



PRESS RELEASE

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ENGINEERS DRAIN CANAL TO REPAIR HISTORIC BRICKWORK

Engineers will be revealing what lurks beneath a West Midlands canal as they drain a section in order to repair its 200 year-old brickwork.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales, is draining a 200m stretch of the Tame Valley Canal between Gorse Farm Bridge and Spouthouse Aqueduct so that a team can restore the brickwork canal walls and fix a leak.

The £400,000 project is being carried out as part of the Trust's annual winter maintenance programme and will see engineers repairing the walls, replacing lost or damaged brickwork and sealing a leak.

Before works can take place, specialist contractors will wade into the canal to catch fish so that they can be safely rehomed along the canal. Once the fish have been moved the water can be drained and temporary fabric dams installed to keep the site safe and dry.

Jon Pritchett from the Canal & River Trust said; "Like anything that's over 200 years old our canals need a continuous programme of maintenance and repair to ensure that they're safe and working the way that they should.

"We know that this section of canal has a leak in the wall so by taking the water out we'll be able to get in there, stop the leak and restore the historic brickwork.

"It's important work and will make sure that this section of canal conserves precious water supplies and is in good condition for boaters and local people visiting the area."

The project is expected to last until March and, as part of the works, the Trust is renting an area of land from the local Sea Scout group for a site compound.

While the works take place the towpath will be closed and local diversions in place.

For more information about the Canal & River Trust visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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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