

Neighbours of the Stroudwater Navigation,
Cainscross

19th October 2006

Dear resident,

I am writing on behalf of the Cotswold Canals Partnership to inform you that our proposals for a new bridge and excavation of the canal channel were accepted by Stroud District Council's Planning Committee on the 10th October, and to make you aware of the associated works that will shortly be taking place in Cainscross Parish.

Please see the accompanying leaflet for further details, but in a nutshell the works will include:

- Scrub and vegetation clearance - the majority of which will be chipped and taken off site.
- Removal of trees growing in the canal and trimming of others. Some branches will be carefully stacked on the canal banks to provide 'hibernacula' - refuges for reptiles.
- Dredging of the canal from the infill to Ryeford Lock.
- Removal of the domestic refuse and other material which fills the canal – this is harmless, but may cause unpleasant smells when the rubbish is disturbed.
- Limited tree works starting towards the end of this month from Ebley Mill to Dudbridge in preparation for the restoration of the channel. This will be happening towards the end of this month to avoid the bat hibernation period and bird breeding seasons.
- Testing of the canal bed and lining with some clay re-lining if necessary.
- Installation of bank protection in places. This will take the form of coir rolls, hazel faggots, and reeds allowing for more habitat creation than concrete/ steel piling, providing homes for species such as white-clawed crayfish and water voles.
- Rebuilding of the towpath and improved accesses to the canal at Oil Mills Bridge.
- Construction of a new deck and walls on the remains of the original Oil Mills Bridge.
- Habitat creation within the design of the bridge will include 'bat bricks' – special bricks designed by Norfolk Bat Group to provide nesting for rare species of bats.
- Installation of interpretation points telling the story of this section of canal.

I hope you agree that the overall benefit of the restored waterway to the community and its environment will outweigh the short term disruption. If you have any questions however, please do not hesitate in contacting me on andrew.stumpf@britishwaterways.co.uk or at the address below.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Andrew Stumpf

Andrew Stumpf, Project Manager.