

Crosscut: a European waterways programme



Helping to develop and deliver a range of projects on rural canals in Wales and Devon

Crosscut was a project funded under the EU Interreg IIIB North West Europe programme, involving 8 partners from Belgium, Netherlands, Ireland and the UK. Three partners were from the UK – British Waterways (leader of the overall project), Torfaen County Borough Council and Devon County Council. The project ran from 2004 to 2008.

The project's aims were to (1) review the implications of the proposed UN Economic Commission for Europe classification system for recreational waterways in Europe and identify gaps in the network; (2) develop and implement practical approaches to restoration and development of recreational inland waterways in North West Europe, with a focus on environmental management, taking account of the implications of the Water Framework Directive.

In the UK, Crosscut delivered practical projects to:-

- restore the section of the Montgomery Canal between Gronwen and Redwith, together with the creation of an off-line nature reserve;
- create a new canal basin at South Sebastopol (between Pontypool and Cwmbran) on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, together with education and community projects;
- deliver environmental management works on the Grand Western Canal in Devon.

It also supported a series of volunteer exchanges between partners to deliver practical work programmes on participating waterways.

The total project budget was €7.5 million, of which €4.3 million was spent in the UK. Almost 60% of the funding came from Interreg, with the balance from partners' own funds and third party sources such as Heritage Lottery Fund.

More information can be found on the Crosscut website - www.crosscut-nwe.eu/.