



PRESS RELEASE

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NORTHAMPTON'S CANALS TO GET A WINTER MAKEOVER

This winter the Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares of the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England & Wales, is carrying out a number of improvements to the historic Grand Union Canal in Northamptonshire.

The works, which are due to start in November, includes:

- replacing the lock gates at lock number 6 (near Milton Malsor) and refitting the gates at lock number 15 (near Hunsbury Hill) on the Northampton Arm of the canal
- replacing and refitting nine sets of lock gates at Stoke Bruerne
- refitting the lock gates at Cosgrove Lock at Cosgrove.

The works form part of the Trust's winter maintenance programme, through which £43million is being spent to give the nation's waterways some TLC at a time when more people than ever are visiting their local canal or river.

Charlotte Wood, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "The waterways in Northamptonshire are a real gem, but they are over 200-years old so needs plenty of looking after. Keeping it running requires constant maintenance, so we're using this winter period, when there are fewer boats travelling on the canal, to get as much done as we can."

Lock gate typically last around 25 years and allow countless boats to travel up and down the canal. Each new made to measure lock gate weighs several tonnes, and are handcrafted from seasoned oak so that they fit perfectly in the lock chamber. Once in place the new lock gates will help the Trust conserve water and keep boats moving along the waterway.

For more information on the works planned on the nations canals this winter visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices/winter/#staticFiles

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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.

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