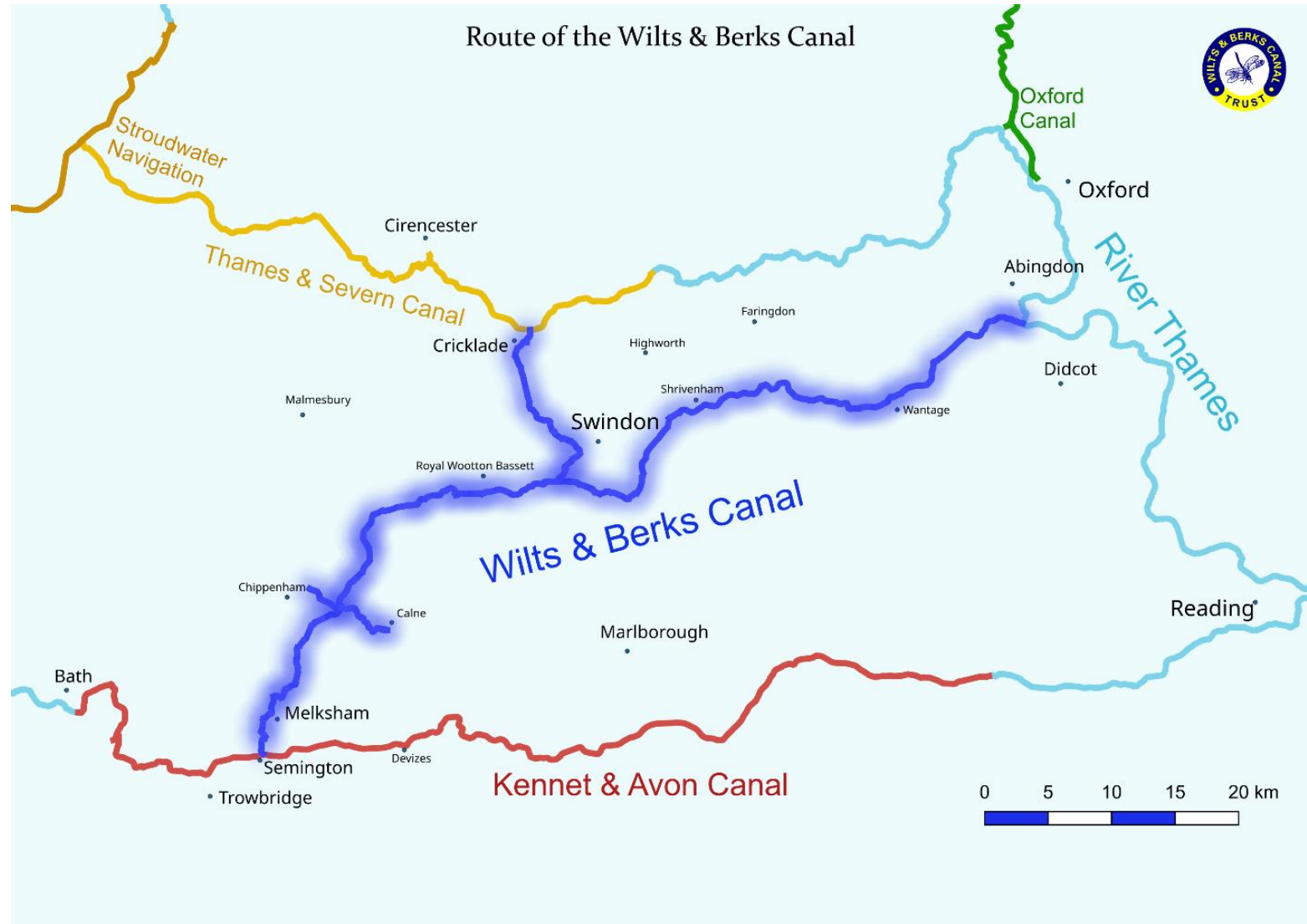




WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

Chippenham Area Board briefing 25/09/2023





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We are here this evening to begin regular engagement with the Chippenham Area Board

- **We are very active in Chippenham, particularly at our Pewsham learning and heritage restoration site and on the canal towpaths**
- **Improvement of the natural environment and biodiversity gains are high on our agenda and work planning**
- **We need to keep our ageing workforce productive with more sophisticated machinery and equipment**
- **We need to recruit a new generation of younger volunteers to get more done more quickly**
- **We need more regular contact with like-minded stakeholders and influencers**

Our patron is the former Duchess of Cornwall. We hold the Queen's Award for volunteering



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Basic facts about our registered charity, No 299595

- Established by volunteers in 1977 to restore 70 miles of abandoned canal and towpaths between Semington, Abingdon and Cricklade, all via a Swindon hub
- Our 2022/23 full year Income was £314k, Surplus was £2k
- 29% of towpaths and 6.5% of navigable canal were restored by 2023
- Over 90% of our users are walkers, runners, cyclists, nature lovers and anglers
- There are 2,350 members and about 200 active working volunteers
- We have 5 geographic branches, Melksham Chippenham & Calne, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, West Vale and East Vale
- Plans are in place for a total of 81 projects costing £300m plus at today's prices
- Public wellbeing and economic benefits will total £250m per year on completion
- Community engagement is a key driver for our vision
- Wiltshire's Area Boards can help us to deliver public benefit across 45% of our route

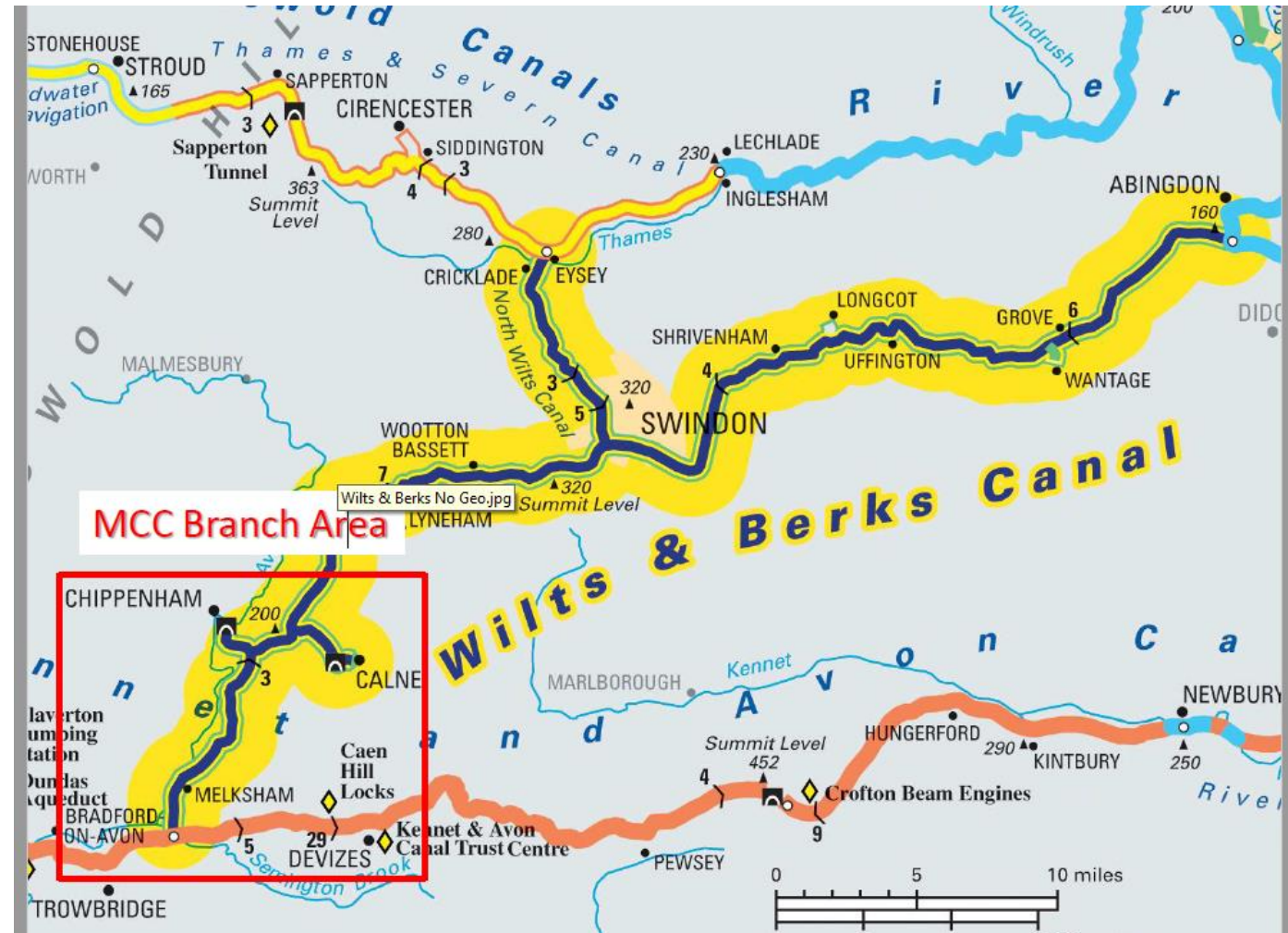


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Our Melksham, Chippenham and Calne Branch

- Chair, Dave Maloney
- 833 members
- 50+ Active Volunteers
- Total length 22 miles





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The Chippenham section of the Wilts & Berks canal:

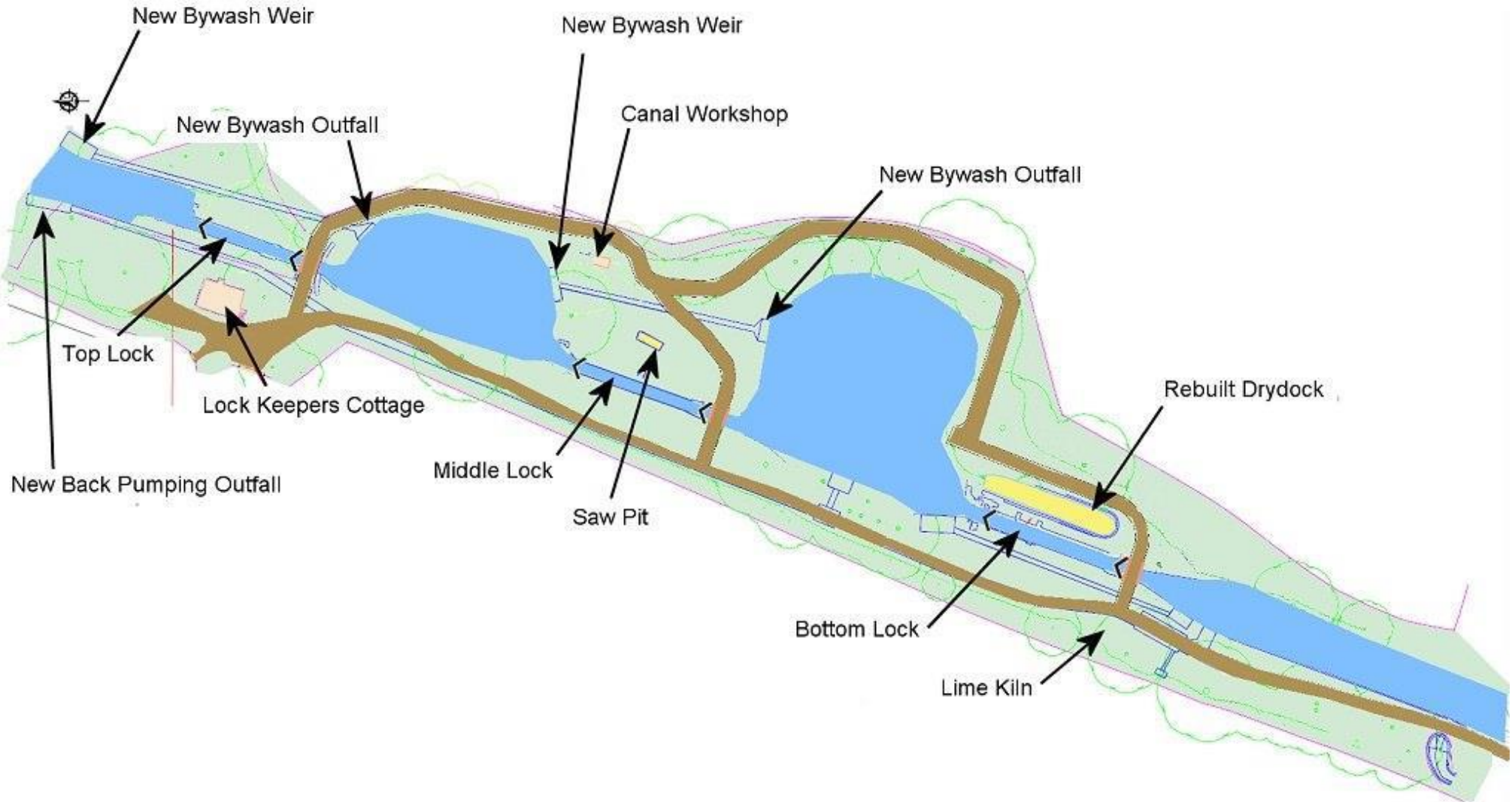
- **Opened in 1802, abandoned by Act of Parliament in 1914**
- **Length in Chippenham Area Board (CAB) district, ~10 miles**
- **Branches to Chippenham centre and Calne**
- **Current accessible towpath in CAB district, ~4 miles**
- **Heritage industrial site and 3 locks in restoration at Pewsham**
- **Needs 6 locks, 12 bridges & 6 other structures in CAB district**
- **Total WBCT cost projection in CAB district, £7m at today's prices**
- **WBCT needs negotiations with at least 22 landowners**
- **WBCT will need multiple planning consents**



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Pewsham Site Overview, we have full planning consent, work is ongoing



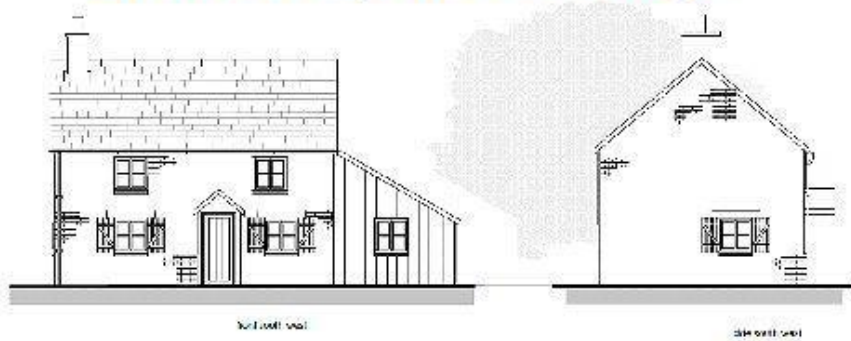


WILTS & BERKS CANAL TRUST

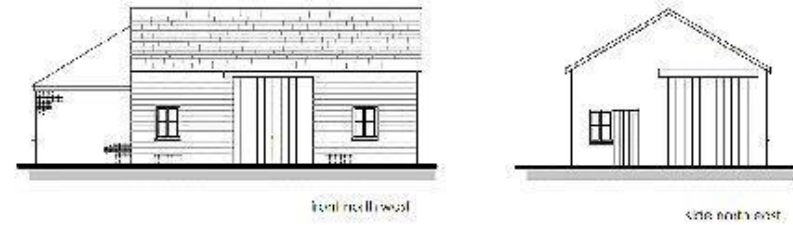
Chippenham Area Board briefing 25/09/2023

At Pewsham, a Cottage, Workshop and Dry Dock for restoration, full site planning consent

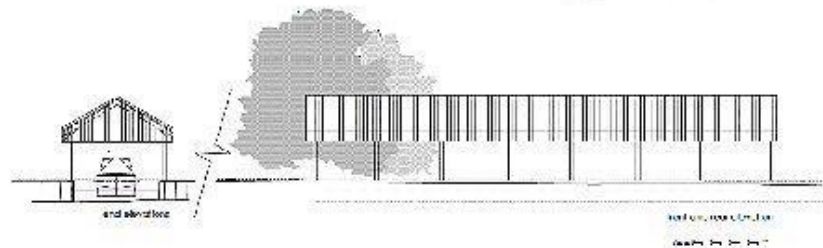
Lock Keeper's Cottage



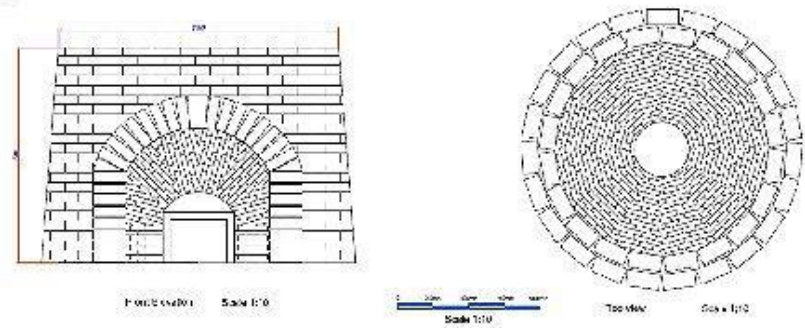
Canal Work Shop



Dry Dock



Lime Kiln





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Pewsham Top Lock – Before start of work





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Pewsham Top Lock – Work in progress, Aug 2023





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Towpath public access, WBCT's emphasis is on Environment improvement & Biodiversity gain

- Every WBCT towpath restoration is preceded by habitat and wildlife studies to produce an environmentally sound plan for long term sustainability and maintainability
- Tree planting and pollinator routes are properly integrated
- Recent tractor and collecting mower upgrades have enabled new work on wildflower meadow regeneration
- We need an offset mower for our tractor to underpin future safe towpath maintenance
- Cost of the selected mower is £5,000, we will make an application to CAB for funding of this equipment



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Meadow creation in 2022





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Meadow creation in 2023





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Footpath maintenance in 2023





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Wildflowers returning to WBCT meadows





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Thank you for your attention

That's the end of our WBCT presentation

It's time for questions

