



Towpath improvements planned for Grand Union Canal in Leighton Buzzard

The Canal & River Trust is planning to improve the towpath on the Grand Union Canal in Leighton Buzzard, to provide a better path for people to access the health and wellbeing benefits of being by water.

The project builds on previous towpath improvements undertaken by the Trust in Leighton Buzzard in 2015, between Leighton Road and Leighton Lock.

Ros Daniels, the Canal & River Trust's director for London & South East, explains: "Research shows that being next to water improves your mental and physical health. The Canal & River Trust wants to make its canals more welcoming, safe and clean to encourage more people to use them, and enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of walking and cycling, and being by the water."

The towpath in Leighton Buzzard forms part of the Sustrans National Cycle Network 'Paths for Everyone', which aims to deliver a traffic-free, more consistent and accessible network for everyone, including walkers, cyclists, families and people with mobility requirements.

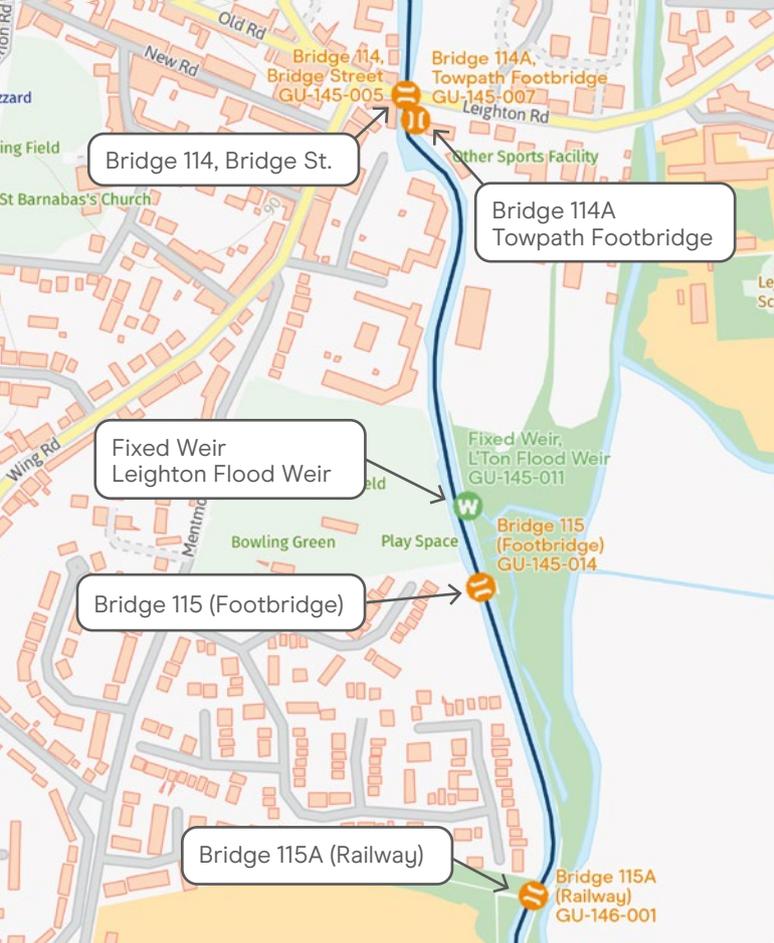
The project is being delivered in partnership with national walking and cycling charity Sustrans, who are custodians of the National Cycle Network. Sustrans received funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) in response to the 'Paths For Everyone' review of the National Cycle Network in 2019.

Just over £500,000 of investment is being planned, adding a further 2.9km of improved towpath. The improvements are expected to start in May 2022, and to be completed by September 2022.

Find out more about the improvements planned

Ahead of the improvements, we are holding a community information event on Saturday 23 April, from 1.30pm to 6.30pm at Linslade Memorial Pavilion, Mentmore Road, Linslade LU7 2NZ. At the event, we will have plans on display and Canal & River Trust representatives on hand to answer questions. We'd love to hear what you think!

You can also find out more about the project and provide feedback online: canalrivertrust.org.uk/leighton-buzzard



South of Bridge 114 Leighton Road

The towpath south of Leighton Road currently has an uneven surface and is narrow in many places. This project will resurface and widen a 780-metre section of towpath running south from the B4032 Leighton Road to Bridge 115A footbridge (old railway), widening the towpath to between 1.8 and 2 metres and adding a new all-weather surface.

This part of the towpath improvements will require the towpath to be closed from the end of May for approximately 10 weeks. A signed towpath diversion route will be in place.



Volunteer with us

Canal & River Trust ecologists and heritage advisers are involved in the design of the towpath improvements, to ensure they are sensitive to local wildlife and heritage structures. Enhancements will be made where possible, including vegetation and tree management.

If you'd like to get involved in the wildlife or heritage improvements with other volunteers, or help look after the new towpath environment once it is complete, please do let us know through the feedback form on our project webpage: canalrivertrust.org.uk/leighton-buzzard

To find out more about volunteering with the Trust, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer

North of Leighton Lock

North of Lock 27 (Leighton Lock) a 2,100-metre section to Bridge 110 (Sandhole Bridge) in Old Linslade will also be improved including surfacing improvements, vegetation trimming and biodiversity enhancements.

Family fun by the water

Leighton Linslade Town Council's Linslade Canal Festival will take place Saturday 30 July 2022 at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park.

The event, which celebrates canal life, conservation, the countryside and includes music, historic and trade boats, crafts exhibits, food stalls and family activities. For more information visit www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



Get in touch

Call **03030 404040** or email enquiries.londonsoutheast@canalrivertrust.org.uk

@CRTSouthEast

canalrivertrust.org.uk/leighton-buzzard