

Press release from Friends of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal

World War II Pillboxes

The iconic Pillboxes were built in World War II as part of the Stop Line defences. There are classic examples along the whole of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal towpath as part of the Taunton Stop Line.

These WW2 structures have significant historic importance, but despite their age they have survived mainly intact due to their very solid construction.

Supported by the C&R Trust, volunteers from the Friends of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal are about to start a project to tidy the pillboxes and their surround for the boxes entirely on Trust land. This involves cleaning them throughout, removing any rubbish and vegetation, and making safe any broken parts.

This will enable them to be used for various purposes - perhaps a resting place for walkers with a seating area nearby, or used for information boards along the canal towpath. They can also be used as a wildlife hideaway for various animals.

The one at Creech St Michael is due to be converted to a bat habitat, with the surrounding area already provided with picnic benches and a small nature pond.

The aim is to start with the pillbox between higher Maunsel Lock and the canal swingbridge at Outwood.

The towpath is a fine place for a walking, cycling and fishing. Canoes and other small craft are welcome on the canal and there is a huge variety of plants and wildlife to be seen. There are various car parks along the canal route and refreshment stops can be had on or close by the towpath. Canal information can be found at Maunsel Lock Canal Centre.

The Friends of the Bridgwater and Taunton Canal are always looking for more volunteers to help with the various tasks to keep the whole 14.5 mile stretch a great place to visit. Please get in contact via our website using the Contact us option or our Facebook link :-

<http://www.friendsofthebridgwaterandtauntoncanal.btck.co.uk>

The photo is the pillbox between Higher Maunsel Lock and Outwood swingbridge.

