

# Oakham Canal Green Corridor Project

## Update October 2020

### Welcome!

It's been a while since we last had an update, mainly because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but we are now back with a bigger team, a new structure and, most importantly, positive progress with our plans for a re-invigorated Oakham Canal Green Corridor.

### A new start

Over the last few years our project has been run as a loose partnership between the Melton & Oakham Waterways Society, Oakham Angling Society, Sustainable Land Trust and Rutland County Council.

The project team continues to grow, and is beginning to develop a corporate structure:

**Paul Dadford:** Project Manager

Whilst this has served us well in developing the overall project plan, a new structure is needed going forward.

We are now in the process of establishing the Oakham Canal Green Corridor Project as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This will be run by a board of Trustees, and will be able to raise funds and enter into formal agreements with both landowners and contractors.

**Stephanie Ross:** Communications/  
Deputy Project Manager

**Neil Broad:** Finance/Funding Manager

**Martin Ball:** Land/Corporate Affairs

**Jamie Mulvany/Gary Berridge:**  
Operations

Stephanie will be putting together our e-newsletters to keep you informed of our progress, and we will be launching our website and social media pages soon, so do keep an eye out for us online.

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## Help us to help you!

As we move forward we want more local residents to get involved in helping us develop and maintain the environment for the benefit of the whole community. You can get involved by joining our work parties, or helping with some of the administration. If you'd like to help out, please [get in touch](#)

Whilst physical help is needed, we also need financial support to deliver the project. Donations are always welcome, and we will be launching a crowdfunding appeal in the coming months as well as seeking the support of donors and local businesses. Please [get in touch](#) if you'd like to support us.

## Fishing on the canal

We are very pleased to report that Oakham canal is an increasingly popular choice for people to spend their spare time. Fishing is no exception, and the Oakham Angling Society continues to see growing interest in membership. Fishing is a great way to relax and take in the natural environment, as well as catching a few fish along the way. This



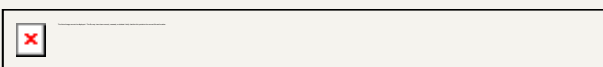
season has seen a continuing stream of silver fish, providing plenty of bites for the angling fraternity. There is always the possibility of something larger as well, with bream, carp and tench making a regular appearance. If you are interested, season tickets are available from Vicky at HTS fishing in Oakham, and are valid for a full 12 months from date of purchase.

The Angling Society and its members welcome visitors to enjoy the canal, but request care is taken to navigate the presence of anglers and avoid the risk of damage to expensive items of fishing tackle that can temporarily block access along the towpath. Be safe, be courteous and enjoy.



## Northern section improvements

The Oakham Angling Society have recently acquired a lease for the northern section of the Green Corridor. The tenant farmer has improved the fencing to the eastern bank which will hopefully keep the cattle from causing further damage to the footpath, and staff from Bradshaw Taylor (Cavells) helped us with some much-needed maintenance to the vegetation last year. The main issue here is the waterlogging of the footpath during the winter. The Oakham Angling Society are currently assessing the depth of water in this section of the canal, and the results of the survey will help us determine the best way to create a new angling facility and improve the footpath.



## Western footpaths

Following our positive meeting with the landowner last year, we have now also obtained the agreement of the tenant farmer to acquire permissive access rights to the footpaths on the western bank of the canal. Once we have our charity set up we can proceed to get a formal agreement in place with both parties. This will allow us to make the footpaths formally accessible to the public, and allow us to provide proper access gates.

## Partnerships

With our new charitable status, we can continue to form effective partnerships with the Melton & Oakham Waterways Society, Oakham Angling Society and Rutland County Council. We are hoping to secure the services of a local ecological business to help us develop maintenance strategies along the route of the Green Corridor. We will focus initially on the canal at Springfield, and we hope to be in a position in the next few months to put forward a proposal to the landowner (Rutland County Council) and local residents. We will continue to update you as we make progress with our plans.

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**Oakham Canal Green Corridor Project. 10c Mill Street. Oakham LE15 6EA**

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