



**Canal &
River Trust**

Making life better by water

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Welcome and thank you

- Thank you to all who have organised the conference
- We have the network of today thanks to the drive and passion of all of you
- Our theme for today is **Sustaining our Future**

A bit about me

- Chartered Civil Engineer
- Most of my career before the waterways was on Bridges and Highways
- Volunteered in Africa for 4 years – Kenya & Lesotho
- Joined British Waterways in 2002 as a project engineer
- Have worked extensively across the East Midlands & Yorkshire
- Took over as Trust lead for restoration in August 2024

My first two projects



Manor Farm Bridge, Chesterfield Canal



Extension of the moorings, Beal Lock

Variety of work



My experience in restoration

- Grantham Canal
- Cromford Canal
- Chesterfield Canal
- Pocklington Canal
- Bradford Arm
- Slea Navigation



Our Operations priorities

As Director Yorkshire and North East

- To keep the waterways Open & Alive
- Delivering the Plan for Better Boating
- Inspections
- Maintenance
- Prioritisation
- Repair
- Operating structures



Our challenge

- The pressure on us to maintain the network is as great as it has ever been and we are spending more than ever on our infrastructure
- Inflation and the government grant reduction has meant further pressure on the resources available to look after the network – increasing costs mean income isn't delivering the attention the network requires
- We face a funding challenge coupled with climate change and winter storms
- We are committed to, and intensely focussed on, our core mission to maintain the network as operational, safe and available for our boating customers

Supporting restorations

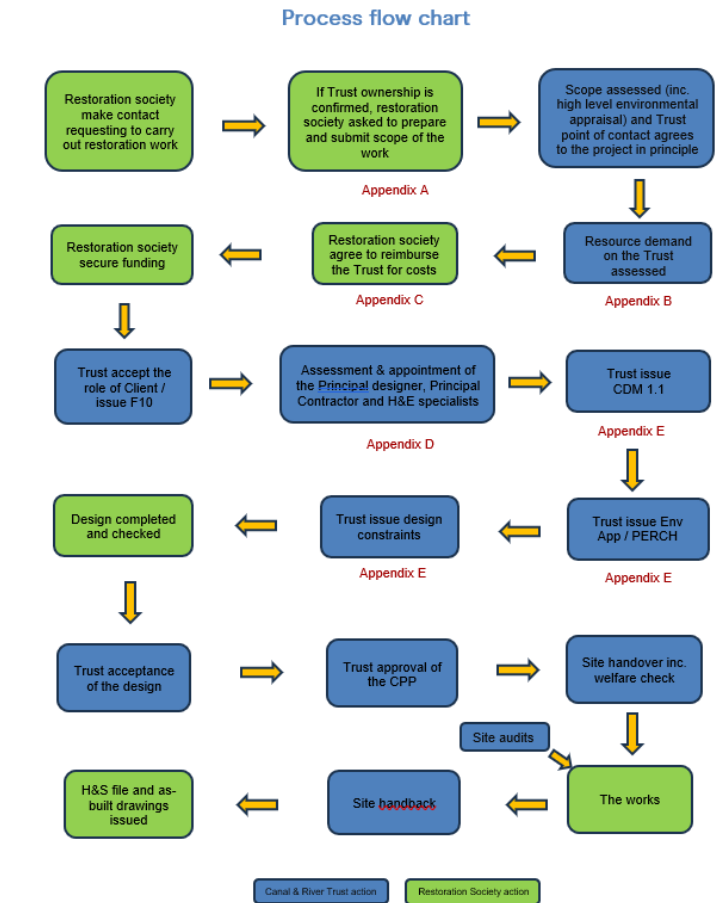
- We understand the passion and enthusiasm of our restoration groups
- We receive frequent requests to support restoration work on our land and we struggle to find the resources to help
- The Trust has been reflecting on how it supports restoration, considering options on how we can do things differently, developing clear guidance for all works on our canals
- All of us here are responsible for the safety of volunteers.
- We need to ensure legal compliance



A restoration delivery plan

So I have been developing a plan to support restoration delivery on our network

- We have many processes designed to meet the legal requirements – e.g. H&S, Environment, Waste
- We appreciate that there may be other ways to meet legal requirements
- We propose to set out all the steps needed to deliver a restoration on our land and who needs to deliver it
- A restoration delivery plan



Resources for restoration

- We have a great deal of challenge in just delivering our day-to-day work
- Navigation availability and boater satisfaction has to be the key focus of our teams. Our main role is maintenance of the network, to keep it open – the network cannot be expanded if the ‘already open’ part fails
- We are facing a challenging financial years with a huge focus on filling the funding gap so that’s a key focus of our energy
- In this current environment we are unable to guarantee the availability of resources to help with a restoration or when such resource would be available.

Support for restorations

- We have been working with IWA for many years to support restoration
- The aim has been to equip restoration groups to deliver sustainable restoration through the restoration hub
- Sustainable for the future and sustainable in the delivery
- With skills and resources to deliver the whole project
- With funding for all aspects of the restoration delivery

Next steps

- We want to develop this way forward in partnership with you all to deliver restorations
- We want to **consult** to get the best version of the restoration delivery plan
- We want to **consult** on how the resources can be provided to deliver our part in restoration
- Q&A session later where you can ask more