

WHAT IS THE RIVER GIPPING TRUST ?

The Stowmarket Navigation is the only fully canalised river in the county. The River Gipping Trust has over the years completed the restoration of a number of locks along the course with the purpose of restoring navigation.

It was formed to set about the restoration, reconstruction, preservation and maintenance of the River Gipping (Stowmarket Navigation) and the conservation of its natural character as a waterway for the benefit of the public. To advance the education of the public in the history, industrial archaeology and natural history of the Stowmarket Navigation, associated structures and natural history of the countryside through which it runs.



NEW BRIDGE & FOOTPATH

ON THE RIVER GIPPING AT BAYLHAM

The River Gipping Trust (RGT) is in the process of restoring part of the footpath at Baylham to its original position of the river's towpath. **The primary objective is to improve the walking experience of those that use the Gipping Way.**

Several years ago a landowner got permission to divert the footpath from the towpath to avoid his property. This diversion runs alongside the Norwich to London rail track and is very narrow. It then traverses a sloped field and joins Mill Lane, the overall length of the diversion is around 2 kilometres.

The main problem with the diversion is that in Summer the area by the rail track becomes impassable due to very tall nettles encroaching from the adjoining land. In wintery wet weather it floods and is impassable unless wellington boots are worn.

The RGT has got the permission of the current land owners for a permissive footpath that puts it back to the towpath. This will totally remove all the problems associated with the old footpath and walkers will get a much better view of the mill at Baylham. The path will be approximately two metres wide and the aim is to make it wheelchair friendly.



Working on clearing the new footpath.

A better walking experience

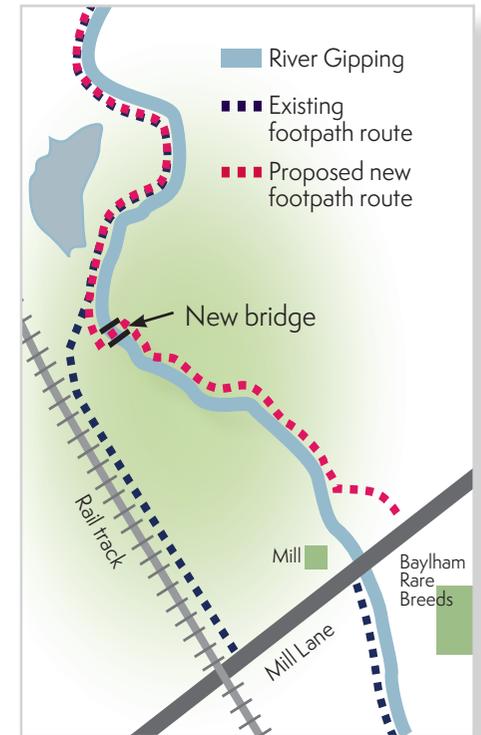


Flooded footpath.



Impassable footpath.

What makes this project really exciting is that the Trust has got planning permission to rebuild the bridge across the river. This is essential as the original bridge platform was removed when the footpath was diverted. Fortunately, the original abutments can still be used subject to the structural engineer's recommendations being carried out. As the purchase of the new bridge is beyond the resources of the RGT, they are embarking on a major fund raising initiative. This project will cost £25,000 and will be carried out by the merry band of RGT volunteers.



Aerial view of the old bridge abutments.

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL

While donations are always welcomed, support from walkers, landowners along the whole river and the wider community is key to the RGT succeeding with this important project.

You can offer your support in a number of ways.

Email:
support@rivergippingtrust.org.uk

Facebook: River Gipping Trust

To join or donate:
www.rivergippingtrust.org.uk



The bridge will be similar to this.