

## Wallbridge Lock

Wallbridge Lock was the missing link between the Stroudwater Canal and the Thames and Severn Canals which are undergoing extensive restoration works. This disused lock had partially collapsed, and needed careful strengthening and restoration works before it could be reopened.

Working with Stroud District Council (SDC) and GRAHAM, Tony Gee developed a robust and innovative solution to stabilise the lock which preserved much of the existing structure while increasing the design life. The design evolved through contractor and client engagement with a strong focus on buildability in a confined working environment and tight programme deadline.

The restoration project, led by SDC in partnership with the Cotswold Canals Trust and Gloucestershire County Council, has transformed a scene of dereliction into a waterway and wildlife corridor now enjoyed by the local community and a growing number of visitors to the area, providing numerous leisure opportunities for walkers, runners, cyclists, boaters, kayakers and more. The improved quality of the water environment will also benefit the numerous local species including a family of kingfishers nearby. The restoration, largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), has involved civil engineers working in conjunction with a growing number of volunteers. Design work was undertaken sensitively, considering both the short-term needs of the construction phase and the longer term needs of the operation phase and the use by the public.

The successful completion of this project paves the way for future works, including releasing a vital £10 million grant from the HLF for ongoing restoration.