



Canal &  
River Trust

# Shropshire Local Access Forum

Wendy Capelle, Waterway Manager

Ani Sutton, Development and  
Engagement Manager

15<sup>th</sup> October 2015

# Who are we?



- The Canal & River Trust was formed in July 2012:
  - to protect, manage and improve the nation's canals and river navigations for the millions who enjoy them
  - transfer of waterways and associated assets (and people) to third sector
  - 15 year contract / grant agreement with Government

**we care for  
2,000 miles**



Canal &  
River Trust

**Map Key**

- Canal & River Trust waterways
- Non-Trust waterways



**a national trust  
for the waterways**

© Crown copyright and database rights, 2013, Ordnance Survey 100030994. © Next Perspectives, 2013. Contains Royal Mail data, © Royal Mail copyright and database right, 2013. Contains National Statistics data, © Crown copyright and database right, 2013.

# We care for...



Canal &  
River Trust

- As well as 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations, we own docks, reservoirs, 'barrages' etc in England & Wales
- Over 2,700 listed structures – more than anyone bar the National Trust and Church of England
- 63 SSSIs and c.1,000 wildlife conservation sites
- More than 1,500 locks, 3,000 bridges + aqueducts, cuttings, embankments, tunnels etc ...



# So what is the Trust?

---



Canal &  
River Trust

- Infrastructure / asset manager?
- Navigation authority ?
- Transport network operator?
- Heritage preserver/ promoter ?
- Wildlife and environment charity ?
- Water resource manager ?
- Estate manager ?
- Property and commercial developer ?
- Regeneration agency ?
- Sport and leisure services provider ?
- Source of Community health and well-being ?
- Tourist 'destination' developer and manager .....?

ANSWER : All of the above (and more .....)

# What is the Trust's role?

---



Canal &  
River Trust

Our 'charitable objectives' include:

“.... to preserve, protect, operate and manage Inland Waterways for public benefit, for navigation, walking on towpaths, and recreation or other leisure-time pursuits;

... to protect and conserve for public benefit sites, objects and buildings of archaeological, architectural, engineering or historic interest;

... the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment and landscape;

# Our Strategy



Six strategic goals defined to underpin our Vision – to link together to form the 10 Year Strategy

# Our Strategy



Canal &  
River Trust

**Investment &  
Support from  
Others**



**Will enable us  
to invest in our  
waterways ...**

**... in doing so, we  
will attract more  
investment & support**

**... and transform  
places to deliver more  
public benefits and  
enrich lives**

**A sustainable 'virtuous cycle' to deliver our vision**



# Or to put it another way ...



Canal &  
River Trust

NOT this direction



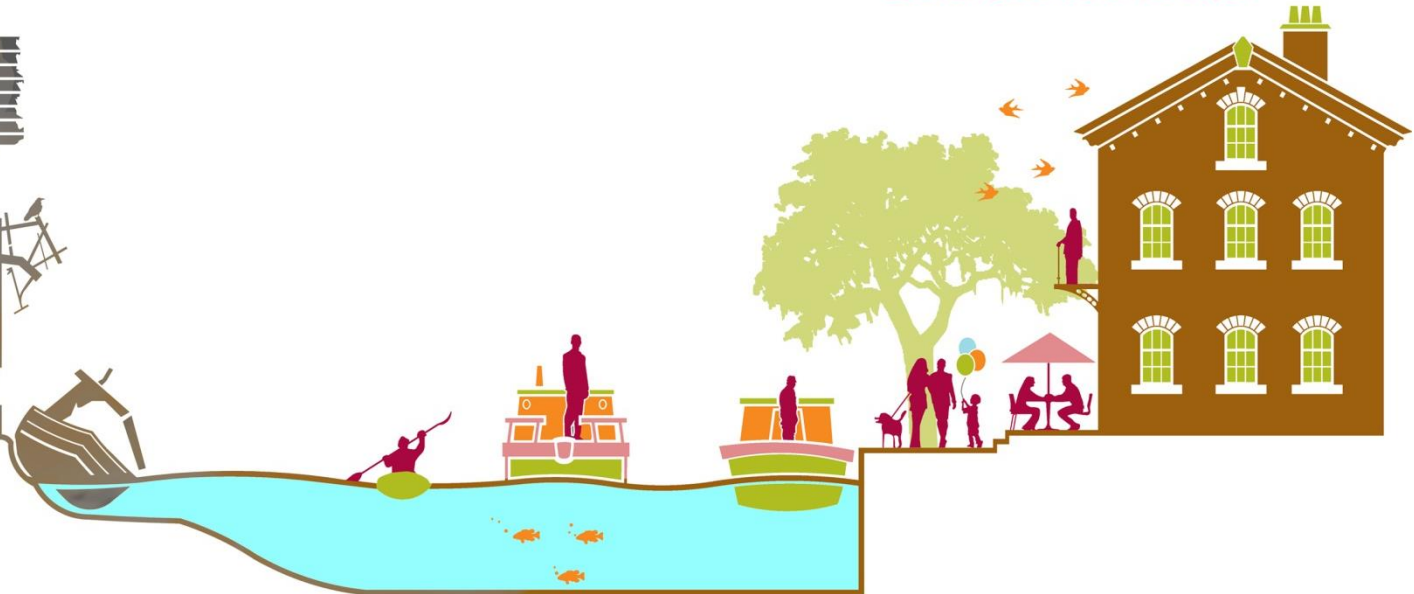
**Declining waterways**



We want to go in this direction



**Living waterways  
transform places  
and enrich lives**



Our strategy seeks to deliver this outcome

# Communicating our strategy

- New Strategy communication document launched – sets out broad objectives and defines our long term ambition, for example:
  - 75% awareness of the Trust and 50% willing to support us
  - 1m volunteer hours
  - 500 miles of community adoptions
  - 100,000 Friends
  - Half a billion visits each year
  - 1m children and young people involved
  - Growing network with more miles restored



# Our Waterways today ...

- Towpaths free for anyone to visit and use
- Highly accessible - half the population of England and Wales lives within five miles of one of our canals or rivers
- Estimated almost 20 million unique visitors last year, and a total of c.400m individual visits – at a record level
- More boats on the water than ever (probably!) – more living on the water, expanding diversity of businesses /community boats
- Growing range of users – unpowered boating
- Tremendous growth in volunteers and community ‘ownership’
- Widening range of partnerships and funders
- Overall asset condition improving ...



# Customer-driven works ...

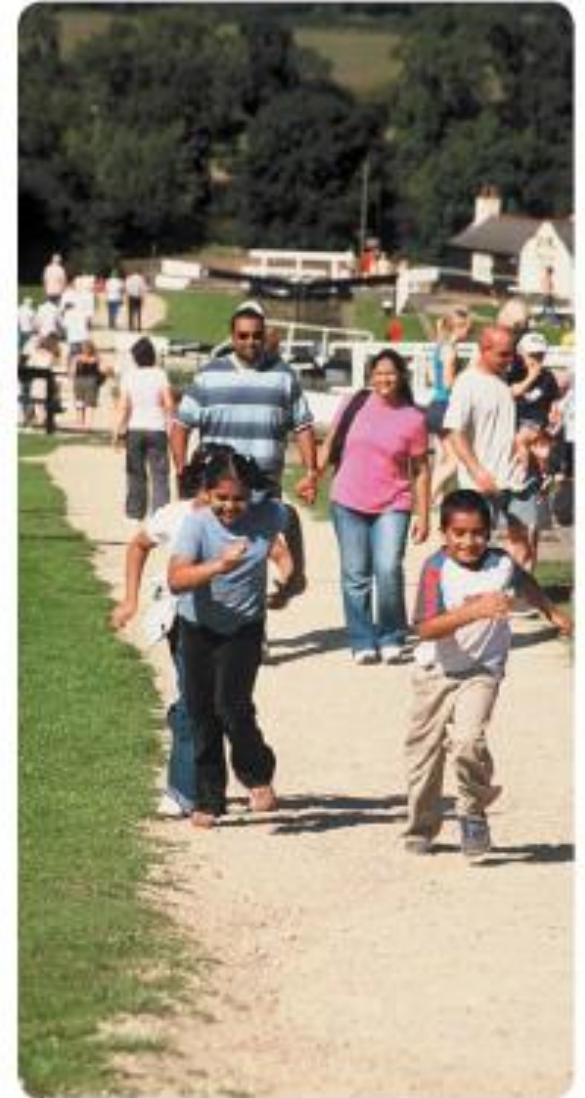
Dredging - £80m in 10 years, over  
£7m this year



Off-side Vegetation - £2m  
additional spend in 2014

- Greater focus on customer service work - £1m extra works added last year, and another £1m allocated this year
  - Facilities/ Service stations
  - Moorings

# Evolving Use of Towpaths



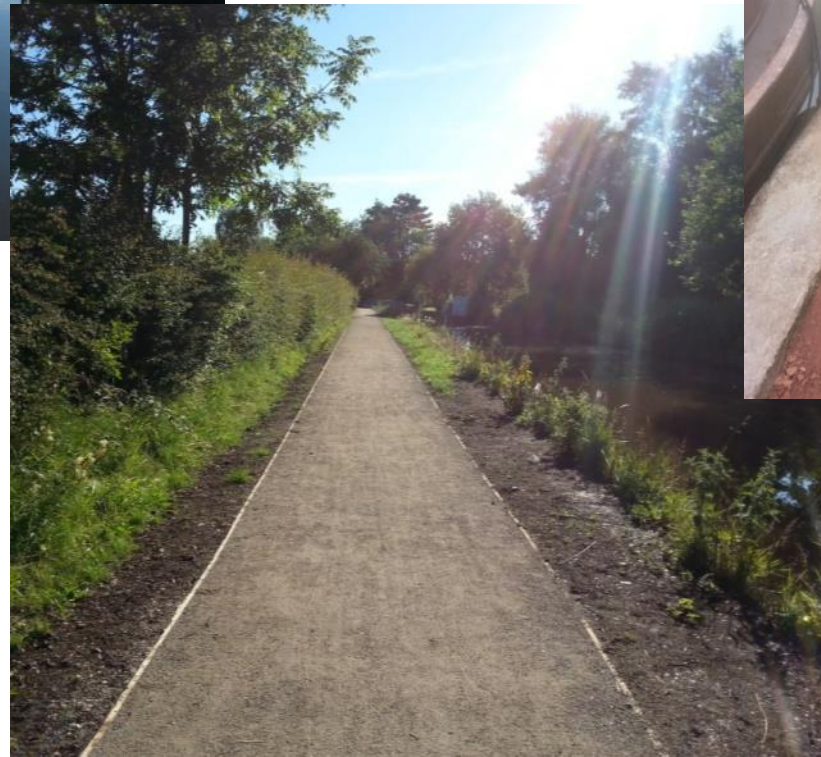
- **Boaters**  
25,000 boaters
- **Walkers and Joggers**  
on 1500 miles of towpath
- **Cyclists**  
7 million cyclists every year
- **Anglers**  
100,000 anglers regularly use
- **Naturalists**  
1,000 wildlife sites
- **Locals**  
10 million visitors every year



# Towpath improvements



Canal &  
River Trust



Circa £25m of  
third party  
money over  
three years



- Last year more than 360 million visits were made to our towpaths
- For many people our towpaths are among their most precious green spaces, antidotes to the pace and stress of the modern world and places to relax and unwind.
- “Today they are more popular than ever, with more investment in improvements and better signage, but with that success there can also be problems. We are calling on visitors to be considerate of one another, share the space on the towpath and help make our waterways available for everyone to enjoy.”

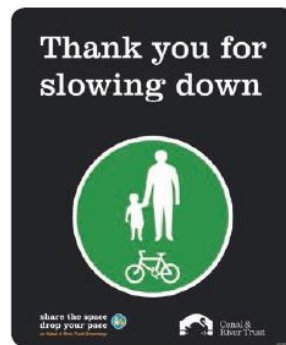


# Better Towpaths for Everyone



Canal &  
River Trust

- Policy launched - sets out 9 Principles of towpath use
- Priority given to those moving the slowest and those using the waterway
- Better infrastructure: Continue to improve physical condition of towpaths - £15m spent over last two years
- Better signs: new design guide, campaign extended nationally
- Better behaviour: Towpath Code
- Endorsed by the organisations shown below



# Better Towpaths-----



- Our [towpath code](#) 'Better Towpaths for Everyone' was produced after consultation with more than 2,000 towpath visitors and interest groups.
- The top three issues raised were the need for improvements to the towpaths, better signage and better behaviour between visitors.



# Better Towpaths for Everyone



## Better Towpaths for Everyone

A national policy for sharing towpaths

### Principles of towpath use

Our *principles* reflect the values of the Trust and set out clearly what we intend and expect for our towpaths.

1. The Trust's towpaths are places for people to spend time safely for a variety of activities.
2. Everyday access to the towpaths will be free to everyone, although we reserve the right to charge for specific access such as special events.
3. Towpaths will be available to support both use of the water-space, and the towpaths themselves.
4. The Trust aims to improve towpaths to achieve a good towpath condition throughout its network, consistent with the character of the area in which the towpath is located.
5. The Trust wants to offer all users an enjoyable towpath experience and recognises that this is dependent on people being considerate, particularly to those who are not moving, are slower, or more vulnerable. In general priority should be given to the slowest and those using the waterway.
6. The Trust recognises the incorporation of towpaths as part of walking and cycling routes and, where designated as a bridleway, or as a permissive route, towpaths are also available for horse riding.
7. The Trust's Towpath Design Guidance specifies physical characteristics of towpaths and also includes requirements for signage, recognising shared use and the historic water-side character.
8. Where there are concerns over towpath capacity or condition, we will seek opportunities to secure further external investment.
9. Where towpaths are unsuitable for some uses – too narrow or too heavily-used – we will seek to work with others to provide alternative routes.



# Better Towpaths for Everyone



**Canal & River Trust**

*Ready-made*  
#WATERWAYDAYS **at Nantwich**

**Discover Nantwich**  
Located on the Shropshire Union Canal, the market town of Nantwich was once famous for the production of salt. Today, it's a great place for country walks and wildlife!

Nantwich & Border Counties Yacht Club

Chester

Nantwich Canal Centre

Shropshire Union Canal

Basin End

Chester Road A234

Nantwich Aqueduct

Nantwich Town Centre 5 mins  
P, i, ☕, 🍷, 🏠, 📍, 🏛️

Audlem

Compass rose

Campaign for REALTIME

**STAY SAFE:**  
Stay Away From the Edge

Map not to scale:  
covers approx 1/2 mile/ 1km

For more information and places to go, download our App - Canal & River Trust 'Places to Visit' - available in the App Store and Google Play

canalrivertrust.org.uk

## Inspire me

Basin End in Nantwich is the terminus of the old Chester Canal built in 1772 to connect Chester to Nantwich. The canal crosses the flat Cheshire plains through an area famous for salt production since Roman times. Once busy with canal trade, the Basin is now a popular place for boats and boaters.



Best of all it's FREE!\*

### Five things to do at Nantwich

- Walk** down the towpath to the cast iron aqueduct built by the famous canal engineer Thomas Telford. It carries the Shropshire Union Canal over the main road to Chester.
- Spot** the brightly painted narrowboats in Basin End.
- Take** a day hire boat trip and discover more about the Shropshire Union Canal, known to canal lovers as 'The Shroppie'.
- Pack a picnic** and see how many waterbirds you can spot in five minutes.
- Visit** Nantwich Museum and find out more about salt-making.

## Information

First Wood St  
Nantwich CW5 5EG

- Parking (pay & display)
- Toilets
- Café
- Pub
- Information
- Picnic
- Day hire boats

♦♦♦ Path

Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

**\* Don't forget:**  
Although the site is always open the facilities and boat trips may not be and some may be chargeable. Please check with local business before setting out.

## Share your adventure

Post a picture on our Facebook page [facebook.com/canalrivertrust](https://www.facebook.com/canalrivertrust) and tell us about your best discovery.

Become a Canal & River Trust Family Friend!



“ The Canal is where I bagged my very first pet, Tommy Tadpole. And today it's where I teach my grandchildren about the simple wonders of nature. We must all look after our canals and rivers. If we don't they'll be gone. Forever. What a waste. ”  
Carol, aged 56 (and still on the hunt for frogspawn).

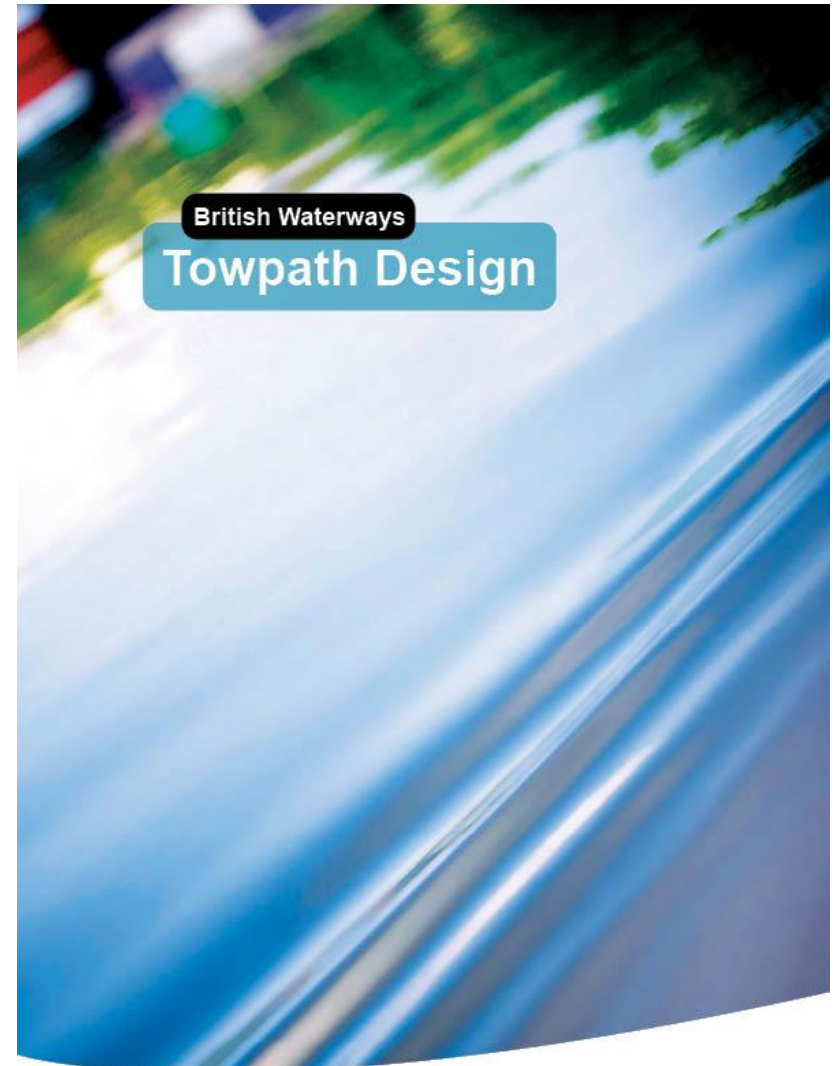


Explore further

Go to [canalriverexplorers.org.uk](https://canalriverexplorers.org.uk) to discover lots of fun things to do with the family.

- A national guidance document for towpath resurfacing projects
- Why is the document needed?
- Extensive User Group consultation

## Guidance for towpath design



Document highlights areas that should be taken into consideration during the project including:

- local context
- user requirements
- path design etc

## 2.5.2 Local context

Each waterway has its own unique character which is a result of a combination of many factors, including towpath surfacing material, design details such as width and profile of the towpath and margins, heritage features and environmental conditions etc. The introduction of new materials for example can change the look, feel and environmental conditions of the canal environment. Ensuring that this is done for the better requires thought and consideration when using the approach contained in this document.



Images illustrating the variation in the character of towpath corridors across the network:  
top row left: Selby Canal, near West Haddlesley  
top row right: Grand Union Canal, near Tring  
bottom row left: Kennet & Avon Canal (Nick Turner/Sustrans)  
bottom row right: Grand Union Canal, Paddington

## user requirements

### 3.2 Access for All

BW encourages the use of its network of canals and rivers by people with disabilities. We also recognise our responsibilities under disability and equality legislation to take reasonable steps to improve access to our waterways and associated services.

We acknowledge that it will never be possible to provide perfect access everywhere along the waterway system. We are constrained by statutory and other considerations, such as our responsibilities towards health and safety and the waterways' heritage and environment.

However we will:

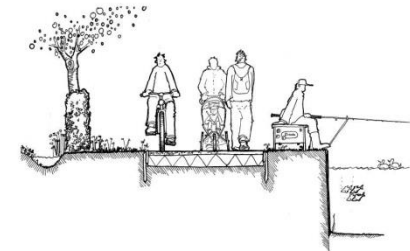
- Ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are considered in all our policies and plans.
- Ensure that staff are aware of and supported in meeting the needs of people with disabilities.
- Undertake disability access audits.
- Ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are built into major programmes of restoration, regeneration and refurbishment.
- Identify and implement measures that can be easily and cost-effectively put into place to reduce access restrictions for people with disabilities.
- Actively promote sites and services with good accessibility to people with disabilities
- Ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are taken into account in the delivery of services, promotional material, interpretation, education initiatives and special events.
- Consult with people with disabilities to ensure local needs are taken into account in the management of the waterways.
- Encourage the provision of boats and other facilities catering for people with disabilities and improve access to / from such boats.
- Monitor & evaluate the impact we are having on people with disabilities.

Please refer to the following document for more comprehensive guidance: [http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/media/documents/BWL\\_Waterways\\_Access\\_For\\_All.pdf](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/media/documents/BWL_Waterways_Access_For_All.pdf)



above: Examples of accessible locations along the canal network and tactile canal interpretation, installed in association with Galloways Society for the Blind

## development & design process



This sketch shows a wide towpath width (approximately 4.5m) in a rural setting and illustrates how a 2.5m wide path can accommodate multi-users with grass verges retained on either side of the path, creating safe refuges for anglers/boaters and path users that need to step off main route of the path.



# Volunteering and communities



Canal &  
River Trust

- Over 400,000 volunteer hours last year
- Now 100+ community canal adoptions in place
- Nearly 700 more applications to be Volunteer Lock-keepers
- Over 40,000 children have taken part last year in our education program, delivered by our 130 volunteer 'Explorers'



**“It’s been brilliant; I can’t wait until it’s my turn to come again!”**  
– Joanne

**Become a Friend**  
There are many ways you can make a difference to your local canal or river. You can join our Friendship scheme by giving a monthly donation. Or you could simply give some of your time and help ensure that our inland waterways remain a valued part of our local landscape now and for ever.

Visit: [donate.rivertrust.org.uk](http://donate.rivertrust.org.uk) | [rivertrust.org.uk](http://rivertrust.org.uk)

**Connecting communities**

**Adopting a Canal or River near you**

 **Canal & River Trust**  
Facing people, rivers & history one canal at a time

© Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales with company number 7807203 and charity number 1182100



# In our communities.....



 Canal & River Trust

## FFFF..FREE Family Fishing Fun

Saturday 26th September between 10.30-4.30pm on the Shropshire Union Canal in Blacon (nr bridge 129)

All equipment provided (including rain cover!) & qualified coaches to get you and your family started. Just bring a packed lunch to keep you going. See you there!

 Show your support  
Like us on   
[facebook.com/canalrivertrust](https://www.facebook.com/canalrivertrust)

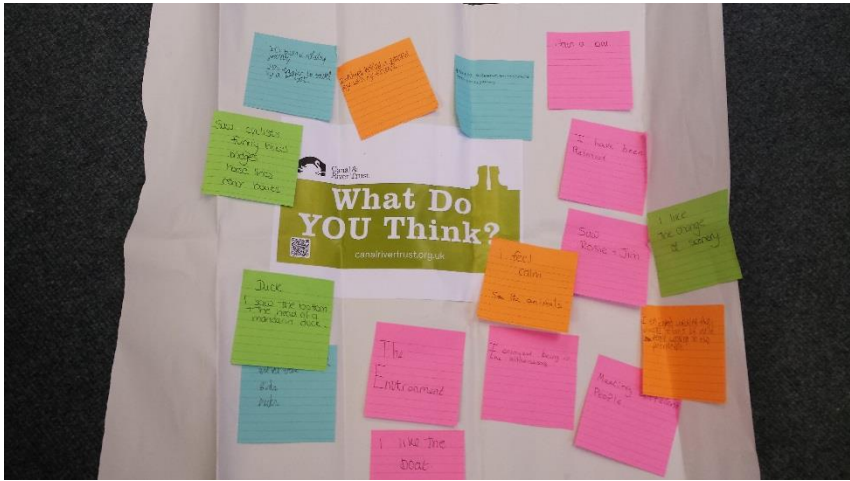
Receive a Trout  
Find out more at [www.knowles.org.uk](http://www.knowles.org.uk)  
E: [education@knowles.org.uk](mailto:education@knowles.org.uk) or send a text to 07734 603634  
[www.knowles.org.uk](http://www.knowles.org.uk)

© Shropshire Trust





# In our communities



#amillionhands

Half a million young people committed to removing social barriers, connecting communities and improving lives.

In partnership with



With thanks to supporting charities in the nations

amillionhands.org.uk



# In our communities.....



# 'Share the space; Drop the pace'

---



# 'Share the space: drop the pace'

---



# Shropshire

---

- Share the Space campaign
- Improving signage in Market Drayton...and beyond
- Engaging Muller as a Corporate Partner
- Youth engagement
- Community adoptions
- .....and the rest.....

# Wider Public Engagement



[More details can be found at  
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)





Canal &  
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

# Thank you for listening

## Any Questions?

