



PRESS RELEASE

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OXFORD CANAL TO GET A WINTER MAKEOVER

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England & Wales, has announced a programme of works aimed at improving the Oxford Canal in this winter.

The work programme, which can be viewed at www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices/winter/#staticFiles includes:

- Repairs to the historic Oxford Canal walls just south of Banbury (Bridge number 193)
- Replacing lock gates and repairing brickwork at Napton (lock number 9)
- Replacing the lock gates at Bakers Lock (number 40) near Kirtlington
- Replacing a set of lock gates and repairing brickwork at Nell Bridge Lock (number 32), near Anyho.

The works are part of the Trust's national, £43 million winter maintenance programme, which sees an army of Canal & River Trust engineers, conservationists and contractors mobilised to carry out essential repairs across 2,000 miles of canals, rivers and docks.

Charlotte Wood, from the Canal & River Trust, explains: "The waterways in Oxfordshire are a real gem, but they are over 200-years old so need plenty of looking after. Keeping them 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, helping to conserve water and allow countless boats to travel up and down the canal. Each new made-to-measure lock gate weighs several tonnes, and is handcrafted from seasoned oak to fit perfectly in the lock chamber.

ENDS

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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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