

The Black Shed, Slimbridge

Stephen Mills November 2025

This building will probably be known by some members, being located adjacent to Patch Bridge over the Gloucester-Sharpsness Canal. Once across, it's just a short drive to the Slimbridge Wetland Centre, the destination for most travellers. The Shed now houses a café and craft centre.



The following useful information comes from their website:

The Black Shed was built back in 1910 by the Birmingham Navigation Company for a local mill to store grain coming from Sharpness docks. The mill paid £250 to have it built and paid £12 a year ground rent after its completion. In November 1915, the War Office requisitioned The Black Shed, its land and the surrounding area. The Shed and the adjoining wharf were then reinforced in order to store equipment. The Shed was used by the Government until 1917, when it was handed back to the flour mill owners and used for its original purpose for many years until it was no longer needed.

In the 60s, The Black Shed was brought back to life and has since been used for a variety of ventures including a camping and outdoor sports shop. Sadly, during those years, the Shed gradually fell into disrepair and was finally closed in 2014. The current owners took on the Shed on 2017, carrying out extensive works to bring it out of disrepair, culminating with the café it now is – a hub of exciting community-based activities.

It just goes to show that even seemingly unassuming industrial buildings, tucked away in the middle of nowhere, can have a long and interesting story behind them. It's nice to know that this one was reborn and continues to play an important role in the local community.

The OS map of 1922, show



*ing the Black Shed
immediately to the
right of Patch*

Bridge