

Bude Canal Regeneration Project

Bude canal is undergoing a £5 million facelift which will improve the canal for the benefit of all.

The Bude Canal Regeneration Project aims to restore the first two miles of the canal from the sea lock at the Breakwater near Summerleaze beach to Helebridge.



Bude Canal

The works include towpath improvements, dredging, lock gate restoration, the creation of a canal interpretation centre, workshops, office space and much more.

The Bude area team are running a series of workshops and events throughout the lifespan of the Canal Regeneration project which are free and open to all.

Why not join the team for these special activities which explore the natural environment & heritage of this very unique and special waterway.

Update - June 2008

- The towpath along the canal will be closed from late April with alternate route ways available. Signage will be on site and you are encouraged to call to discuss options. Whalesborough from May 5th & Helebridge basin & Rodds lock from April 21st.
- The Lower Wharf works have now been largely completed. A traffic management scheme will be introduced and access to the pedestrianised area by vehicle will be by permit only; those parking in the area without a permit will be liable to a fine.
- The overflow car park adjacent to the TIC will be available for use from July.
- The Workshops are continuing according to schedule and are definitely beginning to take shape. There have been a number of enquiries from the craft sector and it is expected that the workshops will be let from August onwards.
- Work to extend the TIC is now underway following a delay in obtaining the steel required for the structure. The internal improvements are also in hand and a decision has been taken to refurbish the existing TIC facility at the same time so there is a commonality of design throughout the building. It is expected that the TIC and Interpretation Room will be available from November this year.
- The most significant contract on the whole scheme, the dredging of the canal and the refurbishments to the lock gates at Rodd's Bridge and Whalesborough is now well underway. Dewatering the locks has revealed the historic structure that has probably not been seen since it was built. This has been carefully recorded.
- The contract for the refurbishment of the towpath has been sent out to tender and we expect the work to begin on this in July. This will include the installation of the play area and resting posts to be sited alongside the canal.
- The contract for the refurbishment of the Burmsdon Aqueduct is also about to be let for work to be undertaken in late summer.
- The most obvious work currently being undertaken on the canal is the repairs to the Lower Wharf Basin and channel to the sea locks. Following the storm in March the sea locks were damaged and this allowed the water in the basin to drain out. Subsequently a considerable amount of damage was revealed that had accrued through the years. There was a huge amount of silt that had reduced the available draft for boats to access the harbour and it became apparent that the canal side walls were collapsing. There were also leaks in the canal banks causing voids which continuously collapsed leaving holes or depressions in the walkway.
The sea lock itself was damaged and required repair.

The contract to undertake the work is due to be completed on the 27th June and the basin to be refilled thereafter. Approximately 4,000 cubic meters of silt has been removed and the walls re-pointed and stabilized. The cost of the works has reached over £400,000, all of which has had to be found by the District Council

- All of the works, other than the Lower Basin described immediately above, will be completed by the end of the year.
- The events programme has been supplemented by a series of guided walks led by Charlie David, the Council's lead officer for the Bude Canal project, over the summer taking place on Saturdays leaving the TIC at 2.30pm on the 21.06.08, 05.07.08, 26.07.08, 16.08.08, 30.08.08, and 20.09.08. (No need to book)

All other published events are booking fast, please pick up an events programme from the TIC, Castle, NCDC offices or ring for one to be posted. Updates will be available at all events and staff will be available to hear concerns and share information of the project