Step onto the towpath and connect with nature... with your inner child, with your smile, and with the great outdoors.

Think of your canals and rivers and the surrounding hedgerows as long, winding nature reserves. An ideal habitat for tiny creatures like dragonflies and damselflies, and for the big ones like pink-footed geese. There’s no shortage of sights to see and sounds to hear as you amble through the scenery. So make sure that you keep your eyes peeled.

If you're looking to break from routine, to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life or to find a peaceful place to enjoy a spot of lunch, your local canal is your urban nature reserve. In fact, a recent wildlife survey spotted over 60 different species, and that's not including the fish!

If you want to get involved, you can volunteer at your local canal or take on more of an office-based role. Look at our website to find out what's happening in your area; there's never been a better time to get involved.

Donate time – volunteer! Fancy getting involved with the valuable work of the Trust? Whether you want to get stuck in at your local canal or take on more of an office-based role, look at our website to find out what's happening in your area; there's never been a better time to get involved.

Get involved, join us with your great-great-grandchildren and feel the grandparent's pride as you pass on 200 years of ownership. Eating a delicious picnic alongside your fellow ramblers will give you that family bond.

To our members and supporters, a special thank you for the donations you make to support our vital work. You can help bring a sense of community to a local area with just £3.

With great times comes great responsibility. If you're thinking of spending some time on your local waterway, make sure you're aware of all the rules and regulations. Get involved and help us make a difference to your local environment.

With your mobile, give a vole a home.

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Give a vole a home with your mobile

We are undertaking 50 amazing projects to help celebrate our launch. And we promise that 100% of your donation will go directly to your local project.

Text today to help volunteers maintain 1000m of the Llangollen Canal’s bank, where local wildlife like endangered water voles can thrive.

Text CHESTER to 70007 to give £3 to our Llangollen Canal project.

A £3 text from you could help volunteers repair the canal bank and restore vital hedgerow along the towpath. This hedgerow will provide food and shelter for birds, mammals and insects, and a corridor for people to enjoy the countryside. You can find out more at canalrivertrust.org.uk

To the best of our knowledge correct at time of print
Step onto the towpath and connect...

with the great outdoors
Think of your canals and rivers and the surrounding hedgerows as long, winding nature reserves. An ideal habitat for tiny creatures like dragonflies and butterflies, birds such as kingfishers and herons, and even larger mammals such as badgers, stoats or water voles, it’s a great way to enjoy the Great British countryside right on your doorstep. In fact, a recent wildlife survey spotted over 60 different species, and that’s not including the fish! So make sure that you keep your eyes peeled as you amble through the scenery.

with great times
If you’re looking to break from routine, to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life or to find a peaceful place to enjoy a spot of lunch, your local canal is just a stone’s throw away. With so much to do and see, your canal is ideal for meeting friends, like-minded people or spending quality time with your family and friends. Or just bring yourself and a book for a moment of peaceful solitude.

The handy map inside this leaflet is full of information on the unique activities and attractions that you’ll find on your local waterway. So if you’re after some fresh air and freedom, grab the kids or grandparents and get out on the towpath!

Get involved, join us
In an increasingly fast-paced and crowded world, our historic canals and rivers are a local haven for people and nature. The Canal & River Trust is the new charity entrusted with the care of 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales.

Donate time – volunteer!
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*You will be charged £3 plus one message at your standard network rate of which the Canal & River Trust will receive a £3 donation, except from O2 customers where the donation received will be £2.96. If we receive more money than we need then the extra donations will be used on similar work. By using this service, you agree that we may contact you in the future. If you’d rather we didn’t, reply ‘DECLINE to 70007’.

Charity number: 1146792

Open up for your local map

Chester and the surrounding canals
YOUR FREE GUIDE TO

With the Canal & River Trust, you can make a difference to your local waterways, helping to protect and enhance the natural beauty of our canals and rivers.

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Well worth a visit.
The Quinta Arboretum and Dunham Massey Hall Gardens are all wildlife which makes its home on the water. Trentham Gardens, the canal winds its way through green and verdant countryside, and, from there, with the world.

Chester

The Shropshire Union Canal runs right through the centre of Chester. From there it’s a short walk to perhaps one of the first examples of a shopping mall: the 13th century Rows. Chester will introduce you to interesting sights, such as a Roman amphitheatre.

The natural landscape is just as attractive as the man-made one, with the area offering breathtaking scenery making it ideal cycling country.

Ellesmere

Idlylocally located east to The Mere – one of the lakes in ‘Shropshire’s Lakeland’ – Ellesmere was where famous canal engineer Thomas Telford once had his office. Canal developments are still going on here, with a new marina and overnight moorings just a short walk from the town centre. If you haven’t brought your own boat, you can hire one to row out on The Mere, or hop on a steamboat for a trip. Or you can cycle along the Llangollen Canal as far as the awe-inspiring Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

National Waterways Museum

Ellesmere Port played a major role in the Industrial Revolution in the North West. So it’s a fitting location for the world’s finest collection of narrowboats, barges and ice-breakers. Amongst warehouses, docks, stable

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

A World Heritage Site, Grade I listed structure and Scheduled Ancient Monument, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is essentially a water-carrying iron trough on stone pillars. Breathtaking in its stature, it was designed by Thomas Telford to carry the Llangollen Canal across the River Dee. Don’t miss the chance to take a trip across with Jones the Boat, or on a horse-drawn canal boat from Llangollen Wharf. Alternatively, you can walk across on the Towpath Trail.

Anderton Boat Lift

Often known as The Cathedral of the Canals, this three-storey iron giant was built to lift cargo boats 50ft from the river to the Trent & Mersey Canal above. You can find out how it’s done, and discover the history of this incredible structure in the Visitor Centre (March to Christmas Eve). From April to October, you can take a ride in the lift on the Edwin Clark trip boat.

Signposted walks through the Northwich Woodlands give you plenty of chances to spot some of the 2,100 different animals and plants that have been recorded here, including mammals, birds, moths, butterflies, dragonflies and 150 species of beetle. Log on to canalrivertrust.org.uk/anderton-voucher to download your £5.00 off a family ticket voucher.

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Chester welcomes you with open arms: namely The Old Harkers Arms and the Oddfellows Arms. Or if you don’t want to stray too far from the canal, may we suggest the Lock Keepers Inn or the Canalside Inn?

Connect with people

Connect with nature

The canal winds its way through green and verdant countryside, with attractive views and a good chance of spotting some of the wildlife which makes its home on the water. Trentham Gardens, The Quinta Arboretum and Dunham Massey Hall Gardens are all well worth a visit.

Connect with history

Chester was an important industrial and trading centre in the 18th century, utilising the River Dee. When this began to silt up, the canal was built to maintain the city’s prominent trading position. The Wirral Arm from Chester to Ellesmere Port provided a transport and trading link with the Mersey, Liverpool and, from there, with the world.

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Your local canals & rivers

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Charity number: 1146792

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Get involved, join us with your great-great grandparents

Our canal system is a vital part of the nation’s heritage, dating back to the Industrial Revolution. And it still helps make Britain great today. Locks, aqueducts, tunnels and incredible boat lifts are all testament to the golden age of British engineering, and most of it is beautifully preserved.

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