



PRESS RELEASE

25 November 2016

NEW STEPS INSTALLED ALONG CANAL AT UNIVERSITY STATION

The charity, Canal & River Trust, working in partnership with Birmingham City Council, has installed a new set of steps along the Worcester & Birmingham Canal allowing local people easy access from the canal to the local hospital and train station.

The project, which has been funded as part of Birmingham City Council's Birmingham Cycle Revolution scheme, aims to improve 27 miles of canal towpath in and around the city centre as well as improving lighting and access to and from the canal.

This section of canal in Selly Oak is one of the busiest in the area and is frequently used by local people accessing the train station, local hospital and the University of Birmingham. These new steps are wider and deeper than the original set making them much safer to use. The steps also include cycle channels which allow bikes to be easily wheeled up and down the stairs.

Jonathan Pritchett, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "The old steps were hard work. Not only were they narrower and steeper but they didn't have any cycle channels so cyclists had to carry their bikes up and down the steps, which wasn't safe.

"These new steps will make accessing the canal much easier and will hopefully encourage more people to commute via the towpath rather than on busy roads."

Councillor Stewart Stacey, Cabinet member for Transport and Roads at Birmingham City Council, said: "The aim of Birmingham Cycle Revolution is to make cycling an everyday way to travel around our city and in order to encourage this we need to ensure that the city's cycle routes are as attractive and accessible as possible.

"I am pleased that work to improve these steps has now been completed, ensuring that cyclists and pedestrians alike have greater access to our impressive canal network."

Canal & River Trust, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK91BB

T: 0203 204 4514 E: press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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

As canal towpaths are busier than ever and the Canal & River Trust is asking all visitors to help keep waterways special and for walkers and cyclists to 'Share the Space' when visiting the regions canals.

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

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For further media requests please contact: Sarah Rudy, National Press Officer on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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