

Droitwich Canals Restoration

Update – October

Coney Meadow Reedbed

Work has started on the Reedbed near Droitwich. This is the first element of the restoration works and involves the creation of 2.4 hectares of reedbed to replace those which will be removed in the canal channel to allow boats to pass along it.

The first stage of the works was to build an access to the site and involved building a bridge across the River Salwarpe. This replaced a somewhat tired bridge which was deemed unsafe.

The pictures show the excavators digging out the wet section of the reedbed. Over the next 6 months 80,000 reeds will be planted, partly by the contractors and partly by volunteers.



Planning

The Planning Application to restore the Junction Canal and the Barge Canal was given delegated approval to the Head of Planning by Wychavon District Council's Development Control Committee on Thursday 4th October.

It was a unanimous decision by the members of the Development Council. The application was fully supported by Droitwich Town Council, Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree, Salwarpe and Ombersley Parish Councils, Inland Waterways Association and Droitwich Spa Civic Society.

The application has now been delegated to the Head of Planning to approve such things as a new Otter Survey and to agree the wording of the conditions to apply to the Application.

Many Councillors spoke in favour of approval saying that the restoration project will bring many benefits for the local community in and around Droitwich Spa, thanks principally to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Advantage West Midlands. Increased canal access provided by the scheme will attract more visitors to the area, therefore, increasing its potential to attract more business opportunities and jobs for the people of Droitwich.

We will report further as soon as the further detail is submitted.