PRESS RELEASE

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VIEWS SOUGHT ON PROPOSALS FOR HISTORIC BULBOURNE YARD

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Grand Union Canal, is seeking views on regeneration proposals for the former yard and lock gate workshop at Bulbourne in Hertfordshire.

The Trust, working with specialist developers H2O, will be sharing its current ideas for the site on the 22 and 23 February at Bulbourne Yard, between 5pm-8pm. The plans can also be viewed online at http://www.bulbourneyard.co.uk

With the buildings first being recorded in 1882 Bulbourne Yard is an important landmark at the summit of the Grand Union Canal and was still being used to make lock gates as recently as 2003. Since the workshops closed the Trust has been exploring a range of sustainable uses for the site, which preserve its important collection of historic buildings and retains Bulbourne’s active link with the modern operation of the canal.

Current proposals include converting the four Grade II Listed buildings and two buildings of historical importance into new living accommodation, the refurbishment of the existing vacant houses on the site, the building of eight new homes and the creation of 48 parking spaces.

The plans also include the creation of a new pedestrian footbridge, providing local people safe access over the canal, and the retention of the historic wharf and crane and the Canal & River Trust’s operational depot.

Aiden Johnson-Hugill, Development Manager for H2O, said: “We’re really keen to hear from local people and canal users and get their feedback on our plans. We think we have a sustainable scheme which enhances the wharf and the historic setting. Furthermore the development will transform the area and secures the future of the historic buildings.”

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Notes to editors:

H2O Urban

- H2O Urban is a 50:50 partnership between the Canal & River Trust and development partnership specialists Bloc (www.blocgroup.org). 70% of the proceeds from the partnership’s developments is re-invested in the canal network.
- The partnership brings together the entrepreneurship and drive of a private sector company together with the social responsibility of a leading charity.
- By entering into a partnership with Bloc, the Trust is able to see through developments to their completion which allows the organisation to control the aesthetics and design of the development, the uses of its canal side locations and to fully share in the development proceeds for reinvestment back into the waterway network.

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.

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