



Vision to transform Bath's river and canal

A study looking at new ways to use the river and canal system around Bath has been launched today. Bath & North East Somerset Council, the Canal & River Trust, the Environment Agency and Wessex Water will work together in the jointly funded Water Space Study with the aim of identifying projects to transform and revitalise the waterway network in the area.

The study will gather new evidence about how the waterways are used nowadays, where historically rivers and canals were heavily used for industry, business and trade, they are now used increasingly for sports and leisure.

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

This Newsletter has been prepared by Bath & North East Somerset Council on behalf of the River Avon Project. The Council is working in partnership to deliver a Water Space Study in 2016/17.

Engaging with local communities, it will look at regeneration, development and environmental opportunities along the River Avon between Bath and Keynsham, and along the Kennet and Avon Canal between Deep Lock and Limpley Stoke Viaduct.

The study will look at all aspects impacting on the river and canal, including how land is managed, boat moorings, river navigation by boats, leisure and recreation opportunities and environmental gains.

The Study will also give due consideration to the research carried out by the River Regeneration Trust (RRT) under the Chairman Dave Laming, and a leading sustainable specialist who has worked with the RRT to identify opportunities for enhancing the river corridor. For more information about the work/research that the RRT has supported please follow this link: www.riverregenerationtrust.co.uk

The project partners will be working with local consultancy firm Atkins, which has been involved in many environmental-based river restoration work and marina developments, including the rejuvenation of the London 2012 Olympic Park canal network.

The project is due to conclude its recommendations in March 2017. Opportunities for public engagement are being planned for summer 2016.

For information on the river and canal and the Water Space Study, visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/riverandcanal or email RiverAvon@bathnes.gov.uk.



Save the Date!
**Bristol to Bath Festival
of Nature**
10-25th June 2016

This year's festival is due to have a River theme and there will be a range of family friendly events, journeying upstream along the River Avon from Bristol to Bath over a fifteen day period. For the latest information see their website:

www.bnhc.org.uk



Project Updates

Bathampton Bridge Riverside Improvements

The Avon Frome Partnership has been working with Bathampton Parish Council and Cotswold Volunteer Wardens to deliver Riverside improvements including new seats, tables and noticeboards alongside the River, near to the new Batheaston/Bathampton footbridge. This project has been funded by Bath & North East Somerset Council.



Bath Quays Waterside

The next stage of the Bath Quays Waterside project started this week with riverside path improvements alongside the River Avon.

The £6.22m Bath & North East Somerset Council and Environment Agency project will reduce flood risk for more than 100 existing properties, reconnect the city centre to the riverside with a new waterside park, and allow Bath Quays to develop as a new home for businesses.



Bath Quays will feature new developments on both sides of the river, linked by a brand new pedestrian and cyclist bridge. New offices will be at the heart of a bustling south-facing riverside park called Bath Quays Waterside. This imaginative landscape project combines flood mitigation measures with a beautiful and adaptable south facing riverside environment. The redevelopment of Bath Quays North will provide up to 30,000 sq m of high quality commercial space for new and developing enterprises providing inspiring and ambitious employment opportunities for future generations. For more information please [click here](#).

The Local Sustainable Transport Fund backed work to improve the riverside path started on Monday 22 February. It is being resurfaced and widened between Green Park and Nelson Villas, at Nelson Place West, with the addition of new fencing to improve public safety. A new pedestrian and cycle link in Green Park is also being created, providing an alternative to the riverside path alongside the Broad Quays moorings during times of flooding when it becomes inaccessible. It is expected that the work will be completed in the Spring.

This improvement work and other riverside work to be undertaken later this year will require the riverside path between Nelson Villas and Broad Quay to be closed on occasions; pedestrians and cyclists will only be diverted when necessary and signs will be in place. With work currently underway to replace the Destructor Bridge at Midland Road, this means the towpath will be closed at times from Windsor Bridge to Broad Quay. It is expected the Destructor Bridge will be completed and open by this Summer.

Canal Towpath Improvement

Four months' worth of work starts on the towpath between Bathampton and Bath this week. Stretches of the route along the Kennet and Avon Canal will be closed due to resurfacing from Bathampton Road Bridge to Darlington Wharf. In all, 1.3 miles will be shut during an 18-week process.

The [resurfacing](#) is part of the towpath's £585,000 upgrade – a City Cycle Ambition Fund which Bath and North East Somerset Council was awarded.

£3.7 million for the project in total, to include improvements to a 300m link path from the towpath to Grosvenor River Bridge. While the canal will remain open, diversions around affected stretches of towpath for pedestrians and cyclists will be signposted throughout the works.

Bristol Avon Catchment Plan

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP) comprises a range of organisations, groups, authorities and individuals dedicated to working together to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature at a catchment scale – known as the [Catchment Based Approach \(CaBA\)](#).

The partnership formed in 2012 with support of central government and has produced a [Catchment Plan](#) to work towards achieving a better water environment for all.

For more information about the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership and to download a version of the Catchment Plan please visit our website: www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk

Or if you have any questions or would like to find out more please email: info@bristolavoncatchment.co.uk