

Working together **for the well-being of our canals, rivers, wildlife & people**

**Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership
Ten Year Strategic Plan 2014**

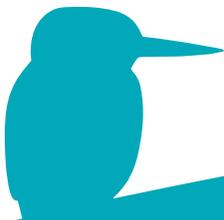


Canal &
River Trust



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**“Living waterways
transform places
and enrich lives”**

Canal & River Trust, 2014

Welcome

Following the Launch of the Canal & River Trust in July 2012 and having published our Waterway Partnership's Engagement Prospectus in November 2013, our Partnership has been busy listening to local people, groups, societies, statutory agencies and businesses which have a stake in the future of the region's waterways, particularly the Kennet & Avon and Bridgwater & Taunton Canals.

We've been out and about and held workshops in Bath, Newbury and Bridgwater and have matched the priorities that you told us are important to you, to the actions which we now intend to help deliver with a range of partners over the next ten years.

Of particular concern was making sure we work with all the well-established groups and local partners that are already doing such fantastic work on our waterways so that we achieve more together. By nurturing the knowledge and skills of local communities and stakeholders we believe we can maintain, improve and interpret the unique waterways environment for future generations.

We have already been working with some groups of young people and as a result the YMCA have adopted a stretch, and a local group of guides have adopted two locks on the Kennet & Avon. These Guides already make use of the community narrow boat Falcon Adam (Thames and Kennet Narrowboat Trust) based at Aldermaston, which is run by Guide and Scout leaders and so helping to keep the canal working and an attractive place for all to visit was a natural step to take. We feel that it is important to encourage young people to be fully engaged with the waterways and look to expand the Canal & River Trust Explorers programme throughout the Partnership area.

Taking account of the needs of everyone who uses or wants to use the waterways and managing them accordingly will definitely be a key to our success. The waterways are a finite resource and we all need to share the space so that they can be enjoyed and respected by everyone.

We will ensure our waterways are accessible to all, open, way-marked and linked to facilities and places of interest. This will provide confidence for businesses to grow and encourage visitors to discover new and exciting places. We intend to work with statutory authorities and land owners to help deliver this objective.

Providing information about the waterways was a particular theme which emerged from our workshops. We intend to provide better information through a variety of communication channels particularly, for example when significant maintenance work is being planned or when navigable conditions are adverse.

No Partnership more than ours understands the huge demand and importance of boat moorings in the region. In 2013, following extensive consultation, our members helped develop guidance for boaters without a home mooring which is now being implemented on the western end of the Kennet & Avon Canal. This interim 12 month plan will be evaluated and will hopefully form the basis of a comprehensive strategy for mooring in the future which will also help reduce congestion. We intend to continue this work over the early years of this plan.

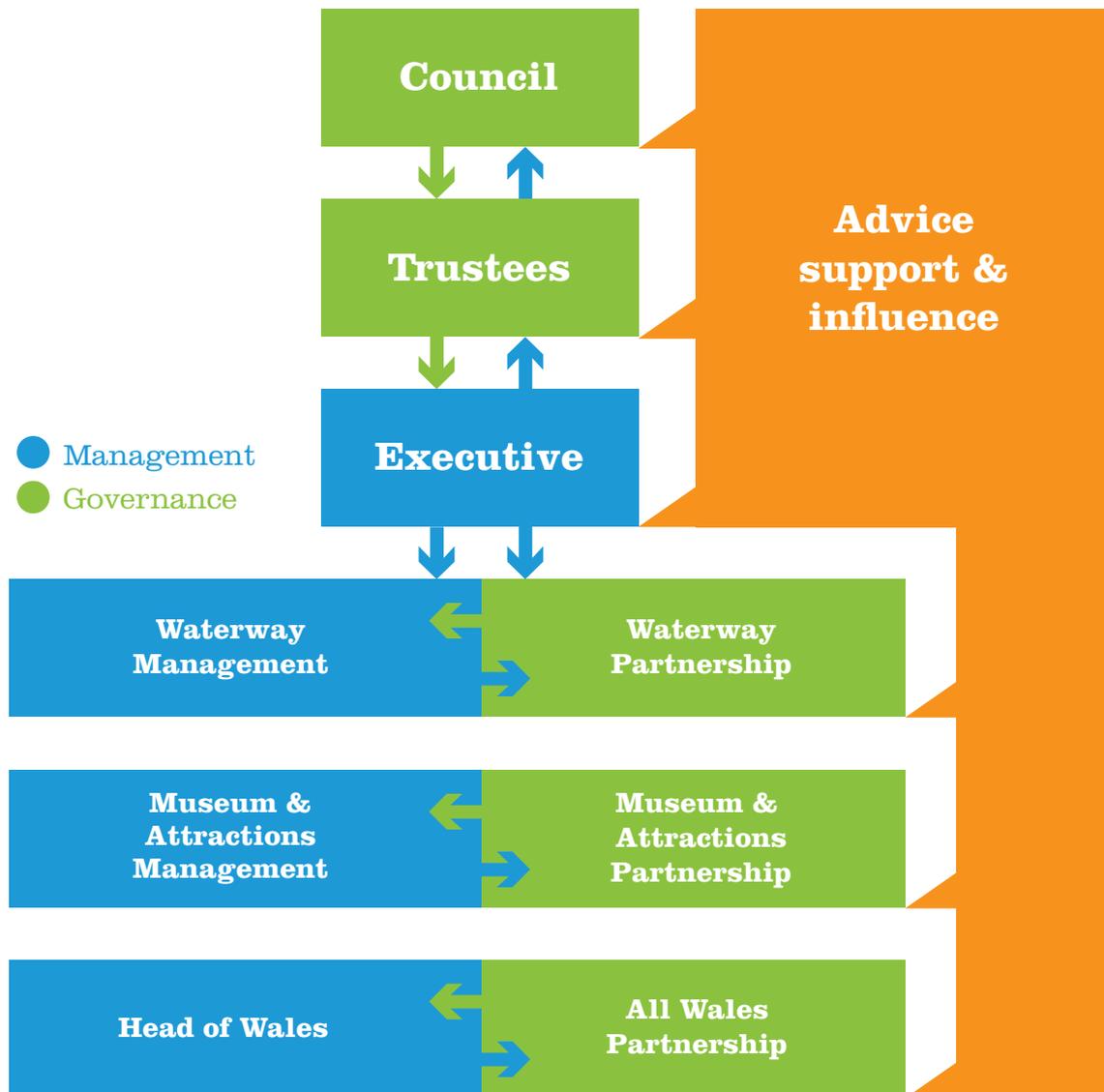
Coming together as a Waterway Partnership in 2012 was the beginning, staying together and listening to all our stakeholders and local communities in 2013 was progress however, working hard with other like-minded people over the next ten years is what I strongly believe will bring about the success of our waterways and most importantly, waterways which transform places and enrich lives.

The Partnership very much looks forward to working with you.

Tamsin Phipps
Chair, Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership



Canal & River Trust: Our Governance



Why Local Partnerships?

We need to manage our canals and rivers as one network, with effective policies across England and Wales in order to allocate resources where they are most needed. The opportunities for joint working along our local canal and river network are an exciting prospect.

The Waterway Partnerships have been established across England and Wales to bring together representatives of local communities, businesses and organisations to work closely with the Canal & River Trust to influence and add value to what we do in each area.

Strategic Priorities

Almost 50% of the population of England and Wales lives within five miles of our canals, rivers and towpaths.

These places are 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.

The true potential of 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 six strategic goals aimed at unlocking this potential.



People To enrich people's lives.

Waterways To protect and improve through local community awareness and participation our assets and their heritage, for people to use and enjoy, now and in the future.

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

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

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

Prosperity To yield economic benefits for local communities and the nation.

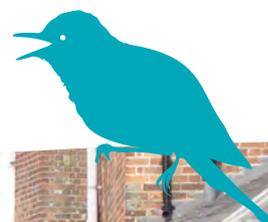
Canal & River Trust: Resources

Nationally, we have:

- an annual income of approximately £120m
- 1,600 staff, over half our team are canalside, looking after the physical infrastructure of our canals and rivers every day
- 2,727 Listed Buildings and structures, we are the third largest owner of Listed Structures in the UK
- over 2,000 miles of historic canals, rivers, reservoirs and docks
- an additional 200 miles of waterways restored and re-opened in the last decade
- 1,000 wildlife conservation sites and 400 miles of Conservation Areas
- 32,000 licensed boats on the network – 2014 (which is more than at the height (more than at the height of the Industrial Revolution)
- 15,000 heritage objects, 100,000 archive records and images across museums and attractions sites

Our income is derived from a wide range of sources:

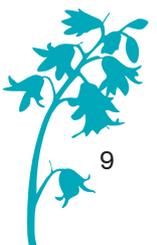
- individual donors and corporate sponsors
- commercial income including revenue from the licensing of boats moorings and angling; and from property and utilities
- grants from other organisations
- our 15 year contract with the UK Government





Kennet & Avon Waterways includes, or is adjacent to:

- 21 Conservation Sites
- 14 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) on, bisected by or adjoining canals
- 7 Scheduled Monuments, 2 Listed Buildings Grade I, 9 Listed Buildings Grade II*
118 Listed Buildings Grade II
- 1 World Heritage Site
- 2 Historic Parks and Gardens
- 1 Historic battlefield





Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership

Who are we?

We are a partnership of volunteers from public, private and community organisations with a range of professional, community, waterway interests and skills. Amongst these skills are countryside management, community engagement, voluntary sector work, tourism, commerce, business, boating and sport including canoeing.

The Context in which we work

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.

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

How do we work?

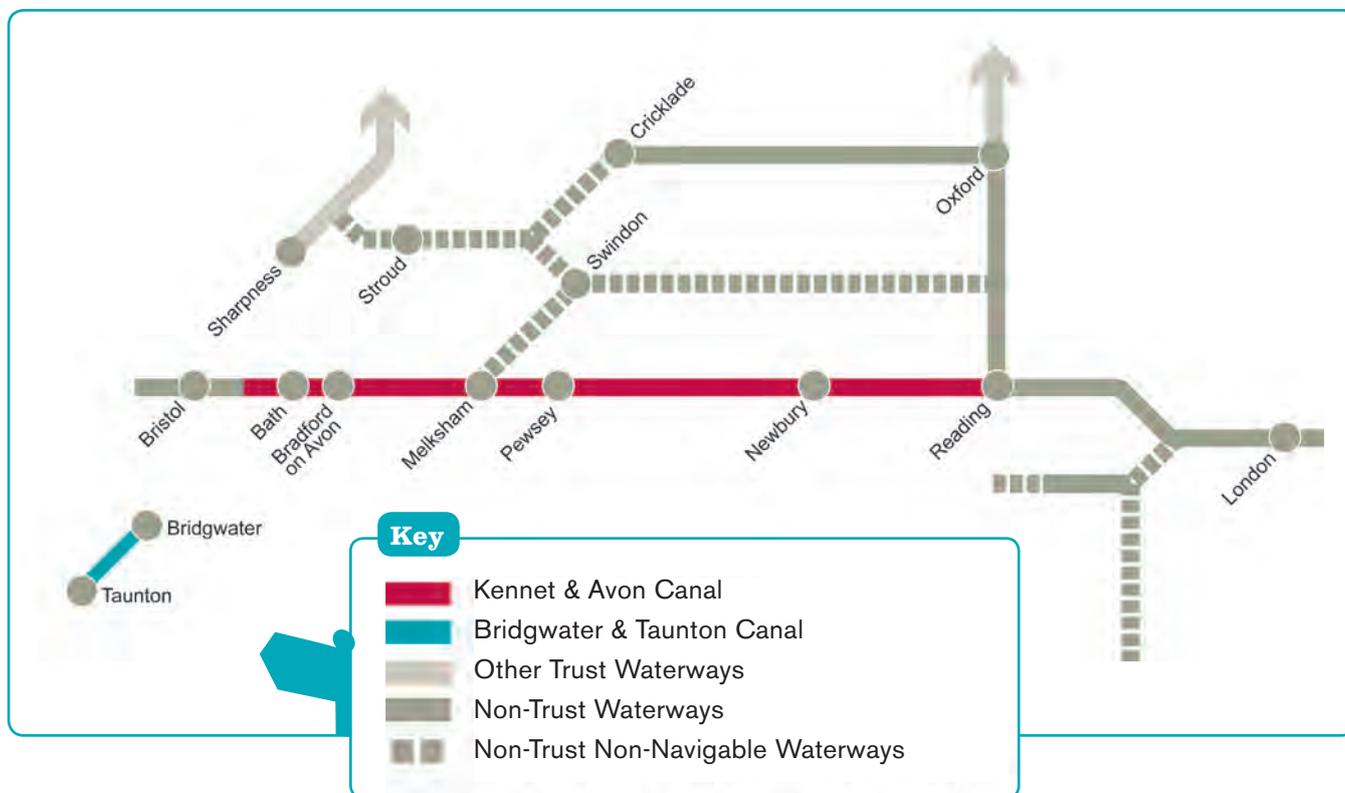
The role of the Partnership is advisory and action-orientated, outward-facing and locally engaged with people, decision-makers and communities within the area of the Partnership. The Partnership will work alongside the Kennet & Avon Waterway Management Team and we seek to bring local understanding, expertise and resources, together with a love of and passion for our waterways, to the management of our local canals.

Find out more about Partnership members at the end of this document and see our work at canalrivertrust.org.uk/kennet-and-avonboard

This Plan

This plan is the result of our consulting and listening to ideas and views of individuals, stakeholders and businesses of Kennet & Avon Waterways.

Kennet & Avon Waterways: Our Waterways



The Kennet & Avon Waterway has an overall length of 87 miles (140 km), comprising two lengths of navigable river linked by a canal. The name 'Kennet & Avon Canal' is commonly used to refer to the entire length of the navigation rather than solely to the central, 'true' canal section.

From Bristol to Bath the waterway follows the natural course of the River Avon before the canal links it to the River Kennet at Newbury. From Newbury the waterway follows the course of the River Kennet to Reading and beyond that to the River Thames. In all, the waterway incorporates 104 locks and forms the only cross-country link for broad beam craft in the south of England.

In the latter half of the 20th century, after decades of dereliction, the canal was restored in stages, largely by volunteers from the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust and was reopened in 1990. Restoration was completed around the year 2000 when the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded what still remains the single largest funding contribution to a project. The diversity of Kennet & Avon waterways are partly reflected in five character areas each of which has a champion in the Partnership.

The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal opened in 1827, linking the River Tone and the River Parrett. Despite commercial traffic ceasing in 1907, the canal infrastructure was maintained in good order. Somerset County Council was instrumental in restoring the canal as a leisure facility, which was completed in 1994. Bridgwater Docks has been restored as a marina but there is no navigable connection to the River Parrett.

Kennet & Avon Waterways: Unique and Diverse

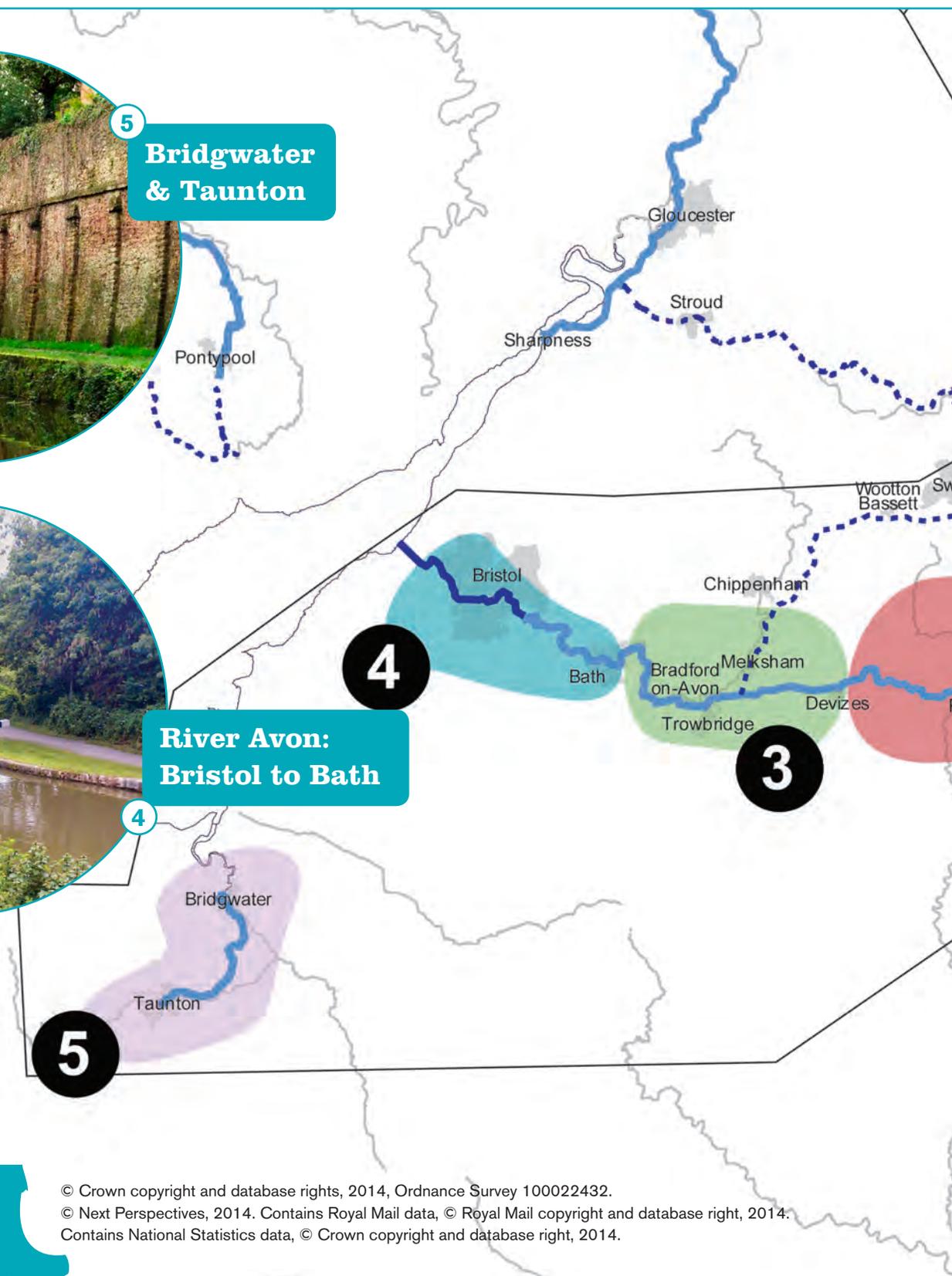
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Bridgwater & Taunton



**River Avon:
Bristol to Bath**

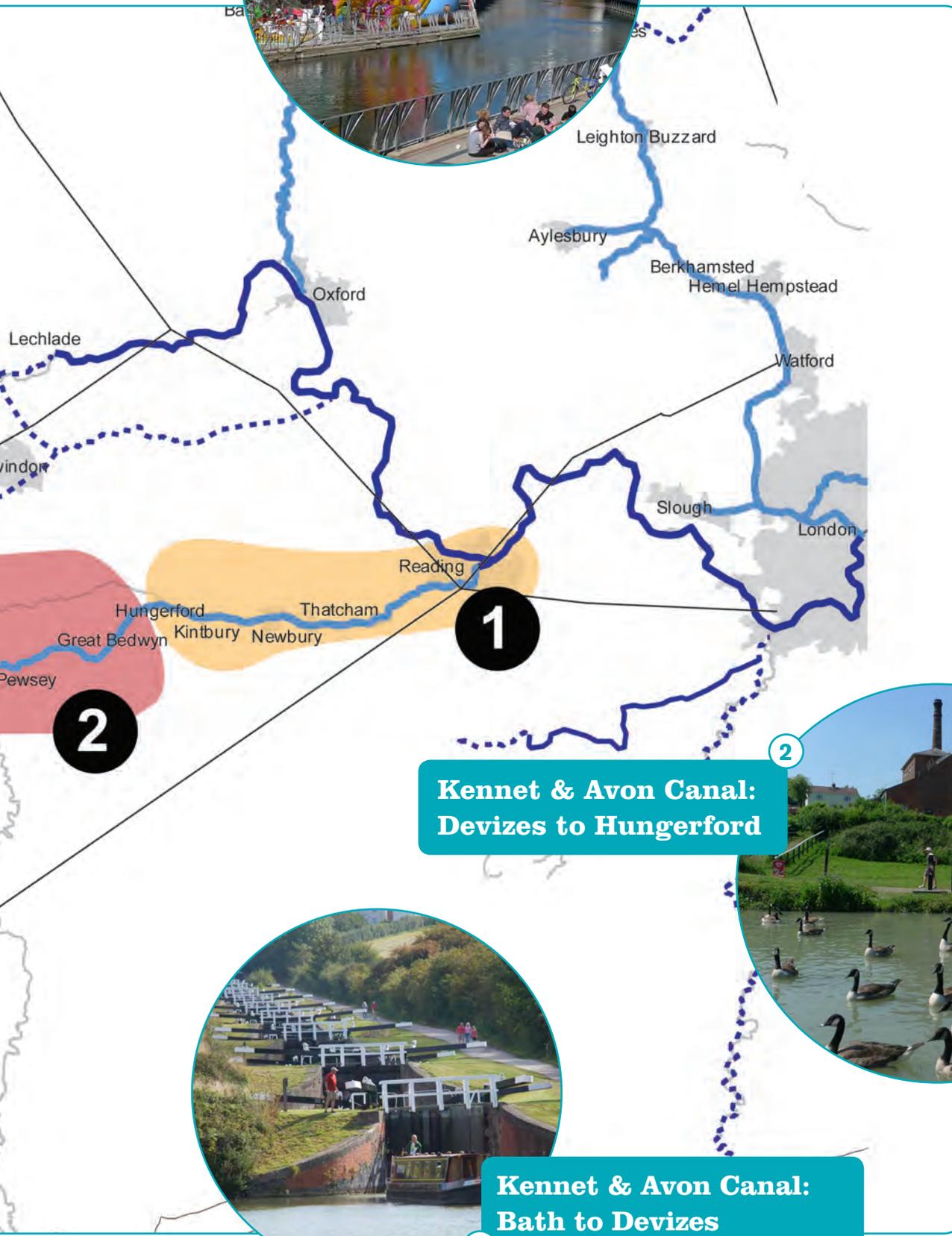


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1

**River Kennet:
Hungerford to Reading**



2

**Kennet & Avon Canal:
Devizes to Hungerford**



3

**Kennet & Avon Canal:
Bath to Devizes**



1. River Kennet: Reading to Hungerford

The section of waterway between Reading to Kintbury is largely canalised river, winding its way through Reading and onwards to Newbury where the Kennet & Avon Canal joins the River Thames. Given the almost exclusively rural setting of the Kennet & Avon Waterway, Reading provides a notable urban contrast with boats navigating through the Oracle shopping centre. The historic navigation meets a modern environment of cafes, restaurants and shops.

2. Kennet & Avon Canal: Hungerford to Devizes

The Long Pound winds its way through rural Wiltshire, eventually reaching the canal summit and Crofton beyond. The magnificent historic pumping station at Crofton still operates on Steaming Days throughout the summer months and is truly a sight to behold.

3. Kennet & Avon Canal: Devizes to Bath

The awe-inspiring Caen Hill Lock flight in Devizes is an entirely man-made section of the canal, constructed 200 years ago. The Kennet & Avon is a rural canal, typically passing through small towns and villages. The broad gauge accommodates the large number of Dutch barges that frequent this canal. The canal falls steadily from Crofton to Bath.

4. River Avon: Bristol to Bath

The Canal & River Trust is the Navigation Authority between the World Heritage site of Bath in the east and Hanham in the west. The river meanders through agricultural floodplains and is of ecological and environmental importance. Although somewhat neglected for several decades, proposals have been put forward to regenerate and reinvigorate the river corridor. The City of Bath has re-engaged with its river and ambitious plans for Keynsham would bring the river back to prominence.

5. Bridgwater & Taunton

A delightful rural canal, winding its way through 15 miles of agricultural countryside between Bridgwater in the north and Taunton in the south. The Bridgwater & Taunton Canal connects the River Tone to the River Parrett although there is not currently a navigable connection onto either of these rivers. The canal is very lightly used by boat traffic but the towpath provides a beautiful traffic free route for pedestrians and cyclists between two of Somerset's largest towns.

The canal is isolated from the nation's network of navigable canals and rivers but has well maintained towpaths and fascinating lock structures which make for an idyllic walking, cycling or boating experience.



Relationship with other Waterway Groups and Stakeholders



The Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership has a mandate to work in partnership with existing supporters of the waterways and local groups. We will also engage new groups and sections of the community to develop and sustain the waterways. Within ten years we intend to ensure the waterways are well supported across the community.

Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership : 10 Year Strategic Plan



Following the publication of our Prospectus and the recent stakeholder workshops and annual meeting our overarching strategic priorities have been reaffirmed and extended;

People

Develop a stronger sense of community ownership and responsibility to enhance the local perceptions of the Kennet & Avon waterways and the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal

Provide the opportunity to improve the physical and mental health and well-being of different communities within the Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership area

Enhancing communication between the Trust, its users and supporters to improve understanding, knowledge, support and interest in the waterways.

Places

Make the Kennet & Avon waterways and the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal accessible, welcoming and relevant to all communities so they become highly valued forms of green infrastructure.

Make the whole of the Kennet & Avon waterways and the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal welcoming and interesting places to use and enjoy.

Prosperity

Make a significant contribution to local economies in urban and rural areas through sustainable growth of waterway related tourism and leisure.

Work with others to realise the full economic potential that the Kennet & Avon Canal and Bridgwater & Taunton Canal can deliver within their corridors.

Resources

Work with others to secure a sustainable future for the Kennet & Avon Canal and the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal which generates the widest public benefit for local communities and economies.

Waterways

Make the whole of the the Kennet & Avon waterways and the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal attractive, accessible and safe.

Conserve and enhance the key heritage and environmental qualities, rich landscape character and and the amenity of the Kennet & Avon Canal and the Bridgwater & Taunton Canal that make them special and familiar.

Influence

To support the work of other restoration groups and canal societies particularly the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust and Kennet & Avon Canal Trust.



How will we achieve this?

Appended to this Plan is a list of both short and longer term actions which we have begun to implement. We intend to utilise the skills and knowledge of our Partnership members to support the employees of the Trust in their everyday business. We also intend to work with other stakeholders to develop an ambitious programme, which adds value to the Trust and which improves the waterways. Shorter three year actions include;

- 1 Improve communication to help inform users and visitors to the area. This will include providing information about maintenance works or what to do when adverse navigational conditions prevail. There will also be a calendar of events which will show the wide range of activities people can see or get involved with.
- 2 We will continue to monitor the implementation of 'Guidance to Boaters Without a Home Mooring' so that we develop a long term strategy which helps alleviate congestion on the canal and improves responsible behaviour and community well-being.
- 3 We will grow volunteering on our rivers and canals, particularly increasing the number of community adoptions.



- 4 We will write a user's guide to the Kennet & Avon waterways which will be distributed extensively but particularly to hire boat users who will find the safety advice, boating etiquette and information about facilities and places to visit of particular interest.
- 5 We will work with canal trusts (particularly the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust) to help promote the extension of navigable waterways.
- 6 We will support the work of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust which is a key stakeholder.
- 7 We will work with young people's groups so that canals and rivers are more relevant to all.
- 8 We will help to implement the 'Share the Space' guidance to help enhance the enjoyment of all users.
- 9 We will work with local authorities and land owners so that any future regeneration or development brings about sustainable improvements to the Canal.
- 10 We will monitor and report back to stakeholders at least annually on the progress we are making on these actions.

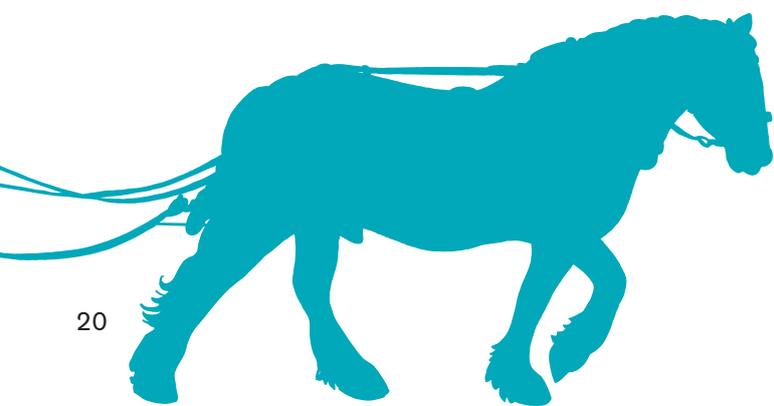




Our longer term vision

We will work with a range of stakeholders to develop and sustain our most beautiful, well used, bio diverse and historic river and canals and thus ensuring they are open to everyone to enjoy. Within ten years they will be seen as even greater places to live, work and visit. They will form an integral part of the rich character of contrasting and highly valued landscapes and townscapes.

Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership, 2013



Our Partnership

The primary purpose of the Partnerships is to connect local people and communities with their waterways. In so doing, the Partnerships aim to add value to the Trust, working closely with the management team providing advice, inspiration and leadership, acting as champions and 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.

Tamsin Phipps, Chair

Tamsin has had a varied career from special needs teacher, army officer, and management development training manager to her present role of the British Canoeing Public and Government Affairs manager. Tamsin has always been passionate about the waterways and their use and place in people's lives. She has canoed since the age of 14 learning with the Girl Guides but is keen that the inland waterways should be promoted and used by the general public for walking, angling cycling and watching wildlife.

Tamsin's voluntary work includes being an active leader for both Brownies and Guides together with being actively involved with the Community Narrow Boat Falcon Adam based on the Kennet & Avon Canal at Aldermaston. This work shows her commitment to the inclusion of young people in society and the recognition that they have a voice that should be heard.

Alan Aldous

A retired Chartered Engineer who has been active in the waterways movement for 46 years, having cruised most of the

inland system. As an IWA member has chaired the Bristol River Users Forum for 30 years, served on the Bristol Avon Flood Defence Committee for 11 years, and for 27 years has owned a riverside property.

Andrew Harry

Completed a successful 23 years' service in the Royal Navy in the Executive Branch, driving ships and flying helicopters, finishing his career at the Strategic HQ of the Defence Logistics Organisation in Bath. Engineering graduate and Chartered Management Accountant. Board member of the UK Polarity Therapy Association. Living a low impact lifestyle along the Kennet & Avon Canal in an all-electric eco barge!

Alistair Millington

Sustrans' Area Manager for Wiltshire. Responsible for the National Cycle Network in the county. Worked for Sustrans for 4 years negotiating, building, maintaining and promoting cycle routes. His professional background is in housing development where was regional development director for a large housing association.

Emma Fearnley

Owner/operator of a pair of hotel narrow boats and wide beam barge for 20 years. MCA BoatMaster. Owns Newbury Boat Company with a marina within the River Kennet SSSI. Vice Chairman of the Kennet and Avon Trade Association and member of the Association of Pleasure Craft Operators National Committee. Qualified Support Worker for adults with learning disabilities.

Terry Fell

Former President National Federation of Anglers, Director of the Angling Trust and retired Wiltshire Magistrate.

Rob Dean

Rob has boated around the system over the past 10 years but his first love is the Kennet & Avon where he keeps his boat, Pukeko. He has been active with the Kennet & Avon Canal Trust for some years and was appointed Chairman of the Trustees in January 2013.

The Kennet & Avon Trust has a long history of working with British Waterways to restore the Kennet & Avon, and Rob led the drafting of a Partnership Working Agreement with the new Canal & River Trust shortly after it was launched. He sees the Waterways Partnership as essential to maintaining ownership of the Kennet & Avon by the local community.

Rob spent 35 years with HM Diplomatic Service and lived abroad in Denmark and New Zealand. He's also a Chartered Management Accountant.

Ian Williamson

Chemical Engineer having worked with Unilever and ICI, and more recently as a business development specialist in the recycling industry with WRAP. Completed a MBA in 2004.

Now living next to the Kennet & Avon Canal and in the process of developing a family business maintaining canal boats at Semington Dock.

Member of Cotswolds, Wey and Arun and the Wilts and Berks canal trusts. Ian was chairman of Kent and East Sussex Canal Restoration Group for 10 years and has also been a very active Rotarian. Member of the K&A trade association.

Mark Stephens, Waterway Manager
1994 Joined British Waterways as a Civil Engineer

1999-2000 Heritage Lottery Fund Project Engineer for works including channel lining at Semington, Bath Valley and Towney Lock restoration.

2002-2004 Senior Programme Manager for inland waterway civil engineering projects in the south of England.

2004–2009 Principal Project Manager, Olympic Project Team. Headed the design and construction of the tidal lock and barrage enabling the passage of freight from the River Thames to the Olympic Park.

2010 Appointed Waterway Manager, responsible for the operation, repair and maintenance of the Kennet & Avon and Bridgwater & Taunton canals.



The Kennet & Avon Partnership has developed an action plan for this area in consultation with our interest groups, partners and stakeholders. We have ambition and enthusiasm to make a positive difference and we are keen to work with you or your organisation to make improvements to our network.

Why not get involved with the Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership?

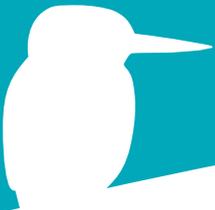


We would like offers of help with all levels of our work, and ideas for the continuing development of our waterways.

Get in touch with us at:

enquiries.kennetavon@canalrivertrust.org.uk

- How can we work together on community, economic or environmental projects?
- Would your local school, organisation or community like to get more involved in your local waterway's future?



Ways to contact the Kennet & Avon Waterway Partnership:

Tamsin Phipps, Chair

E: enquiries.kennetavon@canalrivertrust.org.uk

T: 0303 040 4040

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Check our noticeboard for updates:

canalrivertrust.org.uk/kennet-and-avon-waterways



/KaWaterwaysPartnership



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Canal &
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