



Canal &
River Trust

South Wales & Severn Waterway Community Engagement Plan



About us

The Canal & River Trust is a charity entrusted to care for 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales. Our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

On top of maintaining canals and rivers, we are responsible for an enormous network of bridges, embankments, towpaths, aqueducts, docks and reservoirs and more.

From improving towpaths for walkers and cyclists, providing opportunities to fish on our canals, creating new wildlife habitats, protecting our heritage, restoring derelict canals and maintaining our distinctive infrastructure, we are constantly working to make our canals and rivers the very best they can be.



What does South Wales & Severn cover?

We manage our responsibilities across England and Wales between ten geographical areas.

The South Wales & Severn Waterway area covers the Monmouthshire & Brecon, Swansea, Worcester & Birmingham, Droitwich and Gloucester & Sharpness Canals and the River Severn Navigation (Stourport to Gloucester).

What is 'Community Engagement'?

'Community engagement' is how we work with people and organisations outside the Trust.

This can range from just making sure people know what is going on to helping groups adopt their own length of canal. We also work with groups and companies to help them use our waterways in ways that benefit them, the local communities and waterway users.

We try to make sure that, when it comes to making policy and investment decisions, as well as in its day-to-day operations, the Trust is well informed about the things that people like about the waterways and any concerns that need to be addressed.

The Trust wants to create 'Living waterways that transform places and enrich lives'. Local people and organisations can help us understand their area and so ensure that our waterways are a resource they appreciate.

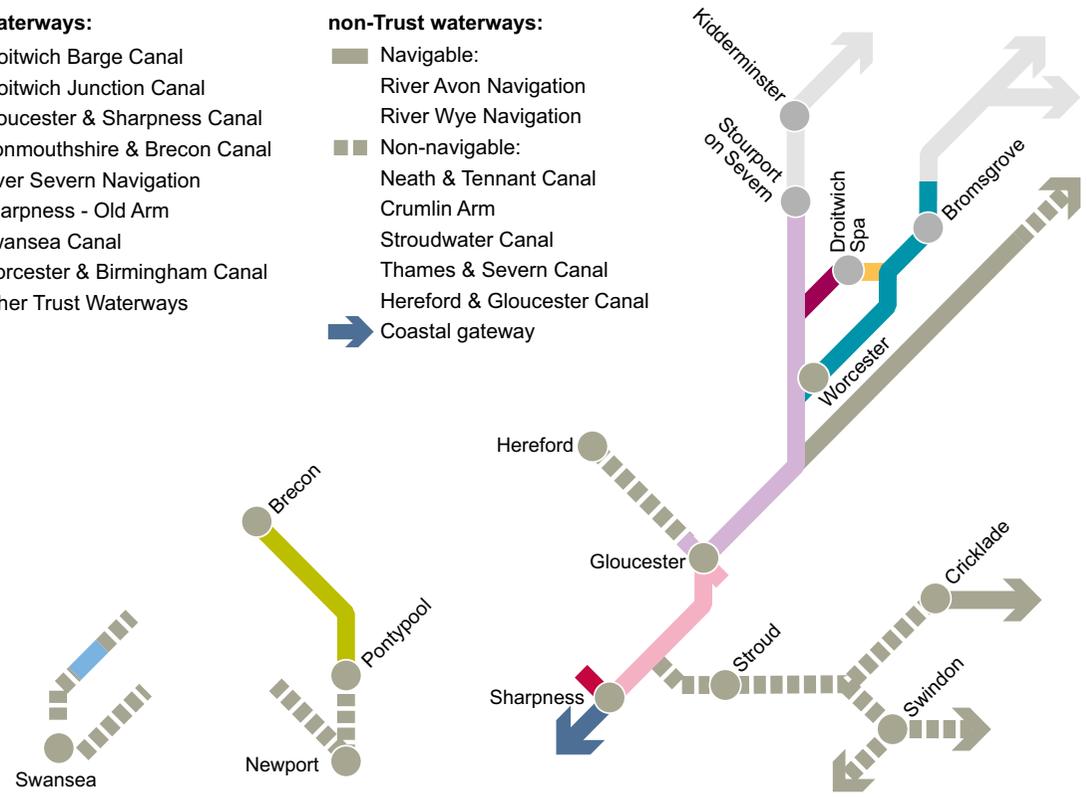


Trust waterways:

- Droitwich Barge Canal
- Droitwich Junction Canal
- Gloucester & Sharpness Canal
- Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
- River Severn Navigation
- Sharpness - Old Arm
- Swansea Canal
- Worcester & Birmingham Canal
- Other Trust Waterways

non-Trust waterways:

- Navigable:
 - River Avon Navigation
 - River Wye Navigation
- Non-navigable:
 - Neath & Tennant Canal
 - Crumlin Arm
 - Stroudwater Canal
 - Thames & Severn Canal
 - Hereford & Gloucester Canal
- ➔ Coastal gateway



What is this Plan about?

This document summarises community engagement in South Wales and Severn.

It illustrates how we make contact with individuals, groups and organisations and how we use their views to improve the waterways for everyone.

It also describes what we plan to do in the future and provides details if you wish to get information, make comments or get more involved with the waterways in South Wales and Severn.



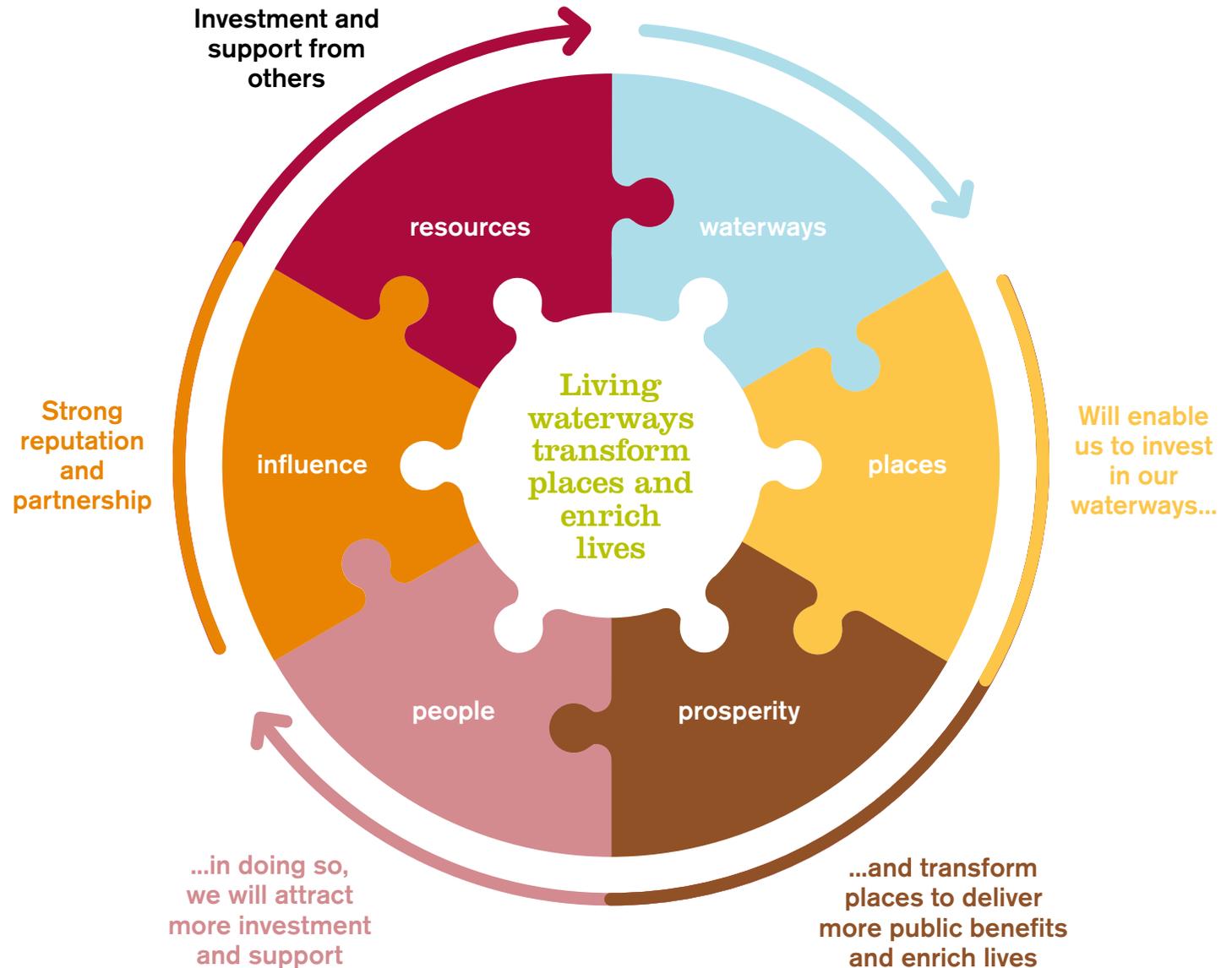
What community engagement have we done in South Wales and Severn and what do we plan to do in the future?

The Canal & River Trust's South Wales and Severn Waterways Team and the volunteers who form the South Wales and Severn Waterways Partnership work together to make connections between people and organisations locally and the work of the Trust.

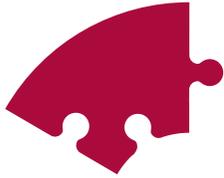
We provide a local voice for the Trust and we act on comments and ideas from our locality. Our work helps to deliver the Canal & River Trust's overall Vision and Strategic Goals.



The Canal & River Trust's Vision and Strategic Goals



Resources Goal



To secure sufficient resources, and manage them efficiently, for the long term sustainability of the waterways within the Trust's care.

Community Engagement in South Wales & Severn

Examples of what we have done:

- Developed community (volunteer) canal adoption schemes and volunteer lock keeper and towpath ranger opportunities

What we plan to do in the future:

- Explore opportunities to increase the number of community canal adoptions and new volunteer opportunities
- Maximise the current community adoptions to support key sites and water based services
- Develop new opportunities for community and corporate canal adoptions

Influence Goal



To be a widely respected partner and trusted guardian with growing influence and responsibility.

Community Engagement in South Wales & Severn

Examples of what we have done:

- Met with MPs and senior council representatives across the area to discuss their local waterways
- Engaged with Gloucestershire and Worcestershire LEPs to influence, consult and raise awareness of the canal network across the region
- Contributed as a member of the new Swansea Bay Inland Waterways Partnership

What we plan to do in the future:

- Work closely with Glandŵr Cymru, the Welsh Board, to highlight the needs and aspirations of canalside communities and the Swansea and Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal
- To engage key partners to recognise the impact of the waterspace on health and wellbeing

Waterways Goal



To protect and improve the accessibility, usability and resilience of our assets and their heritage, for people to use and enjoy, now and in the future.

Community Engagement in South Wales & Severn

Examples of what we have done:

- Listened to User Groups and customers to improve access and usability of the towpaths and moorings
- Held an Annual Public Meeting and User Forums for customers to share ideas for improvements across the region
- Established a Forum with COG (Commercial Operators Group) on the Monmouthshire & Brecon canal to discuss navigation and business issues
- Worked with our boating customers to develop a River Severn Navigation guide

What we plan to do in the future:

- Speak to groups and communities about how they can help us improve our waterways
- Work with our local IWA, canal societies and other groups and communities to draw up agreed plans for their local canal
- Continue to support the Worcester – Birmingham & Droitwich Canals Society Tardebigge Lime Kiln restoration project and the Cotswold Canal Partnership 1B restoration project.



Places Goal



To provide special places that people value, sustainable environments and routes.

Community Engagement in South Wales & Severn

Examples of what we have done:

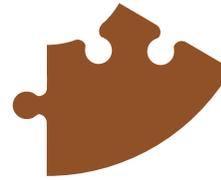
- Worked with partners in the Blaenavon World Heritage Site to help ensure that this internationally recognised environment is protected and sustained.
- Delivered the Trust's national campaign Share The Space, Drop Your Pace in our area to encourage safe and diverse use of our towpaths and waterspace for all users
- Delivered Lock Restoration Open Days at Diglis Basin, Llangynidir and Saul Junction Lock
- Worked with students at Gloucestershire College to establish a community canal adoption at Saul Junction

What we plan to do in the future:

- Work with local groups, organisations and other partners to support the greater use of the Swansea and Droitwich Canals
- Encourage canalside art and interpretation with local community groups as part of the Arts on the Waterway programme



Prosperity Goal



To yield economic benefits for local communities and the nation.

Community Engagement in South Wales & Severn

Examples of what we have done:

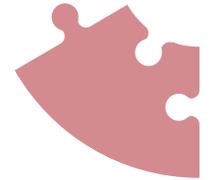
- Worked with partners in the Gloucester Docks Stakeholder Group to support and develop regeneration plans for the historic docks
- Proactive partnership with a commercial operator to establish a tourism and recreation offer for canal users and visitors at Goytre Wharf
- Supported the bi-annual Tall Ships and other canal events

What we plan to do in the future:

- Contribute with partners to the work of the HLF River Severn Shad Fish Pass Project and the Mid-Worcestershire Art Ring
- Work with partners in Worcester to develop and promote the Riverside Park increasing the visitor economy



People Goal



To enrich people's lives.

Community Engagement in South Wales & Severn

Examples of what we have done:

- Supported community and residents groups in Worcester eg St Paul's Hostel to develop new skills and confidence through The 'Wanderer' Community Workboat project
- Supported Swansea Canal Society to adopt a mile of canal to assist with maintenance, learn key skills and contribute to their local community
- Provided opportunities for volunteers and the Trust's Heritage Skills Trainees to learn lime mortar skills on the Mon & Brec Lime Kiln Trail project

What we plan to do in the future:

- Talk to providers about how our waterways can be used for better health and wellbeing
- Encourage greater activity and involvement in the waterways by young people and disabled groups



Would you like to know more about the waterways in South Wales & Severn?

If so, the following information is available on the Canal & River Trust website:

Descriptions of our local waterway and the events in our region:
canalrivertrust.org.uk/south-wales-and-severn

More information about the Canal and River Trust and information about how you can help the Trust in its work
canalrivertrust.org.uk

Would you like to contact us about your thoughts on your local waterways?

If so, please use the contact details below:

- **South Wales & Severn Partnership Chair:**
chair.southwalessevern@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- **South Wales & Severn Waterway Manager:**
nick.worthington@canalrivertrust.org.uk
- **South Wales & Severn Waterway Team:**
enquiries.southwalessevern@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Would you like to know more about us?

- Details of the Waterway Team
canalrivertrust.org.uk/contact-us-in-south-wales-and-severn
- Details about the members of the Waterways partnership
canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/our-regions/south-wales-and-severn-waterways/south-wales-and-severn-partnership

Would you, your organisation, or your company like to get more involved with our canals?



We have many volunteers working on our waterways, or in functions supporting our waterways, in a wide variety of different roles. Many businesses use our waterways to provide staff development and if you would be interested in finding out more:

canalrivertrust.org.uk/southwales-and-severnwaterwayvolunteering

Are you interested in the range of activities that can take place on or near the water or in getting on the water?

Whether you are a walker, boater, angler, cyclist or paddlesport enthusiast, we are keen for everyone to enjoy the waterway.

To find out more: canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways

As members of the South Wales & Severn Waterways Team and the Waterways Partnership we are keen to work with you to help improve our waterways and make them somewhere that you, your friends and visitors enjoy and cherish.

We hope that this document explains a little about how we go about this.

We would love to work with you in the future so do not hesitate to get in touch with us or come to some of the events that we arrange throughout the year.

We hope to see you soon!