on private land and are not accessible by the public.)**

