

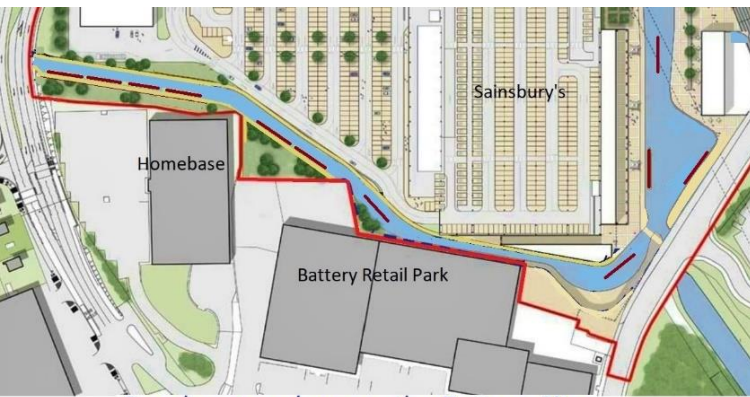


**Press Release**

21<sup>th</sup> November 2018

**Lapal Canal Trust launch campaign to raise £2m for Canal restoration in Selly Oak.**

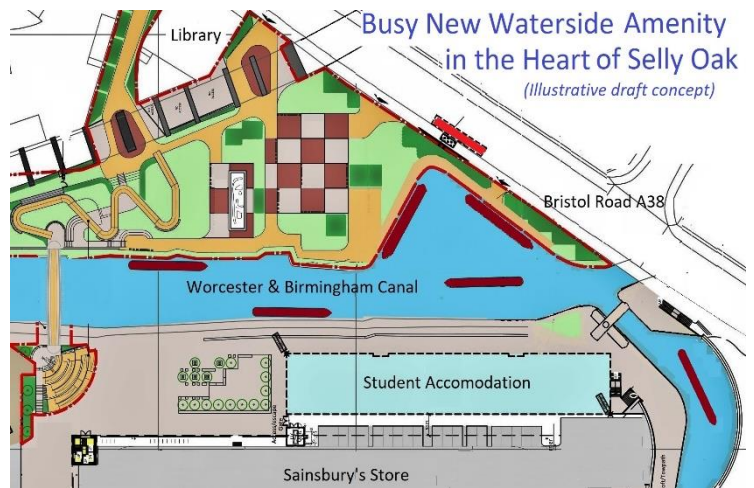
With the opening of the new Sainsbury's store in Selly Oak, the way is now open to start work on converting the greenway which safeguards the canal route (provided as part of the



Canal restored across the Battery Site

Section 106 Agreement) into a canal; and to start on the restoration of the Dudley No2 Canal from Selly Oak to Barnes Hill (California). The greenway passes underneath Sainsbury's goods delivery yard and provides a clear route to Harborne Lane Bridge. The agreement includes the provision of sheet metal piling of both the canal

route and the winding hole needed for boats to turn and enter the canal. The Landsec/Sainsbury's partnership will also provide £500,000 as a contribution to completing the canal. The Trust will be responsible for removing the soil from the canal and winding hole, arranging for the services under the tow path to be moved, building a swing bridge to replace the tow path at the junction and making the canal route waterproof. The £2m the Trust plans to raise will enable the canal to be completed across the Sainsbury's site and extend to the end of Selly Oak Park.



Busy New Waterside Amenity in the Heart of Selly Oak (Illustrative draft concept)



Plan for restored canal in Selly Oak Park



Dr Andrew Hardie Chair of the Lapal Canal Trust comments: “We are grateful for the help received from Sainsbury’s, Landsec and Birmingham City Council and in partnership with the local community we look forward to the canal link being restored. The restored waterway will greatly benefit the environment and help to protect the wild life thriving by the canal.

In the early 1800s Selly Oak industry was developed around the canal junction and we feel it is important to protect and restore this important heritage link with the past; the canal is also an important boost to leisure activities to benefit the wellbeing of the community. The new water feature will greatly enhance the centre of Selly Oak.

We plan a vigorous publicity campaign with individuals and companies to make everyone aware, and we have started approaching the 65 charities identified as potential donors. We are all proud of our Birmingham canals and we want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to contribute.”

The restoration of the canal has broad support including local community groups, councillors, MPs and MEPs.



Andy Street the Mayor of the West Midlands Combined Authority comments: “I am hugely welcoming of your restoration project, it would be a brilliant addition to Birmingham.”



*Illustrative drawing included by Landsec in its 2013 planning application*



Saqib Bhatti the newly elected president of the Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce writes, “Since the Chamber was established in 1813, it has always been supportive of the development of canals in Birmingham: first for commerce, and now as a major tourist attraction. Walkers and cyclists will gain a new city centre access route away from busy roads.”

Please follow progress on our web site [www.lapal.org](http://www.lapal.org) and [www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust](https://www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust)

For queries and higher resolution version of the photos please contact Hugh Humphreys, [nbhugh@gmail.com](mailto:nbhugh@gmail.com)  
Lapal Canal Trust, Tel 07970 766554

The Lapal Canal Trust is a registered charity (no 1013845) and a non-profit distributing company limited by guarantee, registered in England (no 2721675)

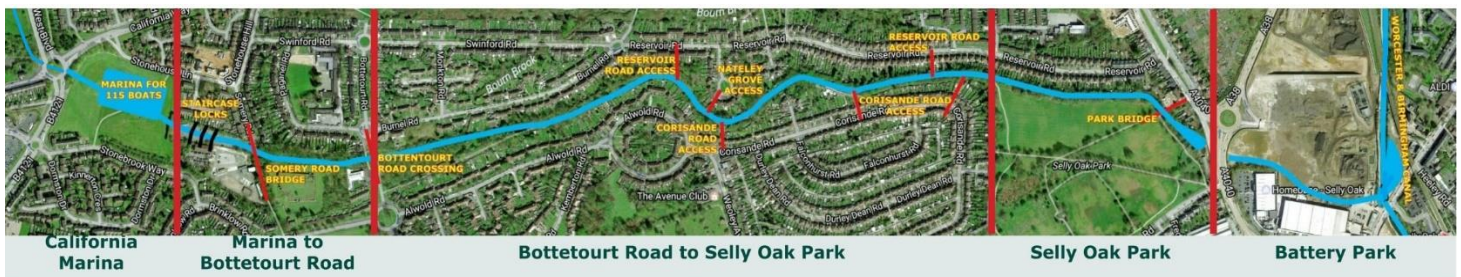
# Background Notes

## Lapal Canal Trust

The Lapal Canal Trust is a registered charity and non-profit limited company established in 1990. Its founding members had the ambitious vision to restore an historic, but derelict, section of the Dudley No.2 Canal. This group of inland water, heritage and environmental enthusiasts grasped the potential for using modern engineering methods and materials to reclaim the 5.5-mile lost Lapal Link.

Lord Dudley's building of the Dudley No 1 Canal in 1775 was a historic endeavour that created an important waterway between Stourbridge and Birmingham. It led to the creation of the Dudley No.2 Canal in 1798, so that a new Southern route to supply goods and coal to London could be opened up. The first Birmingham by-pass!

The objective is to restore the 1 ½ mile route from the Worcester Birmingham Canal to California, split into 5 stages. A Feasibility Study (available on request) partly funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund has been completed by specialist canal consultants Moss Naylor Young.



The Trust is seeking funding for the first two stages which will give us ½ mile of restored canal. This requires the completion of the 0.2-mile section through the Battery Site and the 0.3-mile stage along the north side of Selly Oak Park. Completion should make it easier to raise the funding needed for the next three stages.

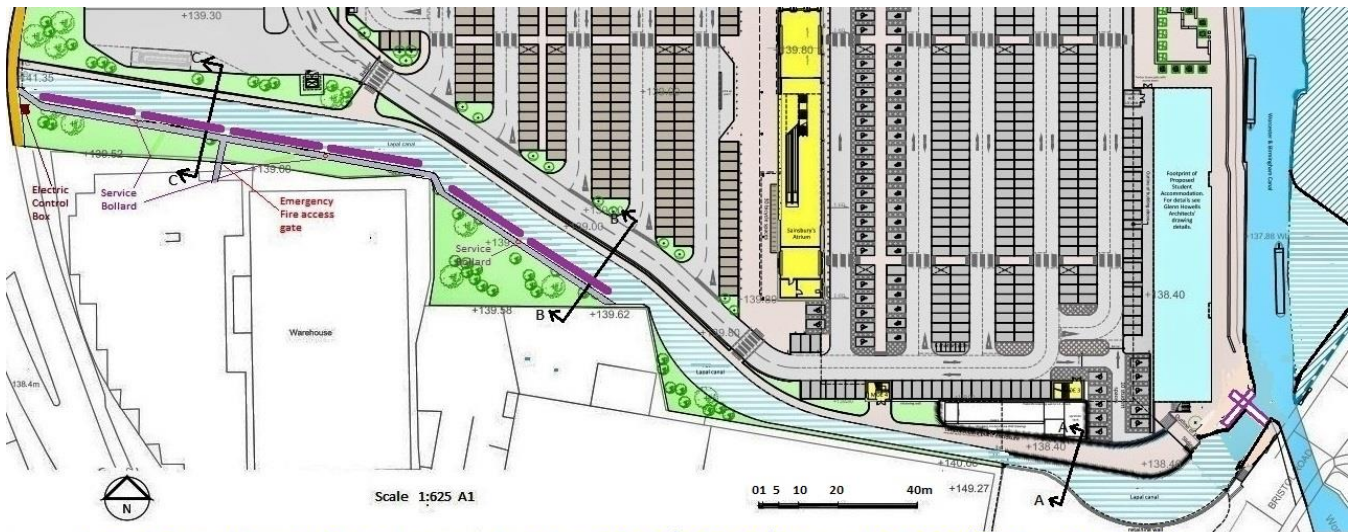
The restoration scheme promises to transform and celebrate our historic landscape in Selly Oak.

- Introduce additional boating opportunities for canal tourism.
- Provide a new recreational route for walkers, joggers, cyclists and anglers, as part of a wider network of canals and leisure paths.
- Preserve our heritage for future generations to understand and enjoy. The Canal is one of very few reminders of Selly Oak's industrial past.
- Provide an opportunity for the community to be engaged.
- Develop educational initiatives with local schools.
- Enhance employment opportunities in the immediate area and promote the learning of construction skills.
- Create a haven for wild-life in an urban setting.
- Encourage the establishment of new cafes and canal-side restaurants.

# Details of the two sections to be restored and work completed.

## 1. Battery Site. 390 metres

The Battery Site has been developed by a partnership of Landsec and Sainsbury's with Sainsbury's as the anchor store. There will be 14 other smaller stores, a petrol station, and an 18-storey student accommodation building.

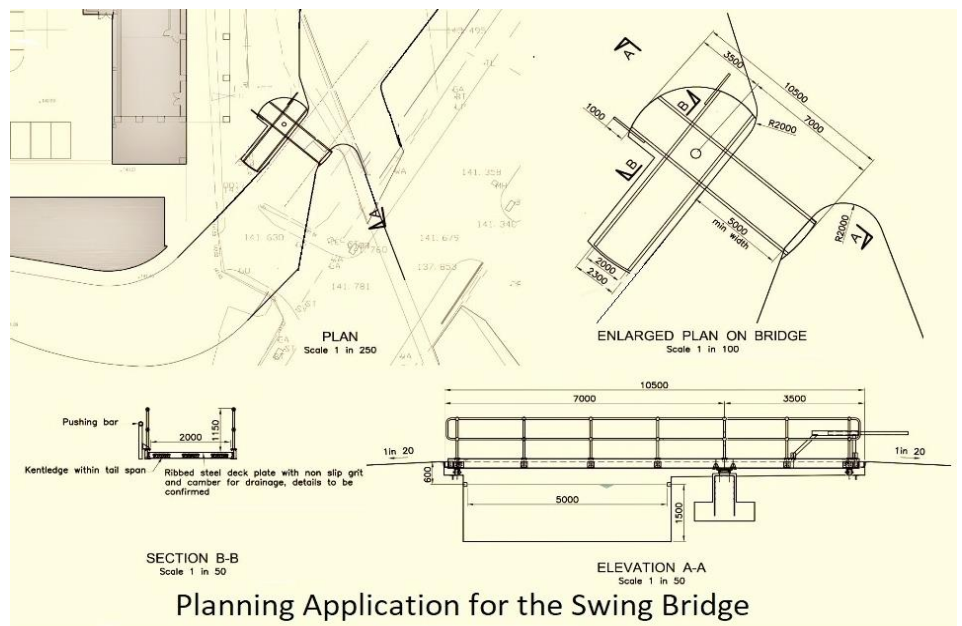


*Lapal Canal Trust Planning application 2017/02943/PA and 07900/PA for the bridge*

The Section 106 Agreement between BCC and the developers was drawn up in consultation with the Canal and River Trust to provide a new route which can be converted to a canal. Under the 106 Agreement there is a commitment to spend £2.4m on a pedestrian bridge over the Worcester & Birmingham Canal and to provide the sheet metal piling of both the turning area (winding hole), the route across the site, including a concrete basin, and landscape along the existing canal and across the linear open space that will become the new canal. An additional index linked sum of £500K will also be contributed, provided the work in the Battery Site is completed by 2025. The Lapal Trust needs to raise, as part of the £2m, an estimated £700,000 to complete this section

The Lapal Canal Trust has responsibility for removing the soil, making the canal waterproof and building a swing bridge to replace the tow path, also to arrange for the lowering of the gas main and optical cable running under the tow path.

The Lapal Canal Trust can start when it has secured all the permissions and can demonstrate it has the finance in place to complete the canal and be responsible for future maintenance. The Trust have submitted planning applications for both the route and the swing bridge, consulting closely with Landsec who are submitting plans for Goodmans Yard, where the turning area will be. The Lapal Canal Trust plans include moorings for 6 boats to generate the revenue needed for maintenance. Plans have been submitted the Canal and River Trust: additional construction details will be supplied when a contractor is appointed.



**Recent photos of work in progress – Showing canal path, undercroft area and some trench piling**



## **2. Selly Oak Park. 450 metres.**

A detailed report and plan for the restoration was drawn up by the Atkins group in 2011, planning approval was granted for the restoration work in Harborne Wharf in 2015. In Autumn 2015 remediation specialist Carey's agreed to remove 2,000 cubic metres of soil from Harborne Wharf. This contribution was valued at around £80,000 to the Lapal Trust.

**2015 Careys contractor agreed to help by removing soil dumped in the 1960s from Harborne Wharf .**



2000 cubic metres of soil removed



Filled with water almost to canal level

Over the last 15 years our President Dr Peter Best and Technical Officer Peter Fisher have been busy helping to clear the canal and arranging for work parties from our own volunteers, local canal groups, and volunteers from the Waterways Recovery Group of the Inland Waterways Association.

## 2016 Canal wall repaired by volunteers



## 2017 Volunteers remove trees and repair the canal wall



## Help received.

**In the Past** - The Lapal Canal Trust has commissioned several feasibility reports partly funded by the Inland Waterways Association and Birmingham City Council. In 1995 Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council with European Funding repaired the Leasowes section at a cost of £200k; and in 2008 Birmingham City Council rebuilt Harborne Lane Canal Bridge at a cost of £2m.

**Currently** - In addition to the volunteers and professional help received from Careys, the Trust receives free legal advice from Gowling WLG. LCT has also received grants and donations from the Headley Trust, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the GJW Turner Trust, the Joseph Hopkins and Henry James Sayer charities, Birmingham Common Good Trust, Worcester Birmingham & Droitwich Canal Society, Inland Waterways Association, and members of the Lapal Canal Trust. Part of the money has been used to fund accommodation, materials and equipment hire for work parties, and the commissioning of a new feasibility report.. We have completed very useful Marketing projects with Birmingham University and Warwick University Management Departments. They kindly set up our Facebook page and completed two surveys and found 95% local support for restoring the canal in Selly Oak.

## Advisory Board to Oversee and Advise the Lapal Trust Committee.

<b>John Hudson OBE.</b>	Formerly High Sheriff of West Midlands and for 20 years Chairman of Birmingham Airport.
<b>Peter Mathews CMG.</b>	Chairman of West Midlands Waterways Partnership.
<b>John Cloughton.</b>	Retired Chief Master of King Edwards School.
<b>Steve McCabe.</b>	MP for Selly Oak.
<b>Laura Shoaf.</b>	Managing Director Transport West Midlands.
<b>David Cox OBE.</b>	Bike West Midlands Network.
<b>Traci Dix-Williams.</b>	CEO Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust.
<b>Beverley Nielsen.</b>	Director of Institute for Design & Economic Acceleration (IDEA), Birmingham City University.
<b>Anthea McIntyre.</b>	MEP for the West Midlands.
<b>Tristan Chatfield.</b>	Councillor for Weoley and Selly Oak Ward.
<b>Nicholas Crombie.</b>	Trustee Birmingham & Black Country Wild Life Trust.

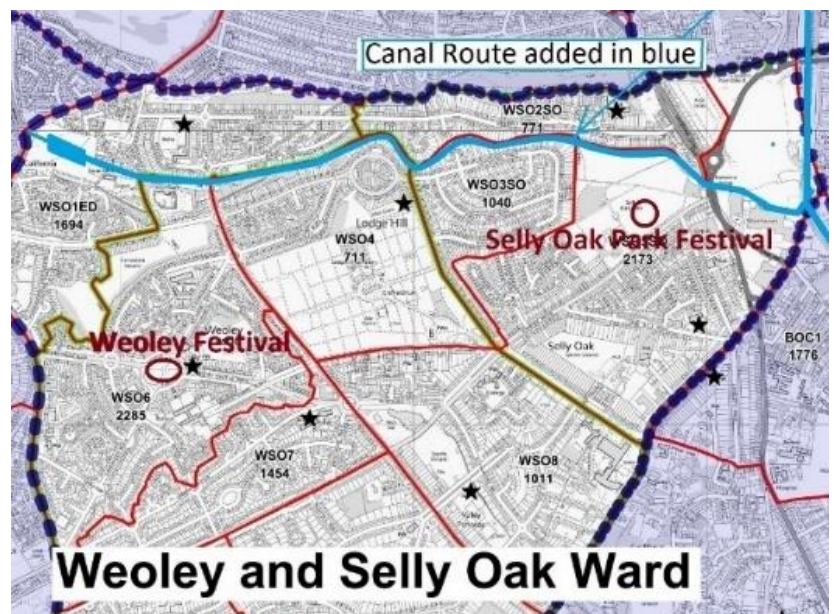
## Working with the Community

The Canal fits neatly in the new Weoley and Selly Oak ward and the Trust have supported local festivals at Selly Oak and Weoley Castle.



The Trust works with a number of local community groups including CP4SO, and Friends of Selly Oak Park.

The Trust also works closely with the four local canal societies, Birmingham Canal Navigation Society, Worcester Birmingham & Droitwich Canal Society, Coombeswood Canal Trust and the local branch of the Inland Waterways Association. Members of the local societies sit on our committee of 16.



The SENSE charity for the disabled has its new regional office at the junction of the to be restored canal. The Lapal Canal Trust has been pleased to work with SENSE to give a canal experience to people with disabilities and their carers. It is an enjoyable shared experience.



## **Canal & River Trust.**

The Canal & River Trust (CRT) is a charity with responsibility for most navigable inland waterways. CRT is the owner of Birmingham Canals and tow paths and is a statutory consultee working with Birmingham City Council and advising on canal related issues; they advised Birmingham City Council on the plans and terms of the Section 106 Agreement and design of the canal restoration across Battery Site.

The CRT is very supportive of restoration projects, providing helpful advice and guidance. The Lapal Canal Trust are in discussion with CRT about the canal design and have formally applied for permission to build the winding hole and to provide water for the canal, the Trust plans includes 6 residential mooring which together with the efforts of volunteers will provide the finance needed to maintain the canal. We are also in discussion with CRT about the lowering the Gas Main and the optical cable running under the tow path.