



# HERTFORD UNION CANAL HISTORY

- 1824:** Act of Parliament grants permission to build a new canal shortcut between two major waterways: the Regent's Canal and River Lea Navigation via the Hackney Cut.
- 1830:** Hertford Union Canal opens, commonly called 'Ducketts' after the developer, and has a chequered history:
- Shortest canal in London at 1 and an 1/8 miles long
  - It has three locks Top, middle and Bottom locks grouped very closely together
  - Toll was 1s a ton, but waived in 1831 to encourage traffic
  - It was a commercial failure
  - 1845: attempt to incorporate in the Victoria Park development failed.
  - c1850, the water was capped off at the Regent's Canal junction and Ducketts lay dormant.
  - 1857 became part of the Regent's Canal system
- 1929:** The Grand Union Canal Company formed by the merger of the Grand Junction Canal with the Regent's Canal
- 1948:** Canal network nationalised. Under British Transport Commission until British Waterways Board, 1962
- 1959:** Horse drawn boats cease to operate, tractors used since 1953
- 1964:** Towpaths opened to the public
- 1970:** GLC reports "Londoners, I cannot urge you enough to go and see your canal from waterbus, boat or towpath...but except for tower block dwellers and tall pedestrians, this is well-nigh impossible for most East Londoners. Canalside and towpath walks are common west of Camden Town, but non-existent in the east."
- 1970s:** One of pair of locks converted into a flood weir
- 1974:** Locks made self-operating
- 1970/80s:** Step and ramp access built by bridge, except at Grove Road which had steps built in 2013.