20 August 2026 – Revised with QR code and link

HELP US PROTECT THE FUTURE OF THE WILTS & BERKS CANAL

Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

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Dear Member,

The proposed White Horse Reservoir in Oxfordshire could become a permanent barrier to completing the Wilts & Berks Canal and reconnecting it to the River Thames.

The Trust is not opposed to the reservoir or to securing future water supplies. Our case is straightforward: if this nationally significant project is built across the historic canal route, it must be designed so that a fully navigable canal can be delivered through the scheme.

Current Thames Water proposals would flood the historic canal route and three restorable locks. They would leave major elements of the canal to be constructed later, after the reservoir is full and operational. These plans impose around £149 million of additional future cost on the Trust - roughly half the estimated cost of restoring the entire 70-mile canal, and strongly prejudice the future restoration.

This is why we have launched the **White Horse Reservoir Fighting Fund**. We need professional legal, planning, engineering and environmental expertise to represent the Trust effectively through the Development Consent Order process and to secure legally enforceable protection for the canal.

Our objective is to secure:

- a fully navigable canal from the Great Western Railway through to the River Thames
- the locks, channels, bridges, A34 crossing, and connection to the river Thames as part of the WHR construction
- clear responsibility for the WHR project to pay for and deliver that infrastructure
- binding provisions in the Development Consent Order so that restoration is protected.

We are asking every member who is able to help to make a donation. A contribution of any size will strengthen our ability to protect decades of volunteer effort and ensure that a single infrastructure decision does not make completion of the Wilts & Berks Canal prohibitively expensive - or impossible.

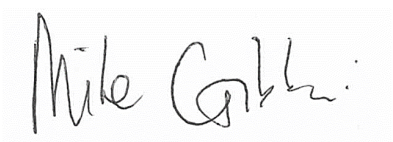
PLEASE DONATE TO THE WHR FIGHTING FUND

Scan the QR code with your phone camera, or visit:

https://wbct.org.uk/protect-the-canal/

The decisions made over the next year will determine whether the canal can ever reach the River Thames and deliver the extensive, long-term benefits to the local communities and residents. With your support, we can make sure the Trust has the expertise and resources to fight for the right outcome.

Thank you for your support at this critical point in our history.



Mike Gibbin CEO

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service