

PRESS RELEASE

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CANAL & RIVER TRUST AGREES 10-YEAR DREDGING CONTRACT

The Canal & River Trust has awarded its national dredging contract to carry out essential dredging works on its 200-year-old waterway network to Land & Water Services Ltd following a competitive tender process.

Dredging is vital to keep the waterways open for navigation, as well as ensuring the canals are safe, combatting unruly vegetation and improving wildlife habitats. In 2015/16 the Trust spent over £7 million on dredging the 2,000 miles of waterways in its care.

Land & Water Services has a well-established relationship with the Trust and the charity anticipates the company's knowledge of the Trust, its values and the waterways will bring major advantages in terms of improved efficiency and customer service.

Simon Bamford, asset delivery director at Canal & River Trust, said: "This contract is the result of 18 months of hard work, care and attention as we've reviewed how we manage our overall dredging programme and looked at how we can improve things. We're delighted with the way in which Land & Water Services has understood the challenges we face and the need for making things more efficient.

"The contract will play a major part in what the Trust is trying to achieve: putting our customers at the heart of what we do and making sure that our waterways remain special places alive with people, boats and wildlife."

The contract expands the previous work to include: mainline, spot and hydrodynamic dredging; vegetation works; professional services, ancillary construction and civil engineering works; construction of fixed and floating moorings.

This is one of the Trust's largest single contracts and will replace the current mainline and hydrodynamic dredging contracts currently held by Land & Water. The contract will be for a period of 10 years and will start on 1 July 2017 when the existing contracts expire: the intervening period will be used to plan works for next year.

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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

Land & Water Services Managing Director, Adrian Gascoyne, commented: "We are extremely proud to have secured the national dredging contract. The Canal & River Trust is one of our most valued clients and we look forward to enhancing the strong relationship we have developed over the past fifteen years. The opportunities for greater integration and innovation to drive exceptional customer service and sustainable efficiencies are hugely exciting for us."

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