

# Where does the water come from?

## Tardebigge Locks

Water supplying the 30 locks on the Tardebigge flight, the longest flight in Britain, comes from several sources. These feed into the Birmingham Level: the 50 mile long pound above the locks.

The nearest of these are Upper Bittell & Cofton Reservoirs.

Smaller amounts of water come from feeders (F diverted streams) e.g. Tutnall Feeder just north of Tardebigge Old Wharf.

Tardebigge Reservoir, built in 1822/23, was filled by: excess rainwater from the summit; surplus lockage water from the deep top lock, built on the site of an experimental boat lift; and its own catchment

Originally, water from Tardebigge Reservoir was pumped up to the top of the flight by a steam powered beam engine

Today, Tardebigge Reservoir stores excess water from the Birmingham Level for use lower down the flight

The old Engine House and the remains of the experimental boat lift balancing pit can still be seen near the canal

For other locations go to [canalrivertrust.org.uk/water-sources](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/water-sources)