



Sept 2023 - Construction of the Permissive Footpath north of the bypass

After long negotiations with the landowner, we finally gained permission to build a Permissive Footpath across the first field to the north of the Oakham, bypass, starting near the milepost.

This new route consolidated the route that many people have been using over the years and has proved to be popular – although got a little inundated with the recent heavy rains. A modification is planned.

The path was laid in super-quicktime, thanks to volunteers from both Berry Superfos and Hanson UK. Many thanks to both teams!



March 2024 - Tesco donation – thank you for your tokens!

Thanks to all those who put their blue token into the OCGCP collection bin at Tesco resulting in the award of a £1,000 donation!

This money will be used towards the cost of installing access gates for the Permissive footpaths on the western banks, which was an obligation to complete by Summer 2024 as part of our access agreement with the landowner.



March 2024 - Woodchip hero!

We have been blessed with multiple donations of woodchips from various tree surgeons this season, which means they all need to be laid!

Various workparties have made great progress repairing the Northern and Fishermen's Permissive footpaths, but the stand out hero was Dave Walker, who laid 165 metres ON HIS OWN in a 2 day sprint! He's the chap on the right, in the photo above, wearing a green jacket.

A true woodchip hero.



Photo: Michael Durham/Minden Pictures, Bat Conservation International

April 2024 - Bat Walks begin.

We enjoyed another successful Bat Walk on Saturday evening, led by our Team Ecologist, Max Devere-Summers .

It's early in the season for bats and was a little cool, but we heard and saw three of the five species we would hope to see along the canal. Max has the technology to detect and record the bat voices in great detail, which is fascinating. We were particularly excited to see the Daubenton's Bat, which is an uncommon water specialist, swooping low over the canal as it hunted for insects. The walk was fully booked with x8 visitors, but keep an eye out for future dates.

<https://www.oakhamcanal.org/canal-walks>



March 2024 - New animal habitats in the Northern Section woodland.

You may have noticed several large humps of logs along the Northern section permissive footpath. Don't worry– we haven't been a victim of fly-tipping!

Following a donation of rotting logs, these new piles are purpose built animal habitats, aimed at encouraging insect life and providing shelter for our smaller mammals. We hope the new residents will take full advantage.



Ongoing 2024 - Guided Walks Programme

Our annual Guided Walk season has kicked off again and bookings are already booming. Check out our website to see if you can bag a spot, or maybe join a Bat or Nature walk.

<https://www.oakhamcanal.org/canal-walks>



The former Boat Inn, Ashwell Road, Oakham in 1983. Note the small window at the side, presumably to serve ale to persons using the wharf on the canal at the rear

Ongoing 2024 - Oakham Canal Group Talks

If a Guided Walk isn't your cup of tea, why not invite us along to your community group meeting to give you a "Guided Talk". Our talks delve into the history, the architecture and the people who made and lived on the canal, plus explains its impact on Oakham and the surrounding areas.

These talks often elicit wonderful memories of the canal from local residents.

The talks are free, but contributions to our charity are always gratefully received.



March 2024 Ben Burgess support Oakham Canal Green Corridor Project.

Ben Burgess, Oakham, have kindly supported the project in the purchase of a brand new 2 stroke Husqvarna hedge trimmer. Alan Long, of the Oakham branch, offered us a fantastic deal on the new machine and special pre mixed fuel to help maintain the machine.

We are really pleased to extend our relationship with this local company and appreciate their support.



April 2024 – imminent launch of exciting new historical artefact!

We can't say too much right now, but look out for the launch of an exciting new way to enjoy the history of Oakham Canal – coming to you in May!
