



A Better Basin

A big phase of alterations and improvements are currently being undertaken in the Tiverton Basin. These include;

- **New displays for the portacabin visitor centre.** These are being produced by industrial archaeology consultants, John Van Laun Associates and are being part funded by a contribution from the Grand Western Canal Trust.
- **A new entrance panel** welcoming visitors to the Country Park. This will replace the existing one which was vandalised last year.
- **Significant improvements around the public toilets**, including a new layout, improved signage and lighting, new handrails and new ramps to replace small steps.
- **A removable chicane** has been installed in the car park. This is intended to slow down cyclists as they pass the entrance to the Tea Gardens.
- **Two new mirrors** have been put in opposite the car park on Canal Hill to improve visibility in both directions when leaving the car park.



All of the structural changes to the Basin are necessary to comply with the new Disability Discrimination Act, which requires service providers, to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people. We aim to have all the alterations completed by the end of April.

Towpath Resurfacing

Since it became clear that the Country Park budget would not be reduced this financial year, we have been able to progress with a number of towpath resurfacing works.



The section of towpath between Manley Bridge and Snakes Wood was very uneven so this needed to be levelled before the Horseboat Company started their season.

Protruding rocks between Tidcombe Bridge and Warnicombe Bridge created large numbers of trip hazards. This section has also been resurfaced to reduce the risk of accidents.

A muddy section between Greenway Bridge and the end of the lined section on the Swan's Neck (Holly Dam) required a small excavator to scrape off the encroaching turf to reveal good surfacing underneath.

Although the towpath in these areas now looks very wide, grass will soon spread in and soften the edges. In all, the benefits of resurfacing are improved access to the canal and a level towpath for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users.