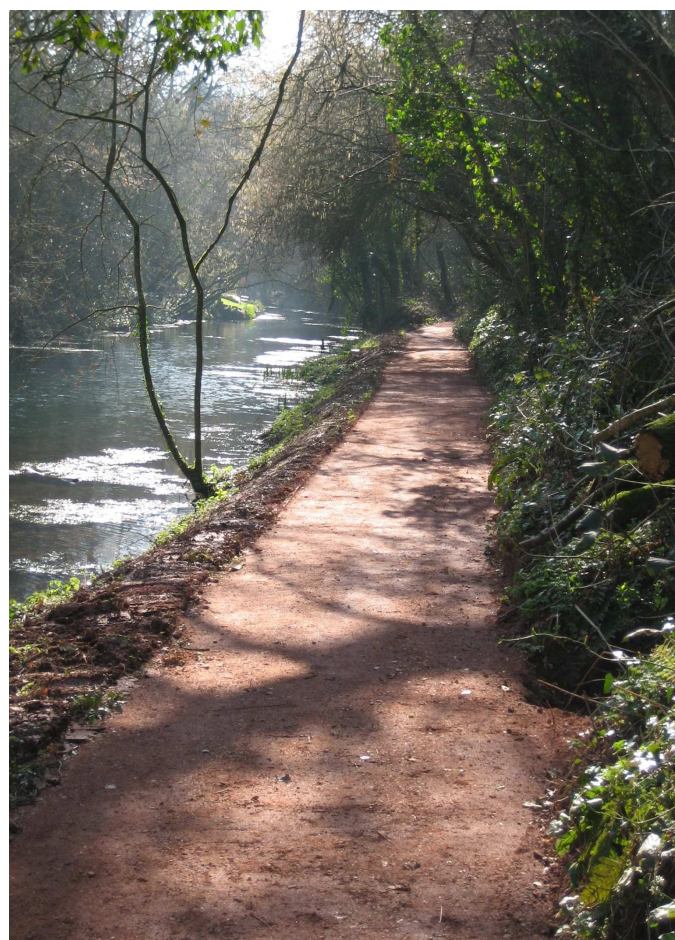
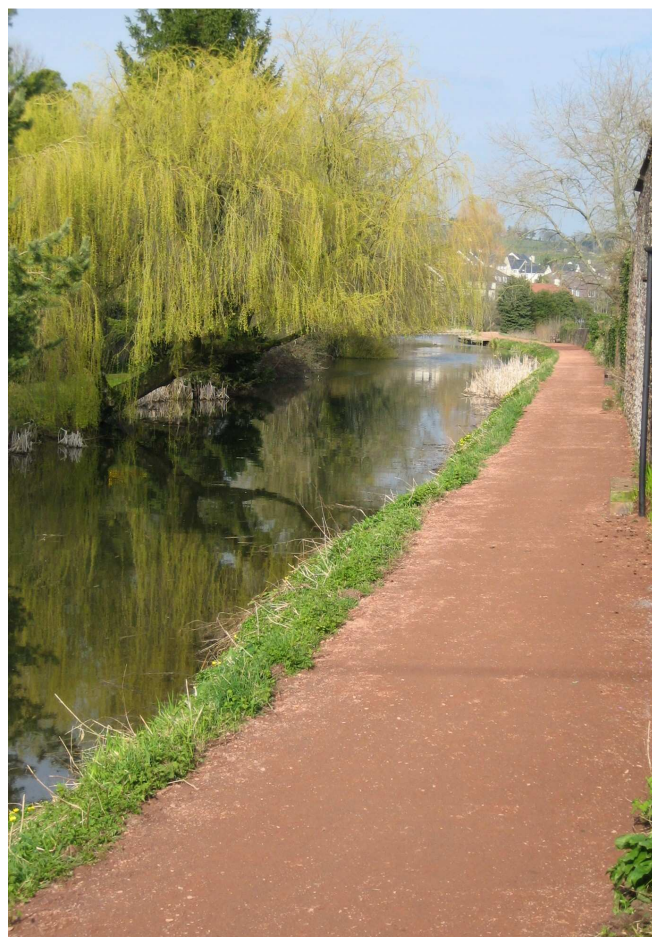


Towpath surfacing completed



Resurfaced towpath near Lowdwells



Resurfaced towpath in Sampford Peverell

Contractors have recently completed resurfacing two sections of towpath beside the Canal. A 460m length of towpath between Waytown Tunnel and Lowdwells at the northern end of the Canal was resurfaced first using compacted crushed limestone from the nearby quarries. This section had become very muddy and was particularly slippery on a slope down from the road above the tunnel. It is hoped that with easier access, this fascinating and secluded end of the canal may be explored more by Canal visitors and local communities in future.

A 615m section between Sampford Peverell Bridge and Buckland Bridge, in Sampford Peverell plus 110m of paths in the village picnic site have also been resurfaced. This work had been requested by the parish council who were worried that this very well used section of path was becoming muddy and uneven.

Canal Rangers are also working on improving the towpath surface underneath bridges, in advance of new project which will provide a mobility buggy for hire for use on the towpath – look out for more information in the summer edition of Ranger's Rag!

Culvert clean out



A siphon culvert 80% filled with silt, prior to cleaning

When the canal was built it crossed the line of many streams and ditches. As the canal engineers wanted to control the flow of water into the canal as much as possible, most of these watercourses were directed underneath the canal through culverts. Many of these are U-shaped siphon culverts and tend to fill up with silt and debris over time. This silt makes them work less effectively and makes inspection of the structures

impossible. Between 2010 and 2013, Devon County Council is investing £330k in cleaning out, inspecting and repairing the Canal's 33 culverts. The work is particularly difficult in some of the more remote sites along the canal, away from road access, and so contractors trained in enclosed access work, using specialist equipment will undertake the task. So far seven culverts have been completed. Most have needed some re-pointing work to secure the arched roof of the culvert, and in one culvert a short section of arch had collapsed and needed to be rebuilt. This highlights the importance of completing this expensive but essential work.

Visitor Survey Results

Throughout 2010, the Canal Ranger Service undertook a visitor survey to find out more about visitor patterns and gauge visitor's views on the management of the Canal. 360 survey forms were completed.

Some headline findings include:

- 98% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their visit.
- 98% of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall management of the Canal.

Thanks to everyone who took part. Full results can be seen on the Canal website www.devon.gov.uk/grandwesterncanal

Another Ranger baby!



The Canal Ranger Service is celebrating the arrival of another baby. Canal Manager Mark Baker and his wife Sarah are the proud parents of Martha. She was born on 9th February weighing in at 6lb, 9oz.