

AIA Conference 2023: Proposed visits

Not all details are finalised yet as some venues will not confirm this early, but we have high hopes that we can fulfil most of this programme.

Sunday 3rd September

A. Sunday afternoon

We visit the Museum of Bath at Work where we shall have a drinks reception with the Mayor of Bath.

Monday 4th September

B. Bristol Docks

We have a conducted tour through Bristol Docks visiting M Shed and the Underfall Yard, concluding at Cumberland Basin and the unique Brunel Swivel Bridge.

C. Brislington

We hope to have a guided tour of Bristol Temple Meads old station. We visit the former Brislington Tram Depot and also pass by Black Castle and the nearby Newcomen engine house. Lunch is at Warmley Waiting Room then to Kingswood Heritage Museum followed by a look at Brandy Bottom Colliery.

Tuesday 5th September

D. Kennet & Avon Canal and Saltford

We visit the Widcombe Canal flight and Sydney Gardens then to Claverton Pumping Station where we hope to see the water wheel and beam-pumps working. (A car will ferry the less able down the lane.) On to Brassknocker Basin for lunch and the short walk to the Dundas Aqueduct. We conclude the day at Saltford Brass Mill, opening specially for us.

E. Clifton

At Clifton Suspension Bridge we shall view the visitors' centre and with expert guidance will have access to vast vaults not normally open to the public. Clifton Observatory is almost adjacent where we shall have lunch and access to the Observatory and Giant's Cave. The Clifton Rocks Railway is nearby and we should be able to see the upper station of that. If there is time we may then see another Newcomen engine house.

Wednesday 6th September

F. Shepton Mallet and Radstock

Paulton Canal Basin starts the day, then to Shepton Mallet for a guided tour of the prison. After lunch we head to Radstock for a brief walk around the town and Somerset Coalfield Life at the museum.

G. Kemble and Swindon

Air Salvage International at Kemble Airfield are major dismantlers of redundant aircraft and we have been given privileged access. In the afternoon we hope to visit the Science Museum Store at Wroughton, not yet open to the public, but if that is not available we shall visit Swindon old town and the STEAM GWR museum. This trip is limited to 20 people.