



Strategic Waterway Plan Engagement Prospectus

Looking forward to the next ten years

South Wales and Severn Waterway Partnership



Canal &
River Trust

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Chairman's introduction



It was July last year when the Canal & River Trust was established as a charitable body to care for the waterways of England and Wales, holding them in trust forever for the nation. Our Partnership is one of a number of local waterway partnerships created as an integral part of the governance of the new Trust. The local partnerships are an important outward looking component of the Trust structure as they aim to engage locally with people, decision makers and communities. As advisory partnerships, focusing on local vision and aspirations rather than operational matters, they generate great added value to the work of the trust as they develop and mature.

My partnership members have been recruited from a diverse interest base and are drawn from all across the waterway area. We have spent a significant part of our formative year both collectively and individually, out and about across the region and increasing our knowledge about the work of the Trust in aspects such as such as volunteering, fundraising, heritage, development and enterprise. We have engaged with canal users, waterway businesses, canal societies, representative bodies for boaters, commercial interests, restoration groups, special interest groups, local authorities and other public sector bodies, sports and recreational interests, and the voluntary sector. I have seen great passion and pride from everyone I have met including the CRT staff. Our waterway, we would argue is probably the most diverse in the country, including for example, a fully functioning commercial port at Sharpness, the beautiful Monmouthshire and Brecon canal, the regenerated waterspace at Gloucester docks or the newly restored Droitwich canals.

Part of the development of the local partnerships which I have referred to above, is the publication of 10 year Strategic Waterway Plans which will reflect local priorities and also greatly assist in helping focus our efforts as a local partnership over the short, medium and long term. That is where we are now seeking your input and engagement. Our plan will be published by the end of 2013 and we are determined that it should be shaped by external views and considered opinion which reflect the unique nature and diversity of the canal and river network in the South Wales and Severn Partnership area.

This document will hopefully provoke you or your organisation to comment and suggest how we can make the valued assets that comprise our waterway network to be better used, developed, maintained to a high standard and enjoyed. We are keen that our strategic planning exercise culminating in our plan being published at the end of the year, is of value to our partner organisations. Our influence is optimised by working in partnership locally and it is only then we can see things happening on the ground.

So this prospectus is essentially a draft of the early thoughts of our Strategic Waterway Plan for the next decade. Your input is highly valued by the partnership.

Jack Hegarty

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C J Hegarty'.

Chair, South Wales and Severn Waterway Partnership



About the Canal and River Trust



Our role and objectives

The Canal & River Trust was established by Parliament in July 2012. It has responsibility for canals, rivers, docks and reservoirs, along with historic buildings, archives and three waterway museums, including the National Waterways Museum.

These assets are recognised as a national treasure and a local haven for people and wildlife. They are held and managed by the new Trust on behalf of the nation. The principal role of the Trust is to care for this unique legacy, holding it in trust for the nation in perpetuity.

The new Trust will act as guardian for the canals and rivers of England and Wales – ensuring that history, nature and communities are central to everything it does.



“A sustainable and evolving canal and river network that is a national treasure - accessible to and cherished by all.”

The Canal & River Trust 2012



Our strategic priorities

Almost 50% of the population of England and Wales lives within five miles of our network of canals, rivers and towpaths. The network is cherished by millions of visitors, neighbours and communities yet it has been difficult in the past for many people to get involved in shaping their future. We intend to change that.

Because the true potential of our canals and rivers and their long-term survival will only be secured if the new Trust fully engages and works with visitors, users, neighbours, business partners and local authorities, including parish, town and community councils.

Our priority is to widen the enjoyment of our waterways today whilst protecting them for future generations. The Trustees have set out in the document entitled 'Shaping our Future – Strategic Priorities - Keeping People, Nature and History Connected' (July 2012) six strategic priorities aimed at unlocking this potential:

- Ensuring our canals and rivers are open, accessible and safe
- Inspiring more people to enjoy the canals and rivers and support our work
- Earning financial security for our canals and rivers
- Doing everything we can to deliver on our charitable objectives
- Minimising the impact we make on scarce resources
- Establishing the Trust as a respected and trusted guardian of our canals and rivers

Our resources

- Nationally, we have an annual income of £120m
- We have 800 operational staff whose role it is to ensure that the physical infrastructure is maintained and developed
- We are the third largest owner of listed structures in the UK - 2,727 listed buildings
- 2,000 miles of historic urban and rural canals, rivers, reservoirs and docks
- 200 new miles of waterways opened in the last decade
- We have 1,000 wildlife conservation sites and 400 miles of conservation area
- There are 35,200 licensed boats on the network - 2010/11 (more than at the height of the Industrial Revolution)

Our income is derived from a wide range of sources:

- individual donors and corporate sponsors;
- commercial income including revenue from the licensing of boats, moorings and angling; and revenue from property and utilities;
- grants from the other organisations; and
- our 15 year contract with government.

Our governance

The Council

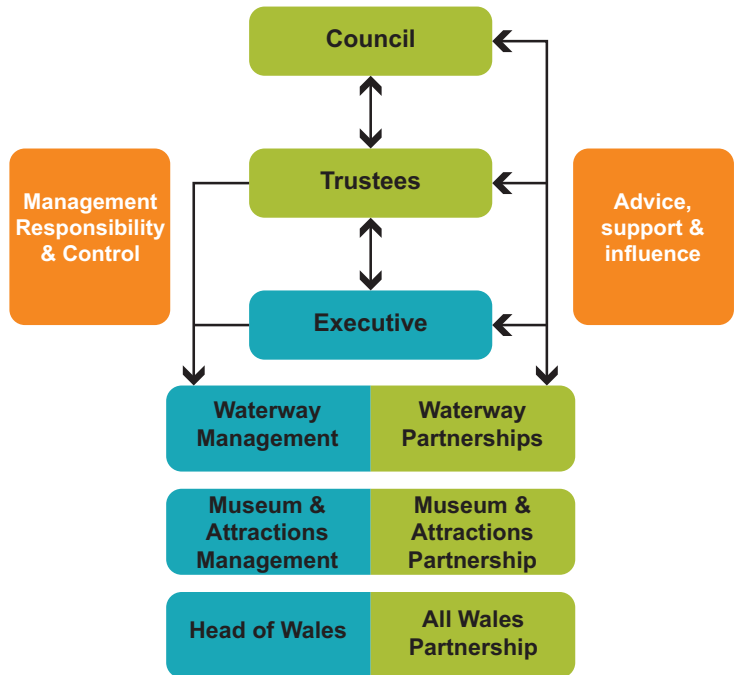
The Council with a membership of around thirty acts as the Guardian of the charitable purposes of the Trust. Its members reflect the wide appeal of waterways and are a mix of elected and nominated individuals. The Council helps to shape but not determine policy. It is vital in providing guidance and perspective, and acts as a sounding board for Trustees. It's also responsible for appointing, and dismissing Trustees.

The Trustees

The Trustees, of which there are ten, are legally responsible for directing all the Trust's business, policy and strategy, with the day to day management of the Trust delegated to the Chief Executive.

Advisory groups

The Advisory groups provide technical/special advice on the environment, angling, heritage, navigation, freight, youth and education, volunteering but are not part of the governance of the Trust. Each group has eight to ten nationally recognised experts and help the Trust to develop capacity and capability in these important areas.



Waterway partnerships

The Partnerships in context

There are thirteen Waterway Partnerships. Each Partnership brings together a range of people with relevant skills, knowledge and expertise to support the waterways, museums and attractions and act in the best interests of the Trust.

Eleven are aligned to the operational Waterway Management units; the All Wales Partnership is focused on the particular needs and opportunities of the Waterways of Wales; and the Museums and Attractions Partnership supports the Canal & River Trust's visitor services activities. Partnership Chairs report to the Chair of Trustees and are members of the Trust's Council.

Each Partnership has around 10-12 members. The respective Waterway Manager or a senior manager in the case of All Wales and the Museum & Attractions, are also Partnership Members.

What are the Partnerships for?

The primary purpose of the Waterway Partnerships is to connect local people and communities with their waterways. In so doing, the Partnerships aim to add value to Trust, working closely with the management team providing advice, inspiration and leadership, acting as ambassadors, building influence, forging new local relationships, developing engagement and participation, and working to secure new funding and voluntary support for their waterways. All the Partnerships are advisory and their work is strategic rather than operational. Nonetheless, they are all practically knowledgeable and action-orientated.

The Museums & Attractions Partnership has similar objectives but its members have specific expertise related to that sector.

The All Wales Partnership champions the current value and future potential of the waterways of Wales to the people and Government of Wales so they can fulfil their potential to contribute to Welsh life in line with the objectives and vision of Glandwr Cymru – the Canal & River Trust in Wales.



The South Wales and Severn Waterway Partnership

key

- (A)** County, Unitary Authority & Metropolitan District:
 A - Swansea UA
 B - Port Talbot UA
 C - Powys UA
 D - Torfaen UA
 E - Monmouthshire UA
 F - County of Herefordshire
 G - Gloucestershire County
 H - Worcestershire County

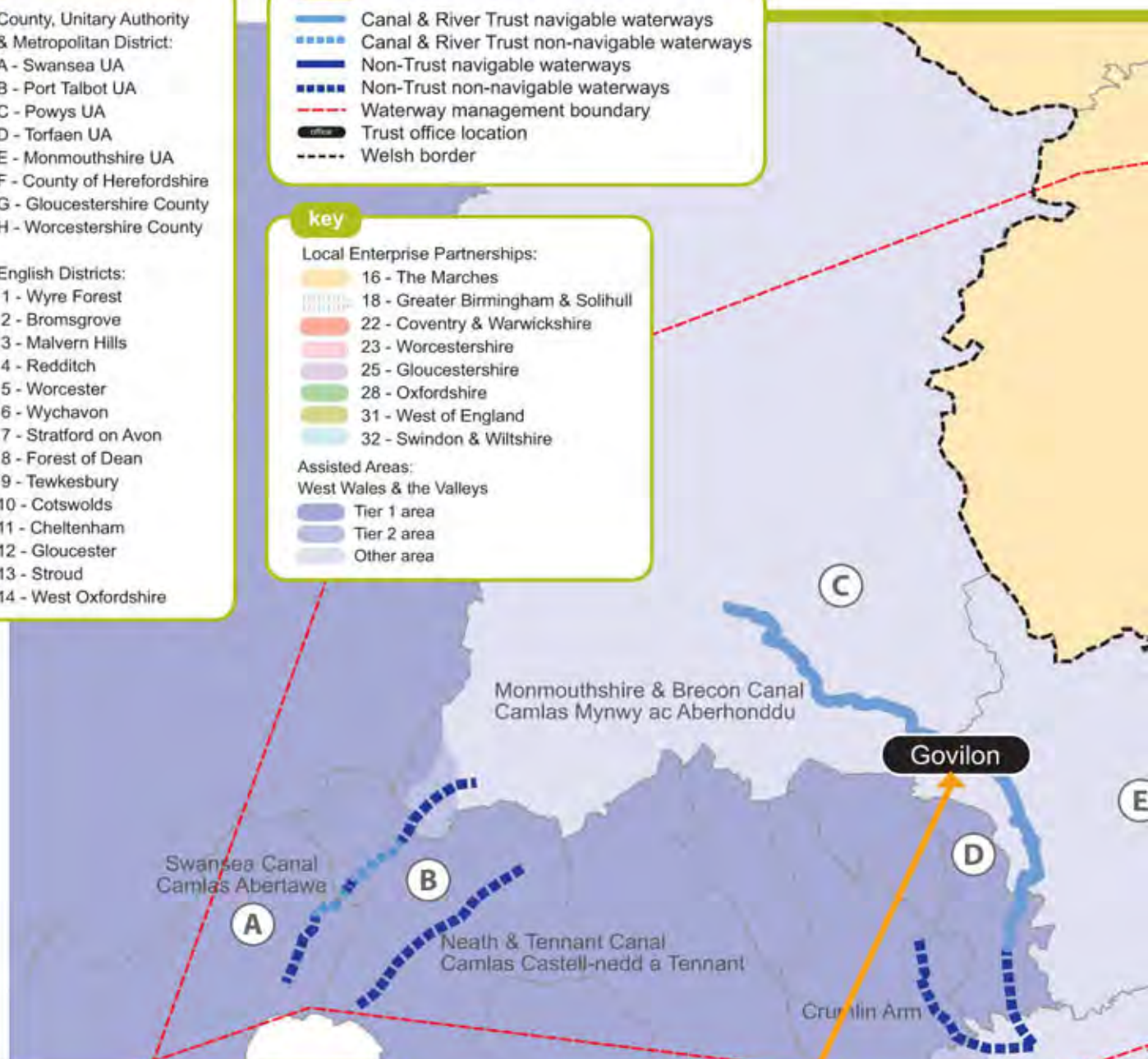
- (1)** English Districts:
 1 - Wyre Forest
 2 - Bromsgrove
 3 - Malvern Hills
 4 - Redditch
 5 - Worcester
 6 - Wychavon
 7 - Stratford on Avon
 8 - Forest of Dean
 9 - Tewkesbury
 10 - Cotswolds
 11 - Cheltenham
 12 - Gloucester
 13 - Stroud
 14 - West Oxfordshire

key

- Canal & River Trust navigable waterways
- Canal & River Trust non-navigable waterways
- Non-Trust navigable waterways
- Non-Trust non-navigable waterways
- Waterway management boundary
- Trust office location
- Welsh border

key

- Local Enterprise Partnerships:**
- 16 - The Marches
 - 18 - Greater Birmingham & Solihull
 - 22 - Coventry & Warwickshire
 - 23 - Worcestershire
 - 25 - Gloucestershire
 - 28 - Oxfordshire
 - 31 - West of England
 - 32 - Swindon & Wiltshire
- Assisted Areas:**
 West Wales & the Valleys
- Tier 1 area
 - Tier 2 area
 - Other area



Our Waterways

- Gloucester & Sharpness Canal
- River Severn Navigation (from Gloucester to Stourport)
- Droitwich Canals
- Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
- Swansea Canal
- Worcester & Birmingham Canal



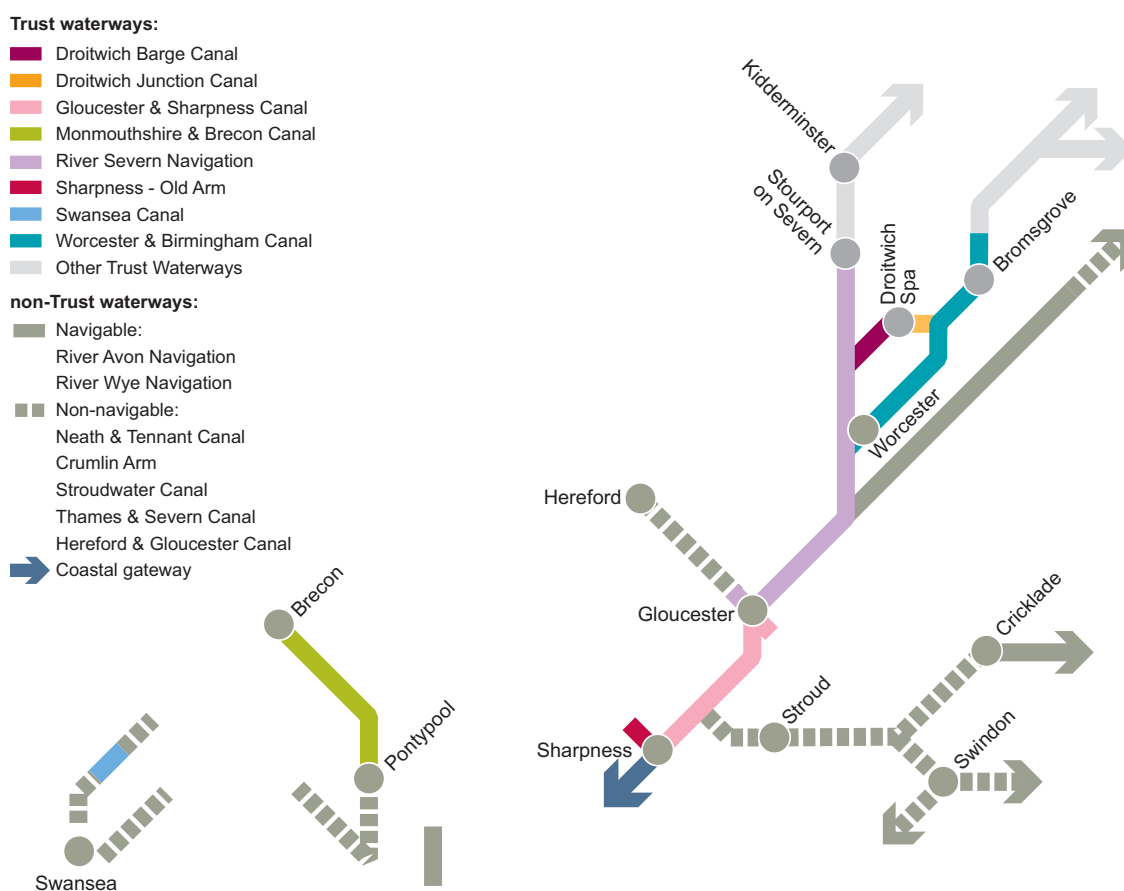
The South Wales and Severn Waterway area which stretches from south Birmingham down to Sharpness and to Swansea is unarguably the most diverse in England and Wales. With an operational port carrying half a million tonnes of freight a year, tall ship events, a major river navigation, highly popular cruise way canals, a newly restored canal, and the most beautiful canal in the UK running through the Brecon Beacons, the waterways play a hugely important role in people's lives and the prosperity of the area.



In South Wales, we look after the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal (M&B) and the Swansea Canal. Our Welsh office is at Govilon.

In Gloucestershire, we look after the Gloucester and Sharpness canal (G&S), Sharpness Port and the River Severn navigation. We have strategic operational bases at both Sharpness and Gloucester.

In Worcestershire, we look after the Worcestershire & Birmingham Canal (W&B) from Diglis through to West Hill Tunnel, the River Severn navigation, from Stourport through to Gloucester together with the newly restored Droitwich Canals. We have strategic operational bases at both Tardebigge and Diglis.



Relationship with other Waterway Partnerships

In addition to the two Waterway Partnerships covering North and South Wales, the All Wales Partnership champions the current value and future potential of the waterways of Wales to the people and Government of Wales so they can fulfil their potential to contribute to Welsh life in line with the objectives and vision of Glandwr Cymru – the Canal & River Trust in Wales. Key contacts for the All Wales Partnership are shown below. The Waterway Strategic Plan, All Wales Plan and Museums and Attractions Plan are complementary. Our relationship with the Welsh Government and the location of Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks are key to our Strategic Plan.

Our first year

The first year of the Trust has been a busy one for the South Wales and Severn Waterway Partnership. Having successfully recruited members from across the waterway area bringing a diverse range of interests to the Partnership, we have a group of passionate volunteers to provide significant added value to our work.

While a significant amount of the Partnership's time in the first year has been spent developing a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities of the waterway area, members both collectively and individually have played an important advisory and ambassadorial role with our users, communities businesses and public bodies. Our efforts include work in the following areas:

Engaging with our stakeholders: One of the key attributes that the Partnership has brought to the Trust is the promotion of dialogue with key stakeholders. Whether it is local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Local Strategic Partnerships, Probation Trusts or other public bodies the Partnership has made significant strides.

Promoting, art, sport and culture: The Partnership regards the promotion of cultural opportunities such as the Tall ships event in Gloucester and the Mon and Brec 200 celebrations; sport, for example the activities of the Gloucester Rowing Club; and art on the network, such as the Worcestershire Arts Trail, as key to the future vitality of our waterways. Members have been directly leading or involved in these and many other initiatives.

Preserving our heritage: the waterway is rich with heritage assets. Examples of where we have been involved in preservation of assets include historic lock gates at Saul Junction, Gloucestershire, or the potential restoration of the lime kilns at Tardebigge and at Brecon.

Developing new opportunities: The waterway has a number of important visitor destinations and major development opportunities. The Partnership has led, been involved with and influenced such matters as Goytre Wharf future planning, Diglis area enhancements, Sharpness masterplanning and Saul Junction where we have been key to bringing many interested groups together to improve the visitor experience. Engaging with canal societies and restoration opportunities has also been a focus of our work.

Users including our boaters: The Partnership has been keen to find new ways of involving all sections of the communities on the waterways. From one of our members leading school trips on a canal to meeting our volunteers who give up their time to promote repair the network, there is a wide variety of activity. Our boaters are key to the future success of the Trust and we have trialled user surgeries this year to increase direct and regular access to the local waterway management. We are keen to develop boater engagement further.

Tackling local issues: the Partnership has been alert to local frustrations and perceptions about the network. The relining of the Llangatock section of the Mon and Brec canal should help alleviate local concerns. The pulling together of interested bodies at Saul Junction will present a better future for the visitor destination. The launch of an appeal for a community workboat on the Worcester and Birmingham canal will both promote community engagement and clean up the canal.

As a Partnership, we are aware that we have only started! Engagement and working together are key to a sustainable future for our local waterways.



Looking forward: our Strategic Waterway Plan

One of the principal roles of each Waterway Partnership is to produce a concise ten year plan (with a three year focus) with a clear shared vision and set of strategic priorities which when combined together create a national “family” of plans. The Plan will be owned, promoted and monitored by each waterway partnership and will guide future business planning locally and nationally. The South Wales and Severn Waterway Partnership is now at the stage where it would like to share our early work and seek your views and ideas.

The Plan is being constructed to make sure that the waterways are used and developed in a way that has the maximum benefit for local people, places and the economy. The details below show our overall vision and priorities and some of the ways in which these will be achieved.

Vision

To develop and sustain the most diverse waterways in the United Kingdom

We will work with a range of stakeholders to develop and sustain the most diverse network of working canals, rivers, historic and operational docks in England and Wales, ensuring they are open to everyone to enjoy. Within 10 years they will be seen as even greater places to live, work and visit and will form an integral part of the rich character of contrasting and highly valued landscapes and townscapes.

The focus of the plan

The plan will be based around three key themes, people, places and prosperity and reflect the diverse character of the waterway area. Each theme will have its own priorities, actions and objectives resulting in defined projects contained within a 3 year rolling action plan.

Waterway priorities for people

- Develop a stronger sense of community pride, ownership and responsibility and raise awareness of the canals, rivers and docks within South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire
- Make the canals, rivers and docks accessible and relevant to all communities within South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire so that they become highly valued forms of green infrastructure
- Use the waterways to improve the health and well-being of people living and working in South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire

Objective example

Promote and use the waterways as part of the ‘natural health service’, providing a ‘free of charge’ blue gym on people’s doorstep for fitness and exercise

Action plan examples

- Targeted upgrading of canal towpaths and improve multi-user access
- Swansea Canal Canoe Trail
- Adoption of a ‘Community Work Boat’ in Worcester
- Establishing youth projects and adoption schemes in Gloucester



Waterway priorities for prosperity

- Encourage and help facilitate greater use and activity on and along the waterways to support economic well-being and growth within South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire
- Work with others to realise the full economic and regeneration potential that urban and rural waterways can deliver within their corridors to the benefit of local communities, businesses and the Trust
- Attract investment into the docks, canal and river corridors and instil a strong sense of ownership and responsibility by waterside businesses, landowners and potential investors

Action plan examples

- Help restoration groups achieve their aspirations of expanding the network of waterways
- Influence key stakeholders at Upton on Severn to improve mooring opportunities
- Create new and enhanced existing waterside destinations and visitor hubs and strengthen the 'day out' offer at these key locations:
 - City of Gloucester - Gloucester Docks and West Quays
 - Land north of Sharpness docks
 - Goytre Wharf
 - Diglis in Worcester
 - Brecon
 - Saul Junction
 - Tardebigge

Waterway priorities for places

- Make the canals, rivers and docks in South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire welcoming and interesting places to visit, live, work, use and enjoy
- Make the canals, rivers and docks in South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire accessible, safe, clean and well-connected places for all visitors, users and local communities
- Cherish, conserve and enhance the key heritage and environmental qualities and landscape character of the diverse network of waterways which make them locally distinctive and special

Action plan examples

- Review and pursue development of a shared use path between Worcester Oil Dock basin and River lock (Connect 2 - Severn Way)
- Developing an Arts Trail around the Mid Worcestershire Canal Ring
- Establishing visitor moorings on the Droitwich Canal
- Work with key stakeholders to agree Masterplans for Saul, Gloucester, Goytre, Sharpness and Diglis
- Improve the biodiversity of the waterways by creating new habitats and constructing fish passes
- Create 'Lime Kiln Trails' on the Mon and Brec and at Tardebigge
- Improve the heritage value of Saul Junction Lock

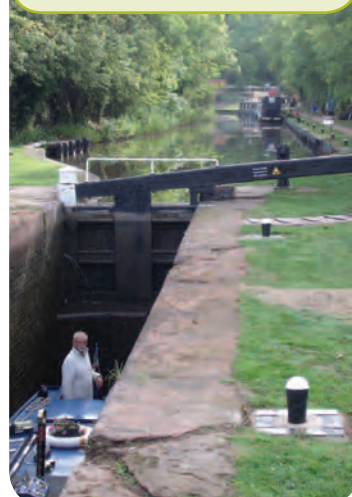
Objective example

Support the sustainable growth of waterway related tourism and leisure and to increase visitor numbers, satisfaction and spend in South Wales, Gloucestershire and Worcestershire



Objective example

Improve and increase the use of the waterways and their canal towpaths and riverside paths as an integral part of the network of sustainable transport and recreational routes



More information

More about the Trust

Just a few steps away from our everyday lives, waterways give us a much-needed space where we can escape. Next to our canals and rivers we can relax and reconnect with ourselves, our environment and the people who matter to us. Our waterway network is a national treasure and the Canal & River Trust is here to ensure that it is protected forever.

Our mission is to inspire as many people as possible to connect with our canals and rivers and we will do this by:

- Being passionate about what we do
- Encouraging those with an interest in our work to become part of it
- Reaching out to those who have yet to discover this national treasure
- Ensuring our financial security by attracting sustainable income

We believe that the true potential of our canals and rivers and their long-term survival will only be secured if we fully engage with our visitors, neighbours and business partners. By harnessing goodwill, energy and expertise, we can widen the enjoyment of our waterways today while protecting them for future generations.





More about our waterway area

The 211 km of historic canals, rivers, reservoirs and docks play an important role in the day-to-day life of the region, serving over 1.7 million people within the waterway area and attracting over 11 million annual visits.

We believe that this gives our waterways the potential to make an important contribution to the economy and quality of life. They can act as tremendous catalysts for regeneration, helping to tackle social and economic challenges and contributing to vibrant healthy communities by supporting tourism, sustainable transport, skills and business development and of course by providing a source of renewable energy.

Our waterways flow through dense major urban conurbations and regional towns and villages, to open countryside and the sea, creating landscapes that vary from tranquil to wild and dramatic.

As well as the waterways themselves, we also care for;

- 49 wildlife conservation sites
- 5 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- 271 Listed Buildings
- 5 Scheduled Monuments
- 1 World Heritage Site (on, bisected by or adjoining canals)
- 2 Historic Battlefields
- 1 registered parks and historic landscapes
- 18 conservation areas
- 88 operational locks
- 5 tunnels
- 196 bridges
- 24 aqueducts and;
- 5 reservoirs

South Wales and Severn Partnership Members

Jack Hegarty, Chair

Jack has been Managing Director of Wychavon District Council since 2004. He has been directly involved with the Droitwich Canal restoration for 11 years.

Julian Atkins

Director of Countryside and Land Management, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority; lead Authority representative on the Ministerial Waterways Advisory Group with Welsh Government.

Jan van der Elsen

Owner, Salsa Lightship Centre for Complementary Healthcare. Former Director of MFETC (Emergency Response and Fire-fighting Training Organisation).

Lois Francis

Former headteacher. Volunteer with the restoration of Stroudwater Navigation.

Alasdair Kirkpatrick

Owner Beacon Park Boats, operating 14 hire boats on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. Narrowboat builder, keen sailor, and owner of a steam boat.

Clive Matthews

General Manager, Avon Navigation Trust, Chairman and Director of Wyre Mill Club Ltd. Member of Inland Waterways Association, Friends of the Black Country Museum and Severn Valley Railway, narrow boat owner.

Robert Moreland

Former MEP and Gloucester City Councillor, member of Cotswold Canals Trust, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust and Friends of Gloucester Waterways Museum.

Robert Pearce

Former Associate Director BNP Paribas Real Estate. Chair of Church of England Diocese of Worcester Parsonages Committee. Lifelong interest in waterways.

David Wheeler

Managing Director, Eurotex (Sales) Ltd. Chair of Worcester, Birmingham and Droitwich Canals Society and Withymoor Island Trust. Vice Chair of West Midlands Metropolitan Area Canals Partnership. Narrowboat owner.

Edward Helps

Managing Director of ABC Leisure Group Ltd, an award winning business. A member of the Tourist Advisory Group and sits on the Executive Committee of the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators.

Phil Hughes

Responsible for the Fourteen Locks Canal Centre Project. Former director on the board of Capital Region Tourism.

Nick Worthington

Waterway Manager with a Masters' Degree in Engineering Business Management, Chartered Water and Environmental Manager, Corporate Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and an Incorporated Engineer.





How we work as a Partnership

The Waterway Partnership has a key advisory role bringing local knowledge, skills and experience. Partnership members do not represent single interests but act in the best interests of the Trust committing time, talents and energy. Principally they are outward looking, able to influence, lobby and forge new local relationships. They help Trust staff to open doors, develop local engagement and participation and secure new funding.

Significantly they understand the national picture and have been given the particular task of influencing and endorsing the Waterway's annual business plan as well as producing a 10 year Waterway Strategic Plan. Each Partnership Member has been given a portfolio and responsibility for certain core activities;

Governance/Chair - Jack Hegarty, Julian Atkins

Fundraising - David Wheeler, Robert Moreland

Volunteering - Clive Matthews, David Wheeler

Property/asset management - Robert Pearce

Regeneration and Restoration - Robert Pearce, Julian Atkins

Environment and Heritage - Alasdair Kirkpatrick, Julian Atkins, Phil Hughes

Health and Well being - Lois Francis, Jan Van Der Elsen

Boating and Navigation (including rowing and canoeing) -

Alasdair Kirkpatrick, Clive Matthews, Ed Helps

Communications/publicity (including website) - Jan Van Der Elsen, Ed Helps, Phil Hughes

Community, Education and youth engagement - Lois Francis, Robert Moreland

Arts and culture - Robert Moreland

Sports and recreation (including angling) - Jack Hegarty, Ed Helps

Stakeholder engagement - Robert Moreland, Lois Francis, Phil Hughes

The Partnership meets monthly (or more frequently subject to need) with actions from the meeting posted on the Canal & River Trust's web site.

Key contacts

Jack Hegarty, Chair

chair.southwalessevern@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Nick Worthington, Waterway Manager

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Alan Sumnall, Volunteer Co-ordinator

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Joe Coggins, Communications (Press Office)

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Ruth Ruderham, Head of Fundraising

ruth.ruderham@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Mike Youe, Enterprise Manager

Mike.youe@canalrivertrust.org.uk

General Enquiries, South Wales and Severn Waterways only

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Dr Mark Lang – Glandŵr Cymru – the Canal & River Trust in Wales

chair.wales@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Andrew Stumpf – Head of Wales Glandŵr Cymru – the Canal & River Trust in Wales

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Photographs courtesy of: Mike Nash, Bob Grainger and Nick Worthington



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All information correct at time of print