PRESS RELEASE

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CANAL PROJECT RESTORES WINDOW ON THE PAST

A project to open up views to one of the nation’s most picturesque canals, enabling people to get a better appreciation of its history and wildlife is set to get underway.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of historic waterways in England & Wales, is launching a project on the Pocklington Canal to remove overgrowth and carry out tree works that will restore views of the popular canal.

The work will also support efforts to improve the status of the canal as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), reducing the level of shading that trees and vegetation cast on the water, and giving a boost to important aquatic plants and other species.

The project is being funded through a £45,000 grant awarded by WREN’s FCC Community Action Fund. WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, biodiversity and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Jane Thomson, enterprise manager for the Canal & River Trust, said; “We really want people to appreciate the Pocklington Canal, it’s a real gem and an important part of the area’s history, but in some places it’s quite difficult to see from the towpath.

“This project will help to make the canal more visible so that people can gain a greater appreciation and, hopefully, inspire them to visit again and perhaps even get involved in restoration efforts.”

The Pocklington Canal, runs for 9.5 miles between Canal Head, near Pocklington to the River Derwent in East Cottingwith and is a popular location for walkers, bird watchers, anglers and budding photographers.

Virtually the entire length of the canal falls within one of three SSSIs and it is particularly important for aquatic plants, birds, waterfowl, and invertebrates – including thirteen different species of dragonfly and damselfly.
In addition, all nine locks and all four road bridges are Grade II listed making the canal one of the nation’s most interesting waterways.

Alistair Anderson of the Pocklington Canal Amenity Society said; “Our members will appreciate this major work to improve the canal above Melbourne, some of which has become overgrown with vegetation and is not as attractive or good for wildlife as it could be.”

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Notes to editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation’s third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that living waterways transform places and enrich lives and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms

WREN is a not-for-profit business that awards grants for community, conservation and heritage projects from funds donated by FCC Environment through the Landfill Communities Fund. Since 1998, WREN has granted over £200m to more than 7,000 projects which benefit people living within 10 miles of a FCC Environment landfill site. For more information please visit www.wren.org.uk

FCC Environment is the leading UK waste and resource management company and is part of a global group with a strong heritage in providing services for communities and business. Its vision is to be the environmental company of choice, delivering change for a sustainable future. It employs 2,400 people and operates more than 200 facilities across England, Scotland and Wales. FCC Environment donates the LCF tax credits that are generated by its operations to WREN, in order to add value to the environmental and social infrastructure of the communities around landfill sites. www.fccenvironment.co.uk

The Landfill Communities Fund - any waste that is discarded which cannot be reused, reprocessed or recycled may ultimately be disposed of in a landfill site. To encourage the re-use, recycle and recovery of more value from waste and use more environmentally friendly methods of waste disposal, Landfill Tax is charged on each tonne of waste sent to landfill. Landfill Operators (LOs) are able to redirect a small proportion of landfill tax liability (currently 6.8%) to support a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of their landfill sites through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF). The LCF is regulated by ENTRUST on behalf of HM Revenue & Customs, and the projects are delivered by enrolled Environmental bodies (EBs). Since its inception in 1996, over £1 billion has been spent on more than 32,000 projects across the UK. For further information, please visit www.entrust.org.uk to see HMRC’s general guide to Landfill Tax