

**Roundhouse,
Birmingham**



Canal &
River Trust

 **National Trust**

PRESS RELEASE

29 November 2016

FUTURE LOOKING BRIGHT FOR BIRMINGHAM'S FAMOUS ROUNDHOUSE

The Canal & River Trust and National Trust have had their plans to restore the Grade II* listed Roundhouse in Birmingham and transform it into an activity and enterprise hub approved by Birmingham City Council's planning committee.

The project, which is due to start next year and was unanimously supported by the planning committee, will create a gateway for people to explore Birmingham's fantastic natural and built heritage by foot, bike and boat. As well as offering a base from which to explore the canal network, the project, which has secured development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, also includes the provision for a cycle hire and repair workshop, volunteering opportunities and a shared working space for conservation organisations.

Built in 1874 by the Birmingham Corporation the Roundhouse was originally used as stables and stores. Designed by local architect W.H. Ward the horseshoe shaped building is a rare and beautiful Birmingham landmark.

Stuart Mills, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "The Roundhouse is a fantastic building right in the heart of Birmingham and we are delighted to have this opportunity to bring it back to life. Once restored the building will become an important part of the regeneration of Birmingham's waterside whilst also maintaining the building's character and historic value."

Lizzie Hatchman, General Manager for the National Trust in Birmingham, said: "Budget cuts and housing pressure mean Birmingham's local historic buildings and green spaces will be increasingly under threat. Safeguarding the places that have shaped the character and landscape of our city for the people of Birmingham matters. Bringing the Roundhouse back to life is an opportunity for two national charities, partners and local volunteers to pull together to protect the past for future generations to enjoy and learn from."



Supported by

The National Lottery[®]
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



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Notes to editors:

In 2015 the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded the Roundhouse project a £2.2million grant to transform the building. HLF has awarded an initial £225,000 development grant which will be used to work up these plans into a larger £2.9 million scheme that will see the full restoration of this unusual building.

The grant has been awarded through HLF's *Heritage Enterprise* programme. It is designed to help when the cost of repairing an historic building is so high that restoration simply is not commercially viable.

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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The **National Trust** looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 775 miles of coastline and hundreds of historic places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. For more information and ideas for great value family days out go to: <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/>

This project constitutes part of the National Trust's new strategy, *Playing Our Part*, that seeks to explore new ways that the conservation and heritage organisation can 'play its part' in the places where people live and 'look after special places for ever, for everyone'.

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

From the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife, we use National Lottery players' money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about. www.hlf.org.uk.

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