



Canal &  
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

# West Midlands User Group

## Autumn 2013

### Coombeswood Trust

# Agenda

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- Introductions
- Richard Parry
- Canal Watch – Len Cresswell
- Waterway Updates
  - Dredging
  - Waterway works
  - Customer Service Information
  - Volunteering
  - Waterpoints
  - Evasion Rates
- Questions

# Richard Parry



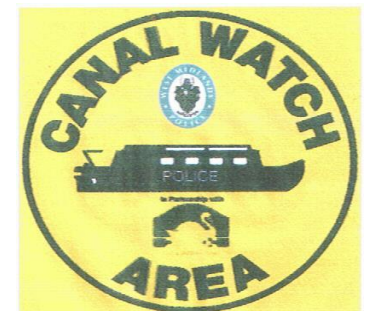
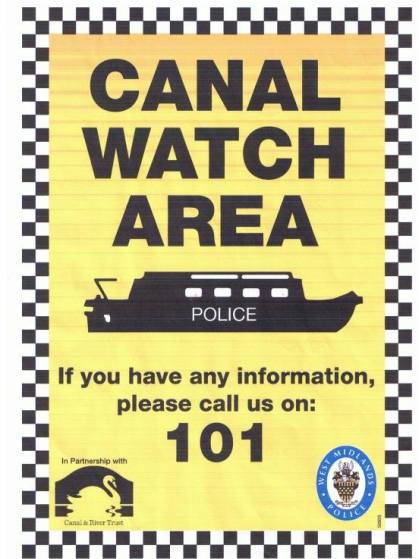
# Canal Watch – Len Cresswell



- Much the same as both Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch
- It is intended to help reduce crime along canals
- Providing useful crime awareness information
- A method of sharing crime intelligence
- Help to make canals a safer place to live, use, work and enjoy.

# How does it work?

- Signage will be put in place to indicate that those that live/work in this area participate in a Canal Watch scheme.
- On joining participants will be given a leaflet with Police contact details.
- Boaters will be given a roundel to display in their boat windows saying that they are in a canal watch scheme.





Launch of Canal Watch – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013





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# Birmingham Canal Watch

Snow Hill to NIA – Birmingham & Fazeley Canal







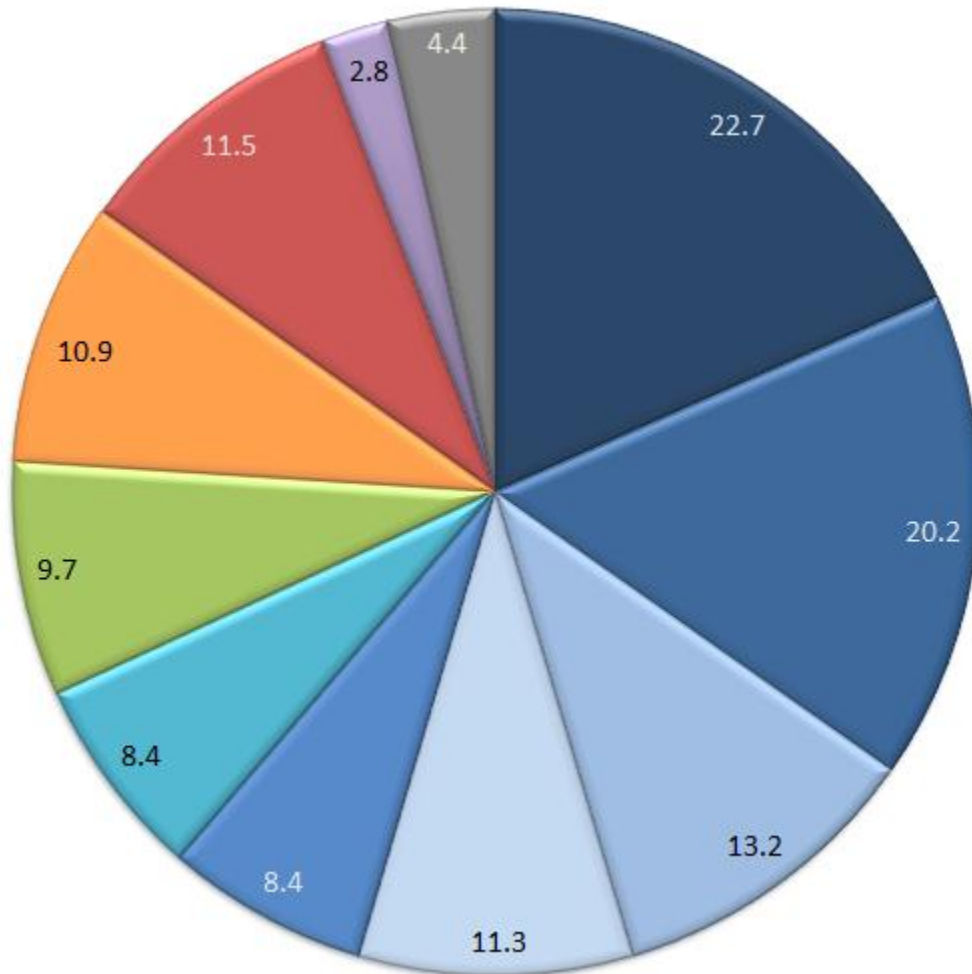
# Other Partnership News

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- Draft Strategic Plan published this week
  - Copy can be found at:  
<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/noticeboards/west-midlands-waterways>
  - Opportunity to feedback on the plans and what you think before 6<sup>th</sup> Dec 2013
  - Local workshops to be held
- Meeting MP's on 19<sup>th</sup> November at Houses of Parliament

# Waterway Updates

# Charitable activities



2015/16 £124m

- Maintenance and minor works
- Major infrastructure works
- Vegetation, waste and contract management
- Operational buildings, plant and equipment
- Customer operations
- Dredging
- Training, safety, volunteering management, travel, etc.
- National operational, technical and engineering teams
- Waterway regeneration and restoration
- Museums and attractions
- Other



# Dredging – future commitment

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<b>Dredging Programme 13/14</b>	<b>Dredging Programme 14/15</b>	<b>Dredging Programme 15/16</b>	<b>Dredging Programme 16/17</b>
<b>£3,675,000</b>	<b>£7,365,000</b>	<b>£8,400,000</b>	<b>£9,950,000</b>

# Survey Programme 2013/15

		2013/14	2014/15
Total Functional Km lengths		Worcester & Birmingham (WB-023 to WB-050)	Caldon Canal & Leek Branch (CL-001 to CL-028 & CK-001 to CK-005)
		Birmingham & Fazeley (BF-001 to BF-024)	Macclesfield Canal (MA-001 to MA-044)
		Birmingham & Warwick canal (GB-001 to GB-005)	Llangollen Canal (LA-001 to LA-048)
		Grand union Canal (GU-001 to GU-037)	Montgomery Canal (MO-001 to MO-040??)
		Kennet & Avon (KA-001 to KA-121)	Bridgewater & Taunton (BT-001 to BT-023)
		GU Welford Arm (GE-001 to GE-003)	Dudley no. 1 & no. 2 (BK-001 to BK-010 & BP-001 to BP-003)
		Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch (SM-001 to SM-016)	North Stratford Canal & Kingswood arm(SN-001 to SN-017 & SK-001)
		Trent & Mersey (TM-001 to TM-067)	Leeds & Liverpool Canal (LL-068 to LL-138)
		Erewash canal (ER-001 to ER-019)	Grand union canal(GU-070 to GU-086)





... used to shape & inform the final programme








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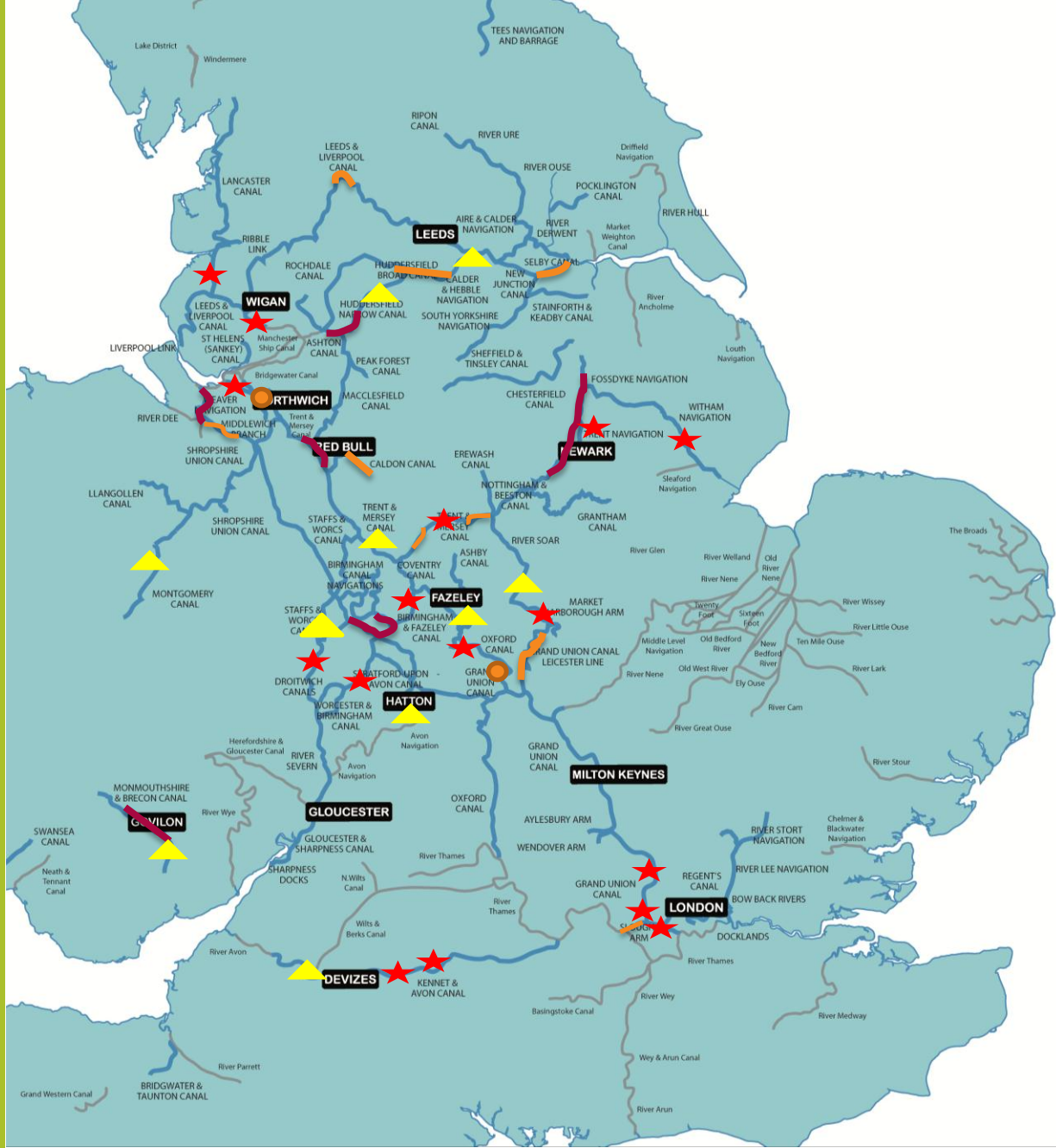
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# Provisional Dredging Programme

-  2013/14
-  2014/15
-  2015/16
-  2016/17

## Map Key

-  Canal & River Trust offices
-  Canal & River Trust waterways
-  AINA waterways
- 
- 



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# Dredging – West Midlands

Various Locations	Annualised Spot dredging	Dredging Programme 2013/18
Daw End Canal	Northywood Bridge to Ladywood Bridge	13/14
Birmingham Mainline	Birmingham Mainline	13/15
Rushall Canal	Rushall Jct to Lock 9	14/15 & 17/18
North Stratford Canal	Rotherham Oaks to Stratford Road Bridge	15/16
North Stratford Canal	Lock 14 to Lock 19 Lapworth	15/16
Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal	Great Haywood - Stourport	15/17
Grand Union Canal	Camp Hill Dredging	16/17
Stourbridge Canal	Bells Mill Bridge to Newtown Bridge	16/17
Birmingham & Fazeley Canal	Aston Lock Flight Dredging	16/17
Birmingham & Fazeley Canal	Curdworth Lock Flight Dredging	16/17
South Stratford Canal	Lock 24 to Bridge 24	17/18
South Stratford Canal	Salters Lane Bridge to Featherbed Lane Bridge	18/19

- Worcester & Birmingham
- North and South Stratford
- Grand Union







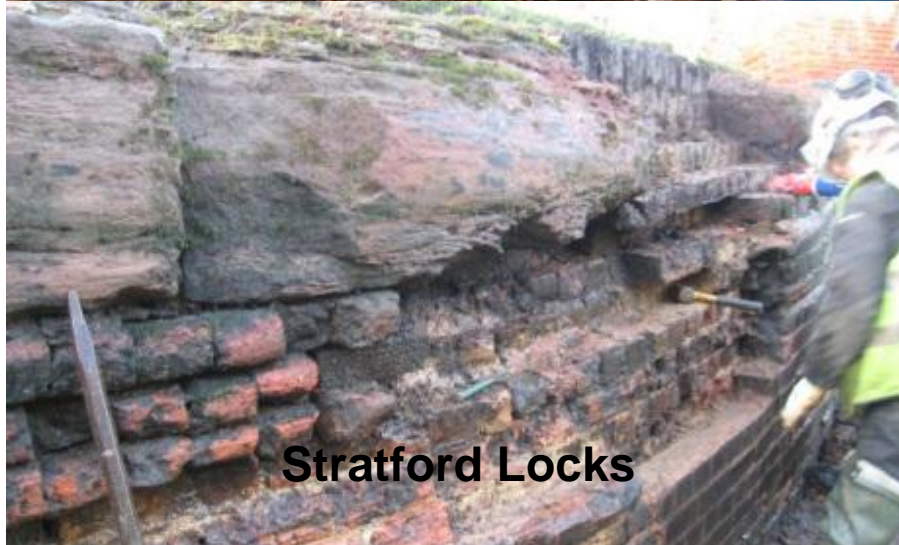
# Major Works Update



**Bowyer Street Pumping Station**



**Sluice refurbishment**



**Stratford Locks**



**Metal Bridges**

# Restoration & Repair works campaign

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## Highlights from past year:

- Free events at 13 sites nationally
- Total visitors 9,000
- Guillotine Lock over 250 visitors
- Sponsored by May Gurney
- 65 Friends recruited
- 182 pieces of media coverage
- Achieved national coverage on BBC Breakfast and The One show

**All media positive, supportive & valuable**





# Campaign proposals this winter



- Free events at 15 sites
- Further 20 sites – PR focus only
- Sponsorship by Kier Group (May Gurney)
- Highlights in West Midlands include:
  - Bratch Locks
  - Lock 40, Wilmecote Flight

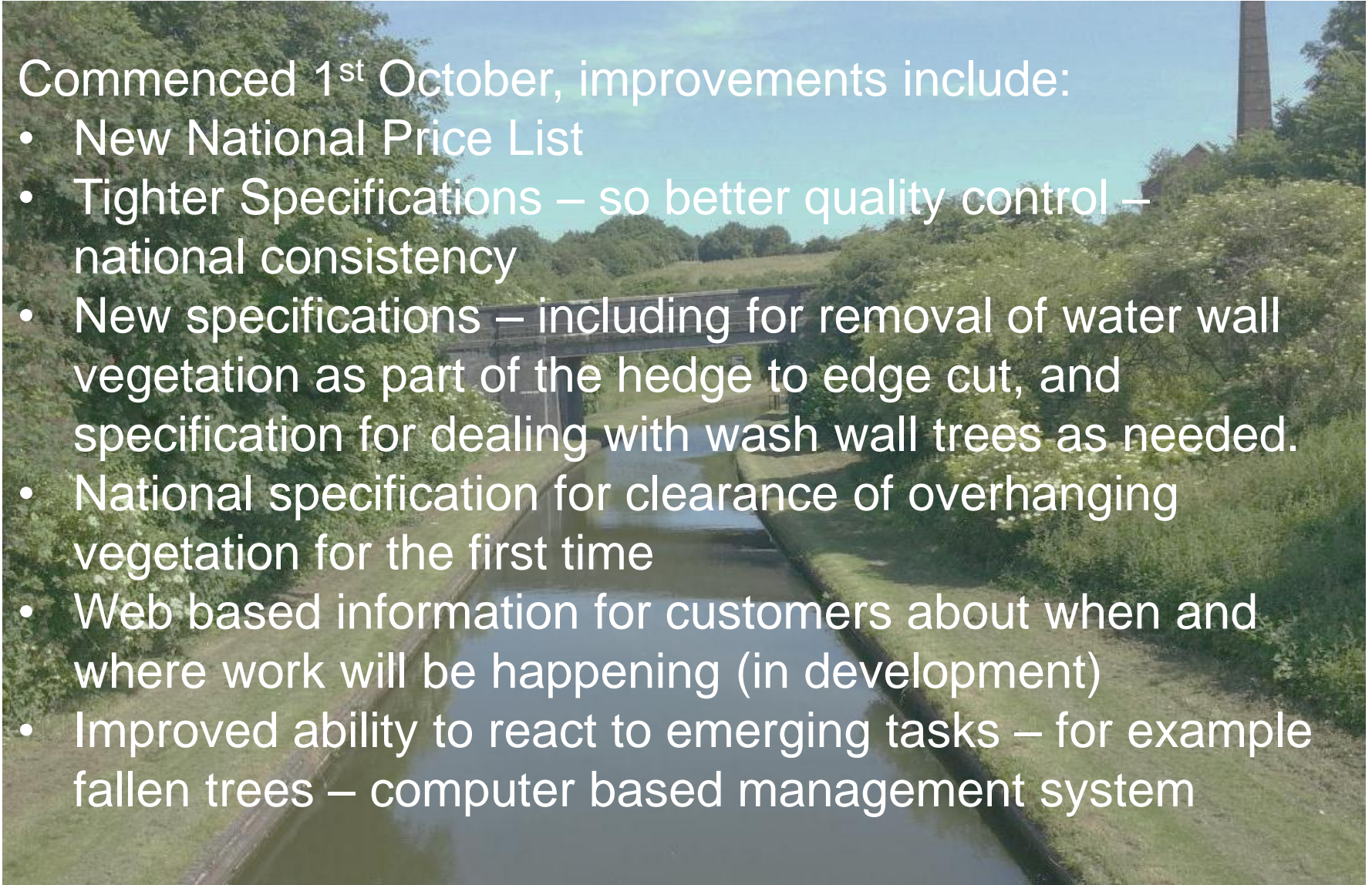
Dedicated web pages with clear maps to support events

- Key issue for boaters
- Possibly additional £2m investment nationally this winter
  - not certain yet but optimistic
- Programme being worked up currently
- Request submitted for
  - South Stratford Canal
  - Grand Union Canal – Hatton to Radford
  - Birmingham & Fazeley Canal

# Vegetation contract

Commenced 1<sup>st</sup> October, improvements include:

- New National Price List
- Tighter Specifications – so better quality control – national consistency
- New specifications – including for removal of water wall vegetation as part of the hedge to edge cut, and specification for dealing with wash wall trees as needed.
- National specification for clearance of overhanging vegetation for the first time
- Web based information for customers about when and where work will be happening (in development)
- Improved ability to react to emerging tasks – for example fallen trees – computer based management system



- Biffa, largest national contractor
- Defined response times – will help problem sites & full bins etc.
- Dedicated reactive teams
- Proactive removal of fly-tipping – reduction in number of missed bin collections
- Latest recycling processes – following major (Biffa) investment, changes and information at our bin sites
- Stronger control via contract framework

- Trust will be nearly 2 years old in Spring 2014
- Big push underway to conclude rebranding over winter 2013 / 2014
- Will need your help to spot exceptions from Easter 2014!
  
- Interested in helping?  
Contact Murray  
Woodward 01827252081







# This seasons stoppages

name	description	start date	end date	Estimated costs
Lock 1, Minworth B&F Canal	Gate works and chamber brickwork repairs	11/11/2013	21/12/2013	£46,125
Lock 3, Minworth B&F Canal	Gate repairs & chamber brickwork repairs	06/01/2014	09/02/2014	£60,929
Lock 2, Curdworth B&F Canal	Gate works and chamber brickwork repairs	06/01/2014	02/02/2014	£37,404
Lock 11, Curdworth B&F Canal	Gate works and chamber brickwork repairs	03/02/2014	02/03/2014	£25,325
Lock 3 & 4 New Sandy Lane, Camphill	Gate works	18/11/2013	05/12/2013	£127,555
Lock 3, Smethwick to Pope Bridge	Brickwork repairs and coping replacements	10/02/2014	08/03/2014	£43,825
Locks 45 & 46, Hatton	Gate and lockside repairs	11/11/2013	21/12/2013	£58,329
Lock 45, Wilmcote SS Canal	Gate works	11/11/2013	01/12/2013	£23,975
Lock 2, Lapworth Top Lock NS Canal	Chamber brickwork repairs	11/11/2013	17/11/2013	£9,215
Lock 44, Wilmcote SS Canal	Gate and chamber works	02/12/2013	21/12/2013	£32,215
Lock 50, Knowle Lock 2 GU	Gate and lockside repairs	06/01/2014	02/02/2014	£31,165
Lock 49, Knowle Lock 3 GU	Gate and lockside repairs	03/02/2014	02/03/2014	£31,915
Lock 47, Wilmcote SS Canal	Gate repairs and chamber brickwork repairs	06/01/2014	26/01/2014	£37,565
Lock 50, Wilmcote Lock SS Canal	Gate repairs and chamber brickwork repairs	27/01/2014	16/02/2014	£50,015
Lock 42, Deptmore Lock S&W Canal	Gate works and chamber brickwork repairs	11/11/2013	01/12/2013	£18,000
Perry Barr Lock 12 TV Canal	Gate and chamber brickwork repairs	02/12/2013	21/12/2013	£48,874
Lock 39, Longford Lock S&W Canal	New quoins and chamber brickwork repairs	02/12/2013	21/12/2013	£20,615
Lock 23 - 25, Bratch Flight S&W Canal	Gate works and chamber brickwork repairs	06/01/2014	08/03/2014	£87,784
Lock 31, Ned's Lock SS Canal	Gate repairs and chamber brickwork repairs	17/02/2014	08/03/2014	£25,619
				£816,449

# Problems not in the plan

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- Lock 53 South Stratford – serious bottom gate leak due to bow in gate & new cill & steelwork required.
- Lock 11 Aston (B&F) – serious bottom gate leaks & fabric dam required.
- Dimminsdale Lock – Serious bottom gate leak, fabric dam & gate liners required.
- Curdworth lock 1 – Top gate leaks & plyboard required.
- Stourton lock 4 – Gate leaks & possible re-fit to top and bottom gates.



# Summertime Works



Bustleholme Weir

## Resurfacing between bridges 65 & 66 South Stratford & Featherbed lane





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# Copt Heath Weir and Fishley Bridge





# Not to mention Ashted and Bratch and a few others !!!!!!!



Ashted Lock 2 - £3k



Aston Lock 5 - £15k



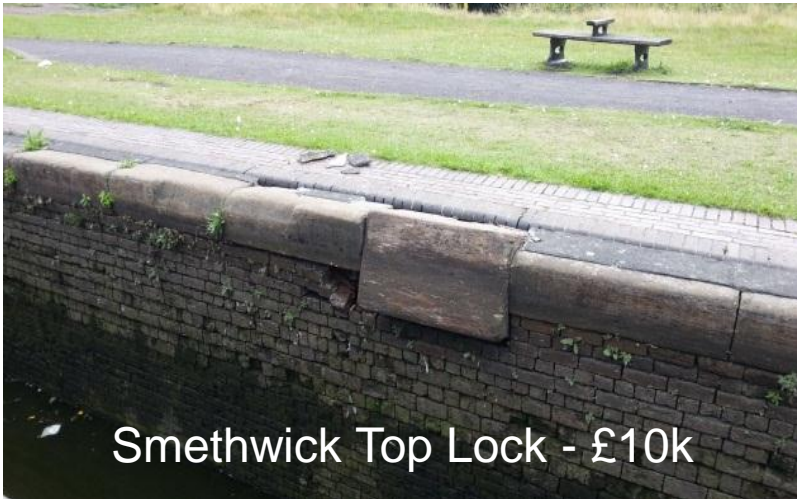
Bratch Locks - £4.5k



# Not to mention Ashted and Bratch and a few others !!!!!!!



Wolverhampton Lock 20 - £140k



Smethwick Top Lock - £10k



Minworth Flight - £83k




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# Improvements to customer information.....



1. More targeted prompt
  - Customers can be alerted for specific canals
  - Tweets will be broadcast (for all 'W'scape' updates)
  - Additional to the mail – Note text not available yet
2. Enhanced search facility by specific canal or map
3. Mapping functionality improved
  - Maps will be real time – all year round
  - Can filter for future dates – additional to current
  - Journey planning facility
4. 'Geo caching' whilst on the move
  - Pinpoints your current location (Note – smartphones only)



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## Notice Details - Replacement of lock gates

**Notice Details**

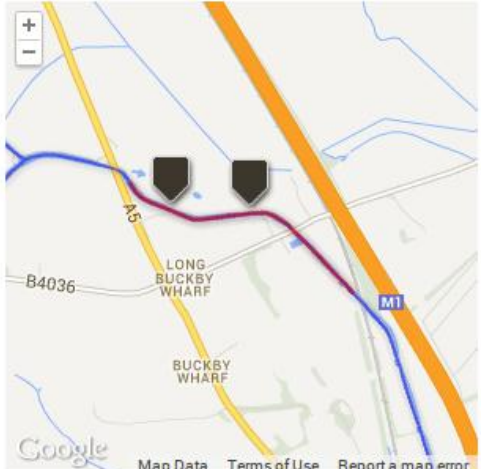
<b>From Date:</b>	18th October 2013
<b>To Date:</b>	12th December 2013
<b>Reason:</b>	Maintenance
<b>Type:</b>	Stoppage
<b>Description:</b>	We are going to be replacing the lock 8 gates.
<b>Business Region:</b>	South-East
<b>Is Towpath Closed?</b>	Yes
<b>Is Winter Notice?</b>	Yes

**Affected Location(s):**

**Grand Union Canal**

<b>Starts At:</b>	Bridge 12
<b>Ends At:</b>	Lock 8
<b>Up Stream Winding Hole:</b>	upstream
<b>Down Stream Winding Hole:</b>	downstream

## Notice Location



Completely new page  
Map now added per stoppage/restriction  
Live end October



# Interactive map via 'in your area'



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You are here:

## In your area

You searched for... 'mk65f'

- Zoom in to see more icons
- Click on a numbered pin to open it up
- Zoom out if you can't see waterways
- Click on a waterway for its name

Search a different area

mk65f

'Check your journey & stoppages'  
Map indicates affected length/location

The map displays a network of waterways in the Leicestershire region, centered on Lutterworth. A search for 'mk65f' has highlighted a specific waterway segment. An 'Explore' panel is open on the right, listing various activities and services. A green arrow points from the text box to the 'Check your journey & stoppages (coming soon)' option in the Explore panel.

Explore	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waterway Info <span>+ More</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See and do <span>+ More</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eating and drinking
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Volunteer opportunities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising appeals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boating Holidays <span>+ More</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boating services & meetings <span>+ More</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check your journey & stoppages (coming soon) <span>+ More</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clubs and Societies <span>+ More</span>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fishing <span>+ More</span>



# New Waterway Web Pages

Here you can find out about what our team and your Waterways Partnership are doing in the South East.

Read the latest notices, learn about our plans for the canals in this area, who we're working with and how you can get involved.

[Read More](#)



Foxton Locks, Grand Union Canal



**South East Waterway unit**



**South East Partnership**



**Volunteering in the South East**

## Events »

05 - 06 Oct 2013  
**Merry Hill Boat Rally**  
On the Waterfront at Merry Hill, Brierley Hill.

19 - 20 Oct 2013  
**Montgomery Canal Restoration Work Party**  
Help the Shropshire Union Canal Society to complete the restoration of a further stretch of the Montgomery Canal.

19 - 20 Oct 2013  
**Open weekend at Stourbridge Bonded Warehouse**  
Celebrating the Trust's 30th annual Open Weekend.



**Boating information**



**Contact us**



**Aylesbury Arm blog**

## Notices

[The South East Autumn User Group meetings are scheduled for 16th October and 24th October 2013](#)

[We're recruiting for a Boating sub group of our Partnership, please click for more information](#)



# Thanks to all our volunteers

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- Generously gave 250,000 hours of their time in 2012/13

- 370 lock keepers

- 27 Community Adoptions – scout groups, pubs, IWA branches etc.

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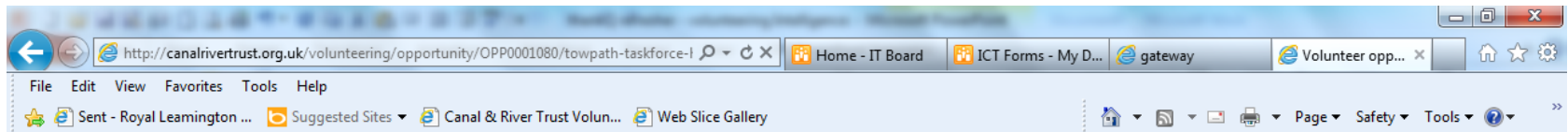
- Over 30 Towpath Taskforce events running each month

- 10 Welcome Stations established with another 10 to come before the spring

- 90 Explorer Education volunteers



- Improved opportunity search on the web
- Currently over 100 volunteer roles being advertised here
- Growing social media communities on Twitter and Facebook – follow us



## Towpath Taskforce Hatton Locks - First Monday & Wednesday each month

**Location:** Hatton, Grand Union Canal, Warwickshire

**Activities:** Practical

**Start date:** Anytime

**Reference number:** OPP0001080

Towpath Taskforce on the Hatton Lock flight with the Canal & River Trust. Meeting on the first Monday and the first Wednesday of each month. We carry out a range of tasks with something to suit all. This can include vegetation management, painting of lock beams and metalwork or just generally having a good spring clean. We meet at 10am on the car park off Canal Lane, CV35 7JL next to the lock flight.

### Benefits

It's a great way to meet other local volunteers and the CRT Volunteer team, learn new practical skills, hear about other volunteer opportunities or just spend a few hours outdoors improving your local waterway environment.

### Skills Required

# Volunteer Lock Keepers



- Hatton - 😊 😊 😊
- Lapworth - 😊 😊 😊
- Wilmcote - 😊 😊 😊
- B'ham City  
(Farmers) - 😊
- Curdworth - 😊
- Bratch - 😊 😊
- Stourport - 😊 😊
- Wolverhampton - ☹️

# Adoption schemes

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- Birmingham University (Curzon St area)
- Army Cadets – Stourport to Kidderminster
- Bradley Residents – Bradley Arm





Towpath tidy groups at  
Tipton, Hatton, Galton  
& Lapworth.

IWA Warwickshire clean ups

Earlswood residents association

1363 days as of end Sept





[canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteering](https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteering)



[Canal & River Trust Volunteers](#)



[CRTVolunteers](#)



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# New Waterpoints

- Nationally around 1150 non-compliant water points
  - Private Distribution Network; non-compliance a criminal offence.
- Over 600 completed. Remaining 500 compliant by end Dec
- Around 1000 will have existing appliance modified or a like for like new appliance fitted – Cost £3k each
- 180 (16%) stainless steel units being installed – Cost less than £1k each
- Navigation Advisory Group consulted and satisfied with justification
- Tap should be at around 700mm above ground level.
- Should be installed with security chains for padlocks
- The total project cost is around £500k
- Report any installation problems or concerns and these will be looked into
- Benefits are:
  - Less chance of cross contamination
  - Fewer frozen pipes
  - Stop taps mean problems easier to solve without shutting down large areas
  - Eliminates risk of prosecution and fines





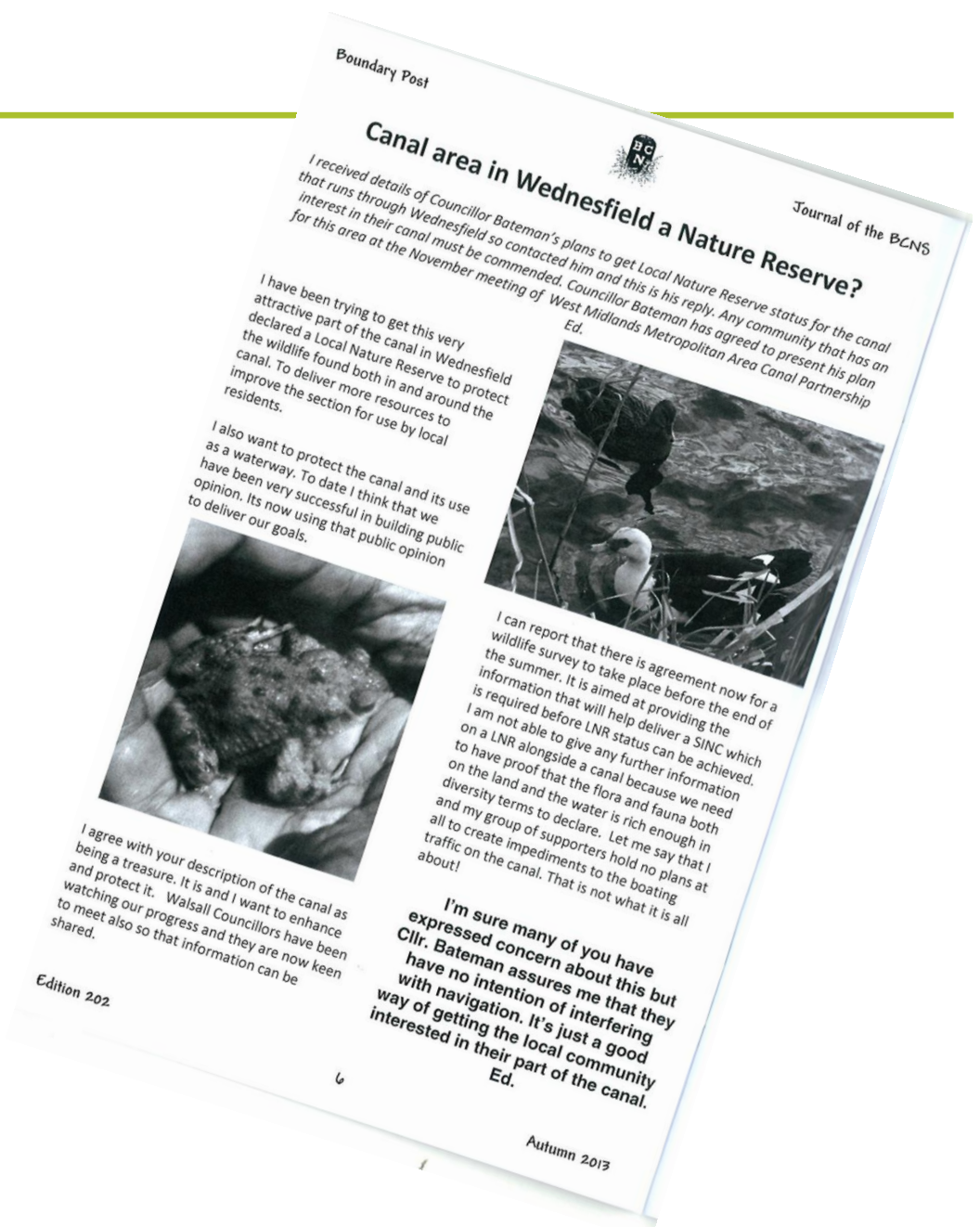
# Evasion Rates

	North West	North East	Manchester & Pennine	North Wales & Borders	Central Shires	East Midlands	South Wales & Severn	West Midlands	South East	Kennet & Avon	London	Total
Sightings Sept NBC2013	2830	2222	1498	2512	3611	1654	1938	1796	6048	1905	2581	28595
Current Cases	135	83	87	121	119	43	66	59	99	85	156	1053
Indicative Rate	4.8%	3.7%	5.8%	4.8%	3.3%	2.6%	3.4%	3.3%	1.6%	4.5%	6.0%	3.7%
March 13 evasion	3.5%	4.7%	4.2%	3.8%	4.5%	3.4%	4.3%	4.1%	1.8%	6.5%	5.7%	3.9%
Compared to March 2013 NBC	1.2%	-0.9%	1.6%	1.0%	-1.2%	-0.8%	-0.9%	-0.8%	-0.2%	-2.0%	0.3%	-0.2%

# Questions

# Questions

According to local press reports, Phil Bateman, a Wolverhampton councillor, is pushing to have the Wyrley & Essington Canal designated as a Local Nature Reserve and there are concerns that this might lead to some restrictions on boating activity. What discussions have CRT had with the Council about this and can you assure us that navigation will not be affected ?



# Questions

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Parts of the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal between Deptmore Lock and Great Haywood have become restricted in width over long sections by reeds spreading into the channel from the offside. The towpath hedge alongside the garage at Radford Bank is also very overgrown making walking along the rather narrow towpath here difficult and dangerous. What is being done to control excessive vegetation growth along the canal ?

# Questions

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The towpath bank along Tixall Wide appears to have gradually subsided and there is now very little freeboard in places, with the water retained only by the piling. What will be done to reinstate the correct height of the bank and prevent any future leakage problems or breaching ?





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# Any Other Questions

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