

PRESS RELEASE

20 June

New nature walking route launched on Bishop's Stortford's River Stort

This week saw the launch of a new three-and-a-half mile nature and heritage trail along the River Stort in Bishop's Stortford. The route has been devised by Bishop's Stortford Town Council and the charity the Canal & River Trust, with the aim of getting more people to visit and benefit from the scenic waterway.

New signage and 'way-finding' have been installed along the route which starts just north of Michaels Road weaving along the footpath adjacent to the water. On reaching the town centre, the route continues south along the towpath of the river to Twyford Lock.

The route is ideal for cyclists, walkers, runners and families on a day out. Among the attractions are historic maltings buildings, the remains of Waytemore Castle which once overlooked the town and the site where Roman Stane Street crossed the river. Wildlife which may be seen include kingfisher, mayfly, cormorant and coot whilst the flora includes bee orchid, cricket bat willow, poplar and sycamore.

Jeannette Brooks, Canal & River Trust development and engagement manager, said: "We're delighted that this new walking trail has been launched and hope it will bring a new experience to everyone visiting the river. We know from research that people are happier and more relaxed when they are by water, so can't encourage people enough to visit and find out the benefits this beautiful stretch can bring."

Cllr Norma Symonds, Mayor of Bishop's Stortford, adds: "The launch of the Waterside Stortford trail marks a new chapter in the Town Council's programme to enhance the leisure opportunities in the Town. The canal and riverside environment in the town is both interesting and beautiful and the interpretive signage and forthcoming trail leaflet will enable both visitors and townspeople to enjoy it to its fullest extent'.

The project is part of the Waterside Stortford initiative which aims to maximise the health and well-being, leisure, tourism and environmental benefits the Stort can bring to the community and its economy. Waterside Stortford is a partnership made up of

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several stakeholders including Bishop's Stortford Town Council, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire County Council, the Environment Agency and the Canal & River Trust, the charity cares for **the river from Bishop's Stortford town centre down to the Broxbourne.**

For more information about the Canal & River Trust visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

More details about Bishop's Stortford Town Council visit <https://www.bishopsstortfordtc.gov.uk/>

Ends

Notes to editors

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The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a **difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier.** By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms