



WEY & ARUN  
Canal  
Trust

The logo is a green rectangle with white text. The words 'WEY & ARUN' are in a large, bold, serif font, arched over the words 'Canal' and 'Trust', which are in a smaller, bold, serif font.





# Today's Talk

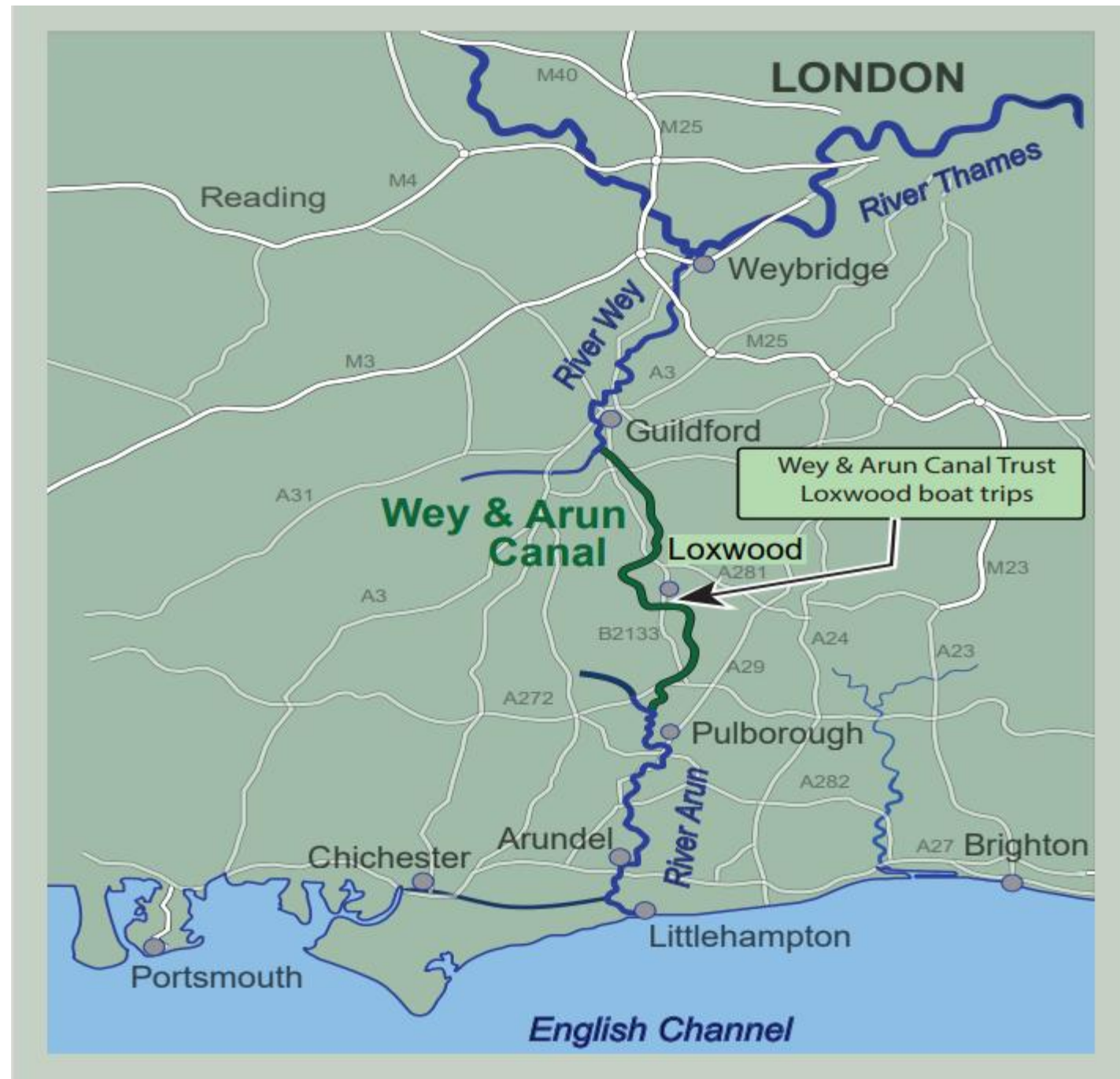
- **A short history**
- **Our Trust – AIMS and restoration**
- **Our projects and plans**
- **Exploring the canal**
- **Support the Trust**
  - Volunteer
  - Become a member
  - Donate





# Our Canal

- “London’s lost route to the sea”
- 23 miles between River Wey and River Arun



# I need a canal

George O'Brien Wyndham, the third Earl of Egremont, of Petworth House, Sussex, decided that his estate would benefit from a better navigable connection to the recently improved Arun Navigation

- This was NOT our canal but the west-east Rother Navigation
- In 1784 a petition presented and the Arun Navigation from Newbridge down to Pallingham opens in 1787





# It's War

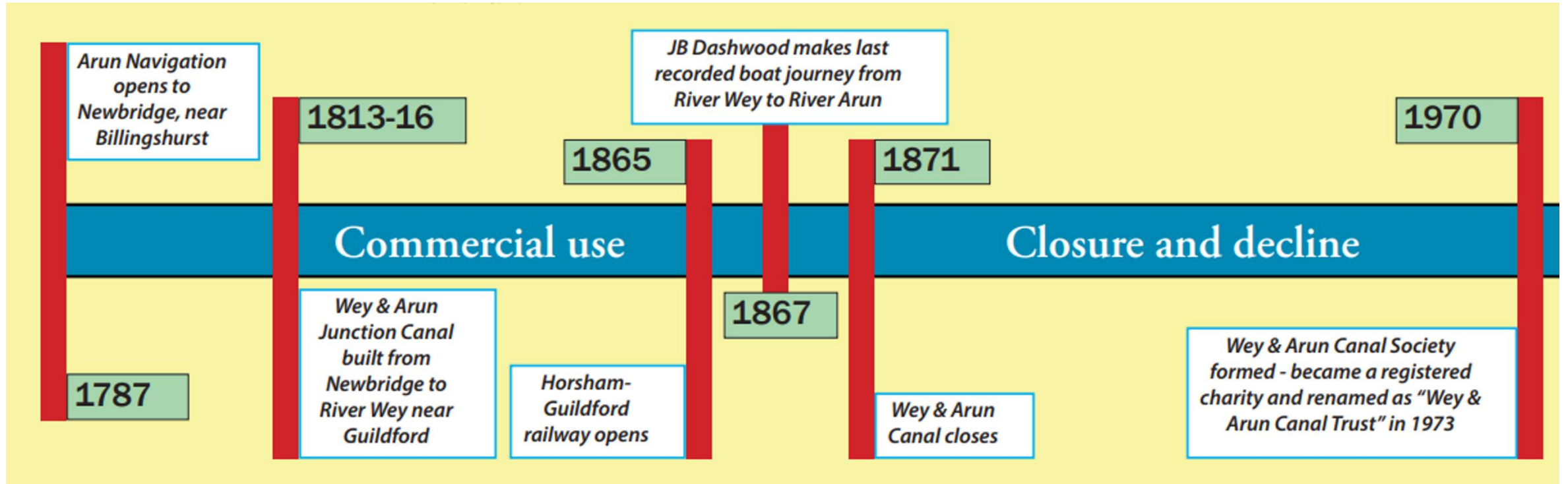
During the Napoleonic wars (1799-1815), the sea route from London via the English Channel to Portsmouth where the Royal Navy was based, was fraught with danger from French ships

- It was realised that by joining the Thames, Wey and Arun rivers, cargoes including naval supplies could travel more safely
- In 1810 Lord Egremont put up £20k and engaged an Engineer to survey the route
- Having overcome objections from landowners, an act was passed in 1813





# The impact of the railway on the canal





# Our AIMS

**Restoring the Canal but much more !**

## **Community focus**

- Enhancing Public Access: restoring the towpath and creating new footpath and bridleway links
- A Waterway for recreation and leisure
- A “green corridor” for wildlife and the peaceful enjoyment of the countryside
- An educational resource and an opportunity for volunteering
- Researching and conserving heritage features





# The early history of the Trust

- **They Wey & Arun Canal society formed in 1970**
- **The First job – find something to do !**  
Three landowners will allow work on the canal route north of the A281 at Newbridge :  
the first work party sets out for Rowner Lock







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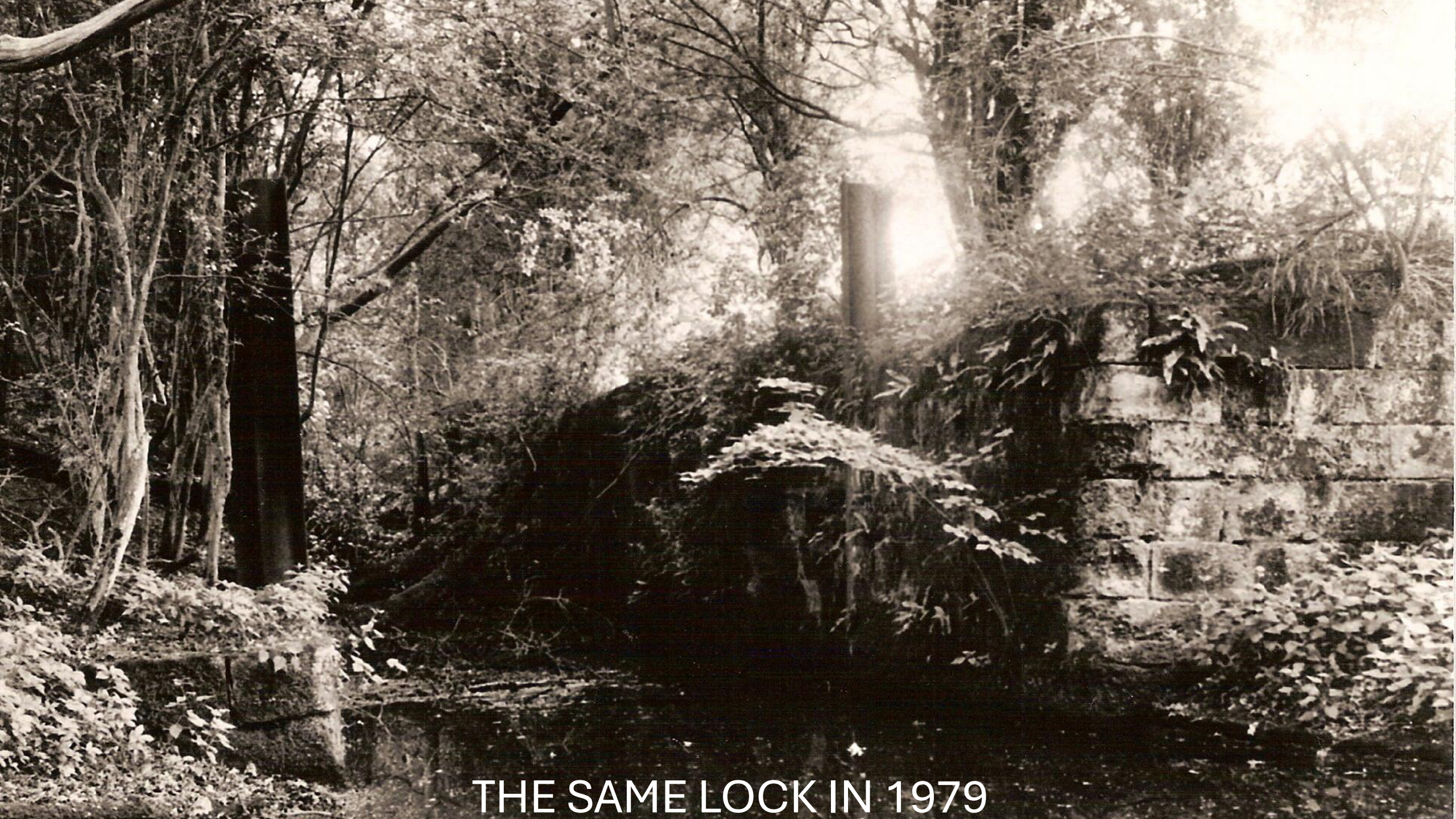
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- **The 1970s : Hopeless optimism meets hard reality**  
Several restored structures but no truly navigable waterway
- **The 1980s : A new landowner buys two farms in Loxwood and a large section of canal**  
The new owners – Gordon (father) & Peter Foulger (son) are canal enthusiasts
- **The 1990s : The dream start to become reality**  
In 1999, the Trust has it's own trip boat with navigation possible for 1.5 miles in Loxwood





BALDWINS KNOB LOCK 1995





THE SAME LOCK IN 1979



# The Trust turned 50 in 2023

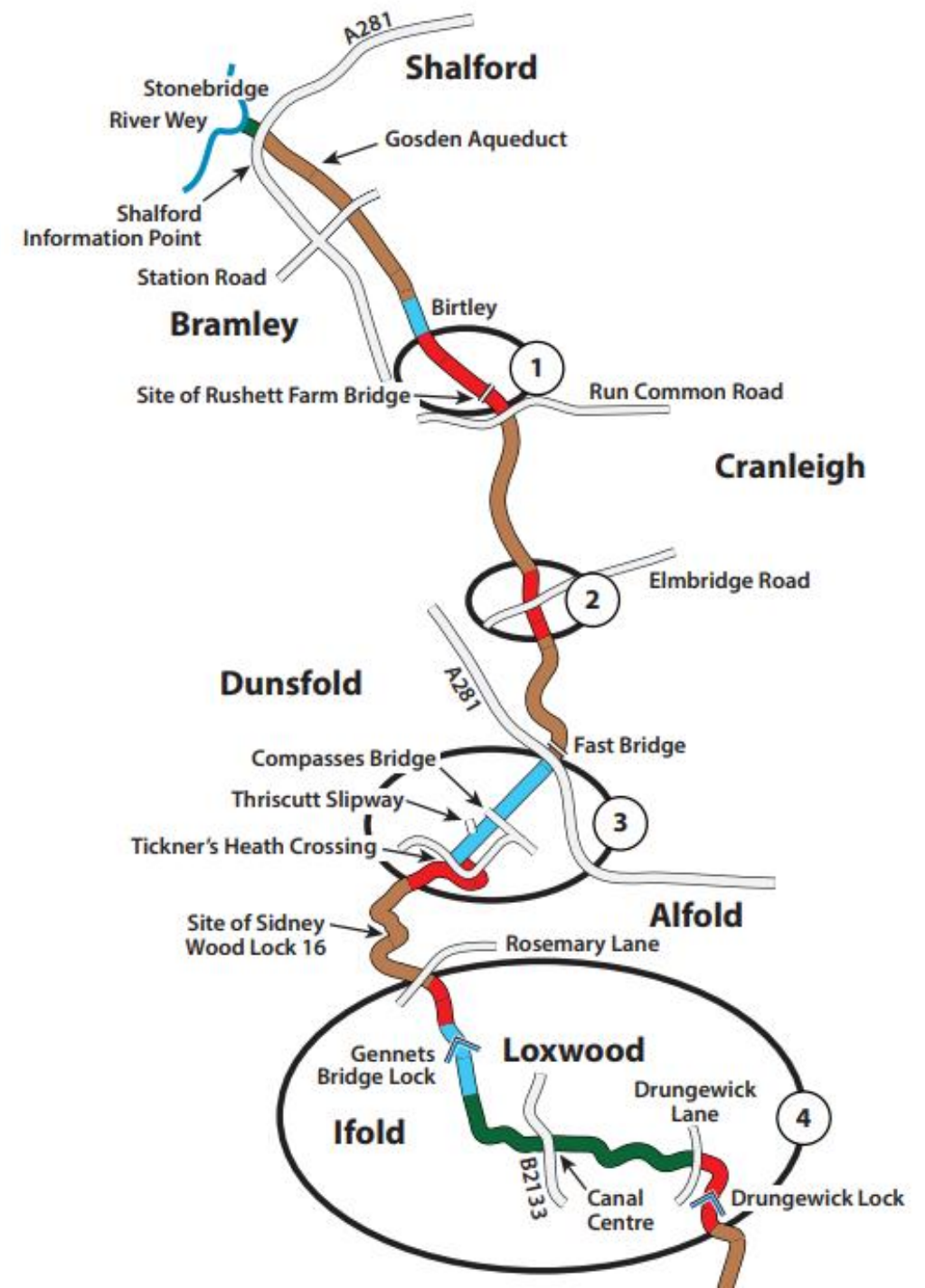
- We have purchased and leased 8 miles of the canal
- Some 10 miles of towpath are accessible and the general route of the whole canal can be followed by walkers using the Wey South path
- There are a number of sections of the canal useable by small craft such as kayaks and paddle boards
- We have restored 3 miles of the canal at Loxwood where it has an Information Centre and operates 3 Trip Boats carrying about 10,000 passengers each year
- Over the past 50 years, we have restored 11 locks, 24 bridges and 2 aqueducts

**Clearly the restoration of the canal is a long-term project – so what's next ?**



# Priority Areas next 3 years

- South of Bramley  
Rooks Hill
- Cranleigh
- Dunsfold and Alfold  
Tickners Crossing
- Loxwood  
Maintenance & Repair  
Bonfire Hanger





A photograph of a green metal bridge structure spanning a river. The bridge has a green metal frame with railings and a green metal roof. It is supported by brick pillars. The river is visible in the background, and there are trees and a stone wall on the right side. The sky is blue with some clouds.

## South of Bramley

- Expand south from Birtley Bridges section
- Rooks Hill Planning approval recently received



# ROOKS HILL

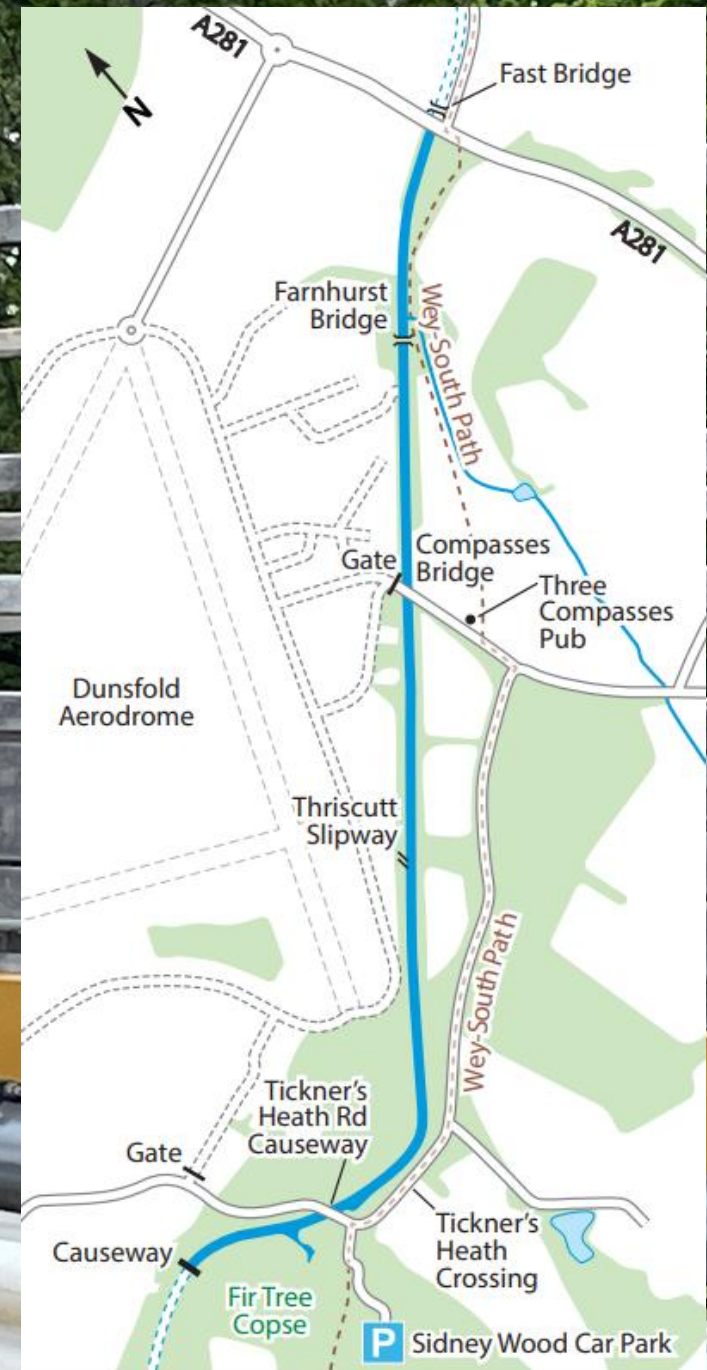






## Tickners Heath Crossing

- Footbridge built but long pause waiting for Highways and Utilities approvals
- Working hard to get restarted
  - Water main rerouting underway
  - Tender process underway
  - Road bridge and road resurfacing





# Loxwood / Ifold

## Maintaining & Repairing a key focus – increased volunteer time and expenditure

- Following criminal damage in 2023, Pump and pump control systems replaced – stage 2 work nearly complete
- Brick Parapet at Devils Hole lock rebuilt
- Leak at Devils Hole lock required work on training walls and clay to build back an eroded bank
- Inspection of Baldwins Knob Lock highlighted need to replace mortar in stonework
- Ash die-back has meant more forestry work
- Footpath repairs an ongoing need





A photograph of a dirt path winding through a lush green forest. Two people are riding bicycles away from the camera on the path. The path is bordered by tall grass and dense foliage on both sides. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled shadows on the ground. The path appears to be well-maintained with some gravel or stone borders in places.

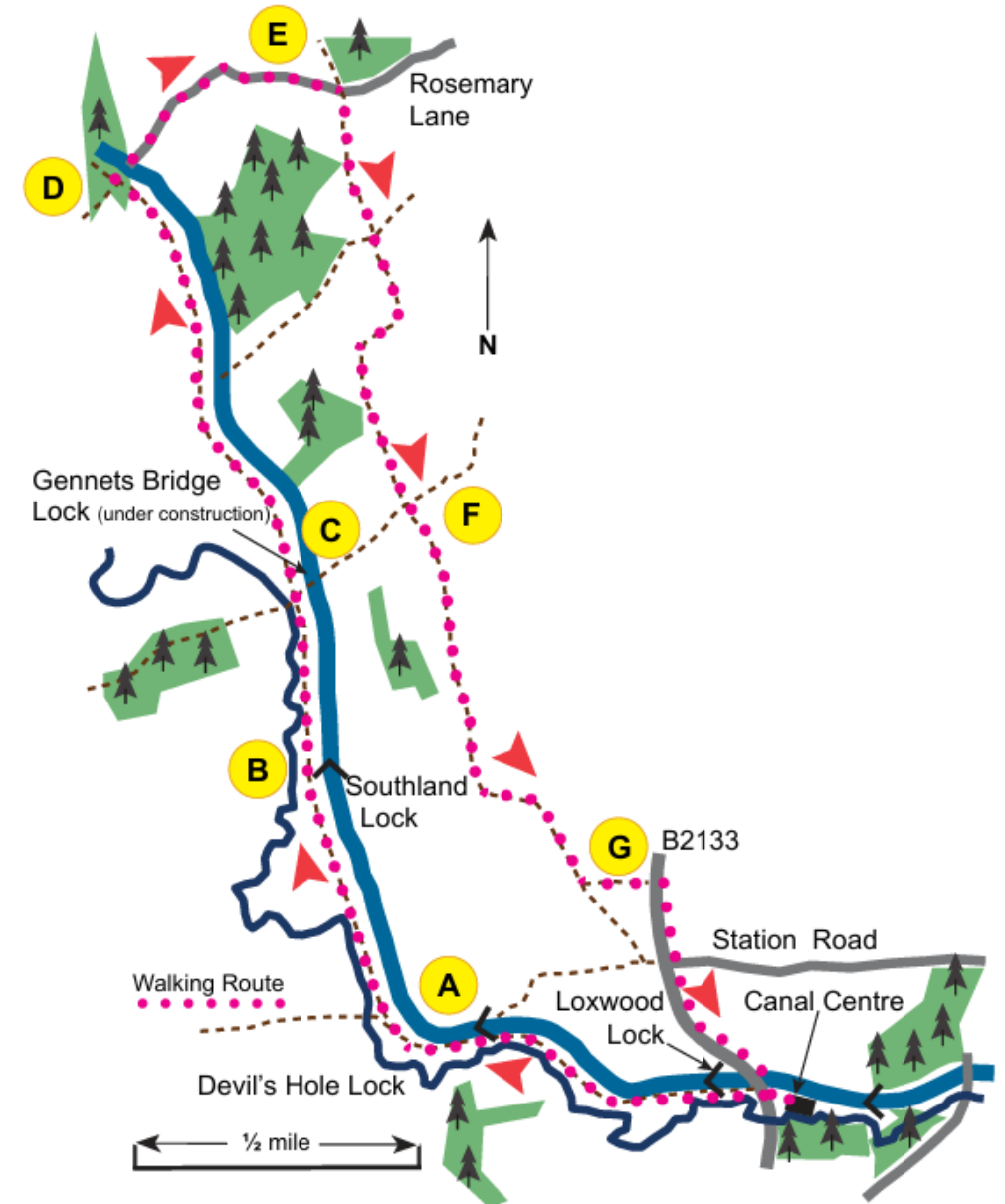
## Bonfire Hanger

- Forestry work and bridge steps work completed
- Towpath (Bridleway) improvements completed but some remedial work required this Summer

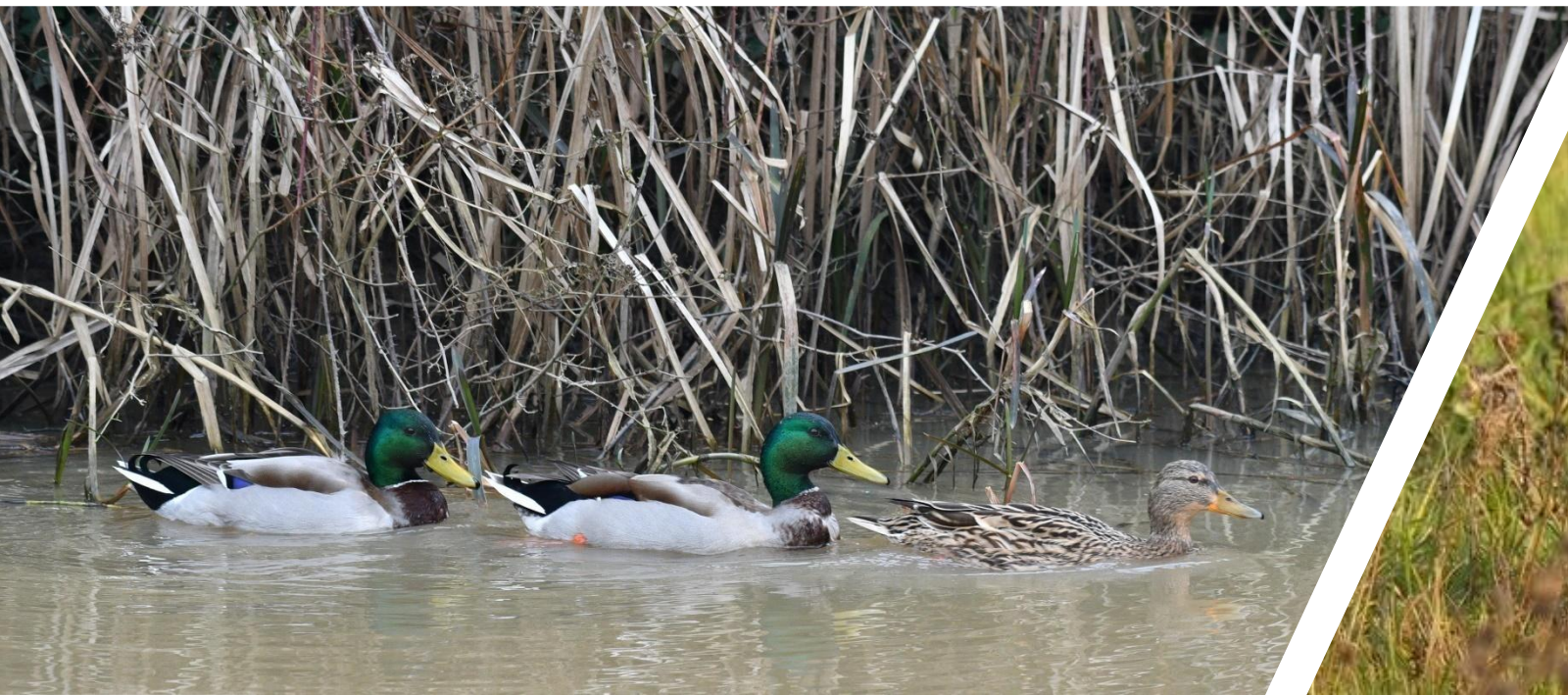


# Exploring the Canal

- **The Wey South Path**  
36 mile route in or close to the canal
- **Countryside walking routes**  
Our website has many circular route to enjoy for shorter walks
- **Loxwood Boat Trips**  
May cream tea cruises and shorter weekend trips open for booking
- **Kayaking & Paddleboarding**
- **So much wildlife to spot and enjoy**









# Support the Trust

- **Volunteer – we have a job for everyone !**  
Email [volunteering@weyarun.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@weyarun.org.uk)
- **Become a member**  
Join on-line and keep up to date with our members magazine
- **Participate in our “Poddle”**  
A 12 mile sponsored walk on June 1<sup>st</sup> starting and finishing in Loxwood
- **Donate**









A serene autumn landscape featuring a calm pond that perfectly reflects the surrounding forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some displaying vibrant yellow and orange foliage, while others are bare, showing their intricate branch structures against a clear blue sky with light, wispy clouds. The reflection in the water is sharp and clear, mirroring the colors and shapes of the trees above. In the foreground, the water's surface is slightly rippled, and some reeds or grasses are visible along the edges. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and picturesque, capturing the beauty of the season.

[weyarun.org.uk](http://weyarun.org.uk)