



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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February 2017

[Images available – link below](#)

### **DONCASTER LOCK BARES ALL AT OPEN DAY**

- Visitors can walk down into the bottom of the drained river lock
- Speak to Canal & River Trust experts about the repair works taking place
  - Get inside the lock's electronic control cabin

For the first time in over 200 years the public are being invited to experience Doncaster Lock on the River Don from a very different viewpoint.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 3pm, visitors will have the opportunity to venture to the bottom of the river lock. Expert engineers and volunteers will be on hand to explain how the lock works and the engineering behind it. The specialist repair works will be on show to members of the public and the Trust's engineers will give an insight into the skills and methods used to maintain the massive lock.

The bottom gates of the lock will be replaced, having come to the end of their working life, and the top gates repaired from wear and tear. Each oak gate weighs seven tonnes and the pair cost £50,000. Being a river lock, Doncaster lock is operated by an electronic control cabin and visitors at the open day will have a chance to view inside the control cabin and see the lock's nerve centre up close.

In preparation for the £160,000, five-week repairs, the Trust had to drain 1,161,438 gallons of water, the equivalent to nearly two Olympic sized swimming pools.

The Canal & River Trust's Explorers education team will be on hand to tell younger visitors about the river's wildlife, and the Don Catchment Rivers Trust will be coming along to talk to visitors about their work.

Mike Marshall, Customer Operations Manager for the Canal & River Trust, said "Doncaster lock is one of the few remaining locks still used regularly by freight boats which makes it really special. Many people don't realise the work that goes into keeping our rivers in good working order. They

Canal & River Trust

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certainly aren't familiar with the bottom of a lock! Our open days are a great way of exploring our waterways and getting a glimpse of how everything works. We love being able to show people what we do and share our passion for the waterways."

**To find out about the Restoration & Repairs programme and other open days happening across the country this winter go to <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/open-days>**  
**ENDS**

**For further media requests please contact:**

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**Notes to editors:**

**Images of Doncaster lock available at:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/72h6h1gv6seyf2k/AADXXRwNidLEYSikoL3w-mUQa?dl=0>

Parking is available nearby and refreshments onsite. Please do wear sturdy shoes if you would like to go down into the lock.

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](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms