



NEWS RELEASE

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Canal lock bridge set for removal in Bancroft Gardens

Upper Avon Navigation Trust to preserve and display original bridge

The canal lock bridge in the Bancroft Gardens is due for removal on Friday of this week, 3 October, as part of the ongoing £3 million refurbishment project. The structure will be lifted by crane into a barge and transported to a storage site operated by the Upper Avon Navigation Trust (UANT).

The 1960s structure, which does not meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), is being replaced by a new bridge with stainless steel balustrade which will cater for more people using the crossing with less congestion. A viewing platform has been incorporated into the design which will allow users to admire the river and canal views.

The new bridge is scheduled to arrive in late November, with as much of the fabrication as possible taking place off-site to make installation as quick and straightforward as possible. One of its most distinctive features will be illuminated hand rails to assist safe night time pedestrian crossing and to create an attractive visual feature of the bridge and surrounding area.

The original bridge has been donated by British Waterways to the Upper Avon Navigation Trust (UANT) who will work with local groups to decide how best to preserve and display it.

UANT engineering manager Philip Bidwell explains: "Our main priority is to make sure the lock bridge is available for future generations to admire as part of the Avon's heritage. At this time we have not identified a specific site but it could be reinstated over a suitable stretch of navigation, but it might also be used as a land-based attraction near to a working lock."

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