

KS2 CANAL MANIA

Bessie: An Open “Joey” Day Boat

BLACK COUNTRY
LIVING
MUSEUM



Bessie

A single ended riveted iron day boat built locally in 1895 for the Hartshill Iron Company. These open ‘joey’ boats worked short distances carrying bulk cargoes such as coal and iron ore. Joeyes could be steered from either end, removing the need to turn the boat around for the return journey.

Although most working boats at the time were wooden, larger firms used riveted iron boats like this one. They were more expensive to build but they lasted longer. Bessie could transport up to 30 tons of cargo such as coal or iron at a time.



**Open Day Boats loaded with
coal and pig iron at Noah
Hingley's**