



## Pocklington Canal Project Newsletter #1 November 2016

Welcome to the first issue of this quarterly project newsletter. Earlier this year, the Canal & River Trust received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a three year project which will restore Church Bridge and recreate the historic design of Swing Bridge at Melbourne, improve wildlife habitats along the canal and update the informative signage along the canal. Alongside these works, there will be an accompanying programme of community and education events including (but not limited to!) willow weaving and wood carving events, wildlife identification workshops, guided walks and even an archaeological dig!

### Who are the Canal & River Trust?

Formerly British Waterways, in 2012 the Canal & River Trust was set up as a charity, entrusted to care for more than 2,000 miles of waterway in England and Wales. The Pocklington Canal is owned by the Canal & River Trust, and is managed in partnership between Trust staff and volunteers from the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society (PCAS).

The Pocklington Canal Liaison Group meets quarterly to guide management of the canal, and includes Natural England, Environment Agency, East & North Yorkshire Waterways Partnership, Historic England, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the York & District Amalgamation of Anglers, as well as the Trust and PCAS.

### How does this new project fit in with the Pocklington Canal Amenity Restoration Appeal?

The two projects will complement each other, but they are two separate projects. PCAS are currently fundraising to restore the canal back to full navigation between Melbourne and Bielby by 2018. The current restoration of Thornton Lock is the first practical stage in this project.

The HLF project will include the restoration of Church Bridge – which, whilst not essential for navigation by boats, will enhance the canal for boaters.



### Project milestones

January 2017: Opening up sections of the canal through dredging works

Summer 2017: A community archaeological dig will take place to uncover the remains of a warehouse at Canal Head

Summer 2017: Church Bridge will be restored by trained volunteers

Summer 2017: A celebration event will take place – fun for the whole family!

January 2018: Opening up sections of the canal through dredging works

Spring 2018: The recreation of the historic design of the Melbourne Arm Swing Bridge

Summer 2018: The Bicentenary of Pocklington Canal!

### If you've got a bit of spare time, consider volunteering!

There are lots of ways in which to get involved on the Pocklington Canal. For those inspired by local history, you may like to join our research project in 2017 to uncover hidden secrets about the canal's construction and impact on the local villages. Those who fancy something a bit more hands on can join us to carry out the practical restoration of Church Bridge, or take part in monthly habitat task days. For those passionate about inspiring the next generation, join us as an education volunteer and bring the canal alive for local school children. If you enjoy meeting new people, then you might like to volunteer as a welcome guide. All of these roles will be advertised through the Canal & River Trust website under the [Volunteering](#) section in the New Year.



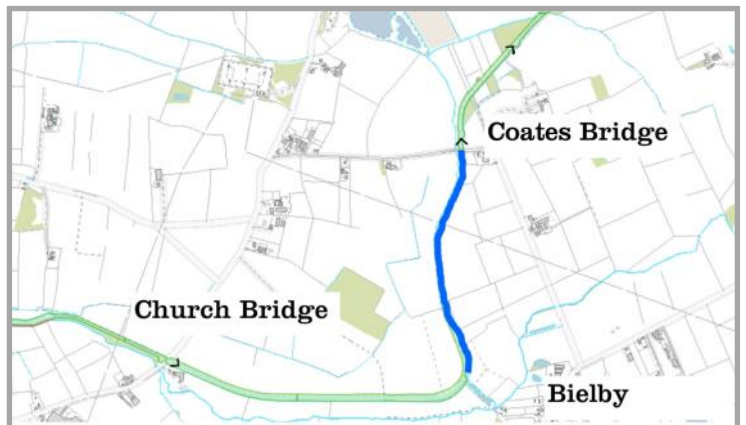
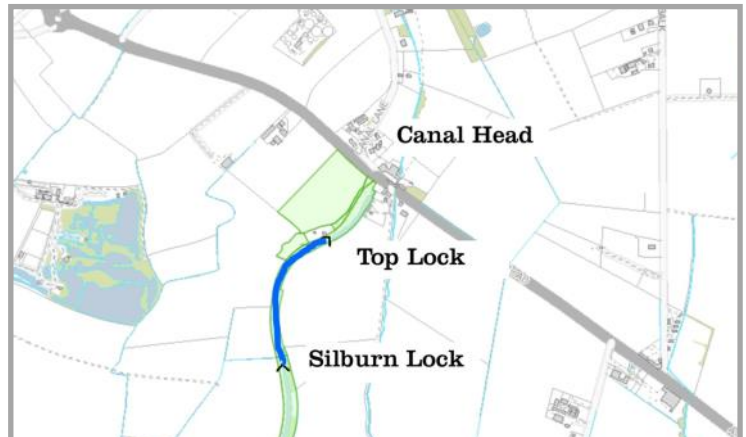
### Winter habitat works to improve diversity of Pocklington Canal SSSI

During January and February 2017 we will be carrying out dredging works to open up sections of the canal where reeds and vegetation have dominated the channel. This work will involve using machinery to dig out the excess silt and vegetation in the canal at key sections. This can look quite dramatic at first, however it will bring great benefit by opening up the water channel and allowing light into the canal.

The Pocklington Canal Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) is designated for the diversity of rare aquatic plants. Dominance of some reeds and vegetation has led to decline of some submerged aquatic plant species and a general decline in aquatic plant diversity. By opening up some sections, this will give opportunity for some rarer plant species to recolonise. It will also encourage dragonflies and increase the diversity of wildlife along the canal. These works are being carried out during the winter time, as this minimises the impact they have by being done outside of the bird breeding season.

The works are planned to take place between Top Lock (at Canal Head) and Silburn Lock, and also between Coates Bridge and Bielby Arm (highlighted in blue on the maps to the right). A third stretch between Thornton Lock and Walbut Lock is planned for late 2017/early 2018.

All of the conservation work taking place along the canal is in line with the Conservation Management Plan (2015) which has been approved by both the Trust's ecology and heritage teams and Natural England.



#### Get the latest information

This newsletter is issued quarterly, but you can get the most up to date information by going online. You can read the regular project blog posts on the Canal & River Trust's website by visiting [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/pocklington-canal](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/pocklington-canal) and clicking the link to the blog section at the bottom of the page. If you're on Facebook, then like the Pocklington Canal page for regular updates, and on Twitter you can follow @CRTNorthEast for updates on both the Pocklington Canal and other Canal & River Trust locations such as Naburn Lock and Ripon Canal.

To receive this newsletter direct to your inbox please email Lizzie with the word 'newsletter' in the subject line.

#### Contact

Lizzie Dealey, Project Officer

[lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.dealey@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/pocklington-canal](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/pocklington-canal)

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