



Bowbridge Lock Appeal

Bowbridge Lock on the Thames & Severn Canal was built in 1783 as part of the first waterway link between England's two greatest rivers.

The lock was designed to take Severn Trows, a flat bottomed sailing boat capable of estuary work with a carrying capacity of up to 80 tons of cargo.

The canal closed in 1933 and the lock has fallen into serious disrepair. The nationally important Thames & Severn Canal is now being restored for the benefit of the local economy, walkers, anglers, cyclists, tourists and, of course, the boating public. The restored canal will also provide a wonderful wildlife corridor.



Bowbridge Lock and bridge



Top end of Bowbridge Lock

Bowbridge Lock is one of four being restored by volunteers and work is due to start here in 2013. It is expected to take 2 years.

The restoration of the lock walls will also create an ideal training ground to learn practical heritage masonry skills.

This project will form part of the complete restoration of a 6 mile length of the Cotswold Canals and its completion will allow the Trust dredging fleet to pass and the extension of navigation eastwards.

The Cotswold Canals Trust, a registered charity with over 7000 members, is seeking to help raise £160,000 to fully restore this lock including a set of new lock gates costing about £70,000.

Donations of all sizes are welcome but sponsors contributing more than £10,000 will have the opportunity to have their name put on a commemorative plaque to be mounted on, or adjacent to, the Lock.

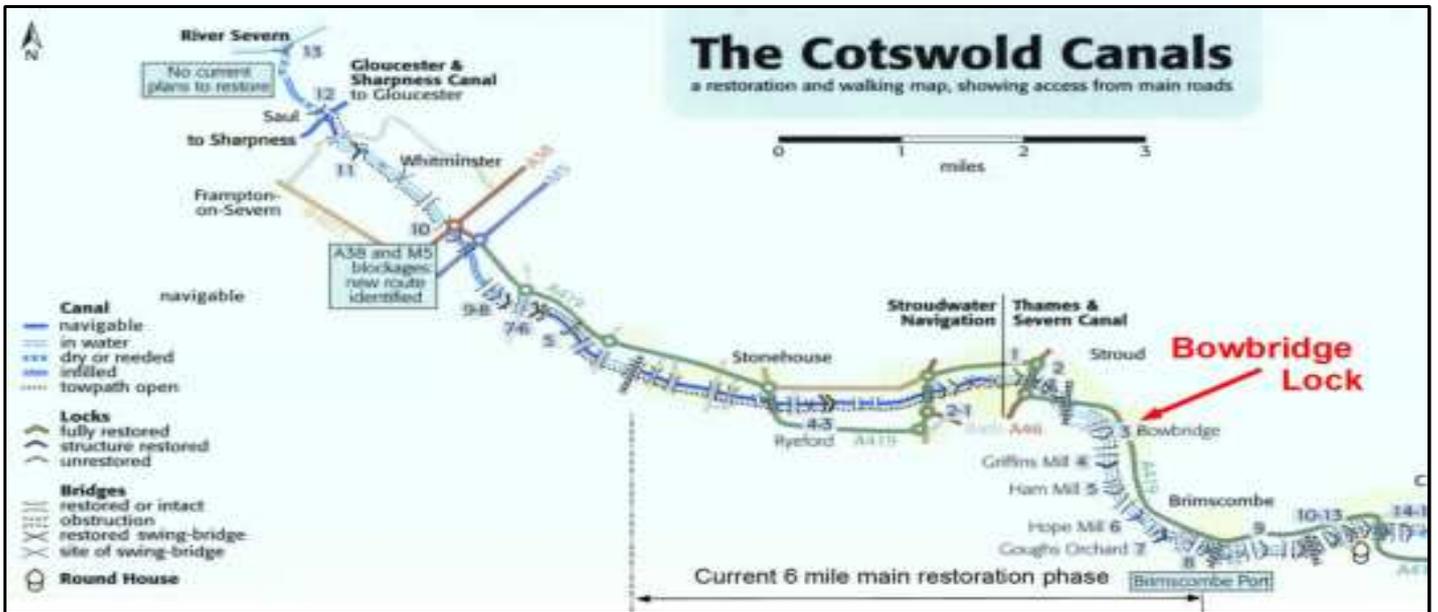


Bowbridge Lock in use about a century ago

Further information is available overleaf and progress on this, and the wider project, can be followed on www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org. The Trust is happy to offer potential sponsors a presentation or site visit and donors will be invited to the opening event upon completion.

Bowbridge Lock Appeal – Additional Information

The Stroudwater Canal, which was completed in 1779, and the opening of the Thames & Severn Canal in 1789 together formed the first inland waterway link across the south of England. Collectively known as the Cotswold Canals, their restoration is now a national priority with wide ranging outputs including recreation, regeneration, heritage, education and wildlife habitat benefits.



The Cotswold Canals Partnership, which includes Stroud District Council, Cotswold District Council, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire County Councils, Environment Agency, Natural England, The Canal & River Trust, IWA, Cotswold Canals Trust and other organisations, aims to restore these waterways to connect once again the Rivers Thames and Severn. The Partnership has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £13 million as part of an overall funding package of £20m to restore 6 miles of canal.

Stroud District Council is leading this part of the project and the Cotswold Canals Trust has committed to raise £800,000 and provide a considerable amount of volunteer work to help deliver the project.

Trust volunteers undertake a wide range of activities including:

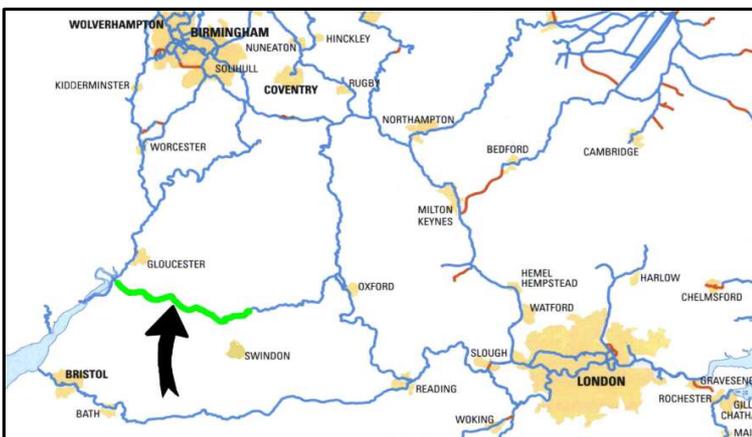
- Restoration of historic locks and bridges
- Project planning and management
- Mechanical engineering and plant maintenance
- Vegetation management and habitat improvement
- Interpretation projects, promotions and sales

Please send donations to:

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www.cotswoldcanals.com

Registered Charity: 269721
 Company Registered in England No:01207787



The Cotswold Canals link in the national Waterway network



Ryeford Double Lock – reopened in 2012