



PRESS RELEASE

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ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE MP GIVES SUPPORT TO CANAL & RIVER TRUST

Angela Rayner, Ashton-under-Lyne MP and shadow education secretary, has signed up to become a supporter of the Canal & River Trust charity after a fact-finding visit to the Tame Aqueduct repair project.

The grade II listed aqueduct, which carries the Peak Forest Canal over the River Tame in Ashton-under-Lyne, is undergoing a £500,000 repair programme by the Canal & River Trust.

The painstaking work includes extensive repairs to the three masonry arches and repointing of the stonework with traditional lime mortar. The aqueduct parapet, which has been damaged by vandals, is being reconstructed and unwanted vegetation removed.

During the visit Mrs Rayner was shown how heritage restoration techniques are being employed to repair the aqueduct which dates back to 1798. She also enjoyed a short walk to nearby Portland Basin which forms the junction of the Ashton and Peak Forest canals and was welcomed as a 'Friend' of the Canal & River Trust by fundraiser Denise Richmond, who regularly staffs a welcome point at the basin.

Mrs Rayner said: "I was really pleased to visit the restoration work in my constituency. It was very interesting to see the living history and heritage of the area which shows Tameside as an economic powerhouse and the part it played in the Industrial Revolution. It also gives us a hint at what we can be in terms of boosting Britain's economy in the future.

"I was very pleased to be able to sign up to the Canal & River Trust and urge others to come down, have a look at their local canal and sign up too."

Andy Johnson, project manager for the Trust, said: "We were delighted to show our local MP the valuable repair work that is being undertaken to ensure that Tame Aqueduct continues to be a heritage landmark for the local community and visitors to enjoy."

The Trust's local waterway manager David Baldacchino added: "We are very grateful to Mrs Rayner for pledging her support to the Trust. Maintaining a 2,000 mile canal network, which is over two centuries old, is a constant challenge. Our task is helped enormously by donations from the public and the work of volunteers who give their time so generously to improve their local waterway and visitors' experiences."

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

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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