



Historic England



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PRESS RELEASE

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Historic working canal yard on the Llangollen Canal receives funding to help secure its future

Plans would see the Canal & River Trust yard at Ellesmere also become a visitor destination

Images: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/rJCMgpMjXsJMVmtr9>

Plans to open-up to the public one of the canal network's most historic working yards, which would see much needed investment in the historic buildings on site, have received a boost with a development grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Ellesmere Yard on the Llangollen Canal was built in 1806. It is an important operational base for the Canal & River Trust and was the office and workshops of the Ellesmere Canal Company. It is considered a rare example of a historic purpose-built canal maintenance yard and is somewhere that gives a sense of 'stepping back in time'.

Investment is needed in the historic buildings at the yard, and the award of £409,933 from the Heritage Fund, alongside funding from Historic England and Shropshire Council's Shared Prosperity Fund, will allow the Canal & River Trust charity to develop plans and funding bid which could see the site become a home for more independent crafts people and a visitor destination alongside its role as a working canal maintenance yard.

Kathryn Woodroffe, project manager, at the Canal & River Trust said: "Ellesmere Yard is a site steeped in history, having played a central role in the development of the area for over two centuries. It remains an active and vital canal maintenance yard, one of the oldest still in operation. We are thrilled to explore new ways these unique buildings can continue to serve the maintenance needs of the canal whilst also being repurposed to support and enrich the local

community, ensuring that Ellesmere Yard continues to be a cornerstone of our heritage and future.”

Louise Brennan, Historic England Regional Director (Midlands) said: “We’re so pleased to be able to help fund the works at Ellesmere Yard. It played a vital role in the development of the area, and the refurbishment will ensure that it continues to have a central role in the community for years to come – full steam ahead!”

Over the next 12 months, the Trust will use the Heritage Fund to carry out important assessments of the site, including heritage, architectural and access audits. It will consult with local residents, businesses and others to explore the ways in which the site could benefit the local community. Funding for this project has been made possible thanks to National Lottery players.

The agreed plans, which will include the refurbishment of the many heritage buildings on site to make them watertight and fit for purpose, will then be submitted for funding to the Heritage Fund.

The project could open up opportunities to introduce workshops, commercial and shared spaces in unoccupied buildings, improving the visitor experience and making improvement to this important canal side location.

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For further media requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors

About the Canal & River Trust

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK’s heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in the strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#). Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment. The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and

share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are. The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy. Follow @HeritageFundUK on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) #NationalLotteryHeritageFund www.heritagefund.org.uk

About Shropshire Council's Shared Prosperity Fund

This project is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

About Historic England:

We are [Historic England](#), the public body that helps people care for, enjoy and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment, from beaches and battlefields to parks and pie shops. We protect, champion and save the places that define who we are and where we've come from as a nation. We care passionately about the stories they tell, the ideas they represent and the people who live, work and play among them. Working with communities and specialists we share our passion, knowledge and skills to inspire interest, care and conservation, so everyone can keep enjoying and looking after the history that surrounds us all.