



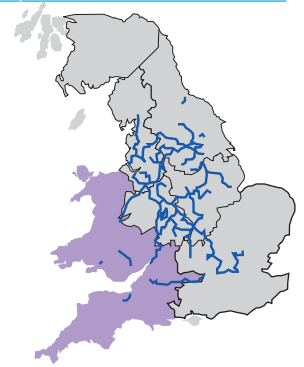
**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

2021 Youth Impact Report

Wales & South West





Youth engagement activities in Wales & South West

During 2021, youth engagement activities in Wales & South West delivered the following:



3,750
young people engaged in participatory activities and events



142
young volunteers



4,770
youth social action hours



2,361
young people engaged through Explorers / STEM



427
children & young people attending water safety sessions

All figures are approximate due to the nature of data collection at events and a current changeover of systems.

Partners worked with

Cherry Orchard Primary School
Cheltenham College
Discover Paddling, Gloucester
Fairfield College
Heddington Primary School
Just Row Gloucestershire
Monkton School
Thatcham Scouts
Priory Primary School
Sea Cadets, Gloucester
Severn Rivers Trust
Wiltshire Wildlife Trust
Y Gaer Museum & Art Gallery
Ysgol y Bannau
Ysgol y Senn



Variety of skills learnt in Forest School sessions at Jubilee Wood

Twenty Key Stage 2 pupils from a local primary school attended six Forest School sessions in Jubilee woodland, near Caen Hill in Wiltshire.

The pupils learnt a variety of skills, such as identifying plants and animals, making natural sculptures and fire lighting skills. They also spent an afternoon on the Caen Hill Flight, learning about how locks work. In total, the children took part in six 5-hour sessions run by the Trust between May and June.

The group learnt lots of new skills and spent over 600 hours of valuable time learning in an outdoor environment. Practical fun activities included foraging

for elderflower and making cordial, using tools to make objects such as pendants, making musical instruments and shelters, and identifying plants and animal species.

Aside from learning these new skills many of the children grew in confidence and significantly developed their social and communication skills. The school have already asked if the sessions could be repeated in 2022.



Safety partnership with SkillZONE in Gloucester

The Trust has been working with a Gloucester-based safety prevention organisation called SkillZONE to raise awareness of the importance of water safety.

One of the Explorers volunteers at the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester, Tim Hawkins, also gives up his time to support SkillZONE. This led to a partnership between the two organisations that ran throughout the summer holidays.

SkillZone were running a number of pre-booked family sessions throughout the summer to experience different danger scenarios. Trust staff brought in their 'Spot the Dangers' banner, met with families in reception and engaged with the children about what dangers and hazards they could see on the banner.

Overall, we spoke with 187 children about how to stay safe around inland waterways in Gloucestershire.

The partnership will continue in 2022 as a permanent banner will be located in SkillZONE's water safety room.



National Waterways Museum Gloucester

Getting creative in Wales with the Y Gaer Museum & Art Gallery in Brecon

With Covid restrictions specific to Wales in place, the Trust has had to work innovatively and creatively to deliver a full range of engagement activities to young people.

During June and July, the Trust worked closely with Y Gaer Museum & Art Gallery who opened for school visits on non-public days and created a safe working space for activities to take place.



In total 58 children took part in full day visits, including hands-on STEM learning activities, water safety, a boat trip, helping the lock keeper and curriculum-relevant guided walks.

One of the days was filmed for a children's TV programme by the TV company Boom Cymru who worked with the Trust's Welsh speaker Rhys and ensured that the children were fully involved in filming throughout the day.



College students gain employability skills

Fairfield Farm College in Wiltshire is a specialist college for students with learning disabilities. Every week 5-6 students visit the canal around Bradford on Avon and undertake maintenance tasks around the site.

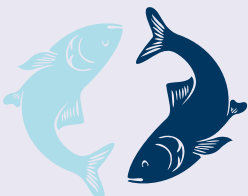


The group maintain the car park by clearing leaves, cutting back overhanging vegetation, weeding around the fruit trees, painting, fixing fences, planting trees, cutting the grass and collecting litter. They occasionally help with planned preventative maintenance on the locks and with the lock gate cleaning project. The group also visit other parts of the canal, such as Hilperton and Avoncliff, to carry out similar tasks.

The students are attending college to help prepare them for full or part time employment. The tasks that the students carry out whilst volunteering on the canal help develop employability skills. These include timekeeping and punctuality, developing social skills, using tools and equipment and health & safety. Not only are the group making a big impact on the towpath but their fantastic work is making a big impact on their career opportunities through valuable work experience.

Unlocking the Severn provides exciting youth activities

Hundreds of thousands of the fish species twaite shad used to migrate up the River Severn to reach their natural spawning grounds. Unfortunately weirs installed in the mid-19th century blocked this annual migration.



UNLOCKING THE SEVERN

The initiative Unlocking the Severn will provide fish passage at six barriers on the River Severn and its River Teme tributary. This will restore 158 miles of river habitat and benefit a host of other important fish species including salmon and eel.

Young people visiting Diglis Island are able to take part in a STEM activity that gives them a real insight into the fish pass and why it was built. The Epic Engineering activity gives them the opportunity to explore engineering concepts behind building fish passes. Another (existing) STEM activity related to water pressure in locks has also been piloted as an additional activity for high school groups.

135 school children have taken part in a range of pilot activities in preparation for a 2022 launch that

will connect community groups along the river, engage over 6,000 school children, and create opportunities for hundreds of volunteers.



For more information on our youth & community engagement work
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