



Canal &
River Trust



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PRESS RELEASE

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WORK STARTS TO RESTORE HISTORIC PUMPING STATION

A major £700,000 project to restore a two centuries-old canal pumping station in Soulbury is underway.

The work is being carried out by the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the Grand Union Canal – with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund who are contributing £391,100 to bring the historic building back into use.

Using specialist heritage techniques, teams from the Trust, including heritage apprentices, will repair and rebuild the roof and brick walls, replace guttering and underpin the rear wall. New doors and windows, in keeping with the character of the building, will also be installed.

Built in 1838 and listed Grade II, the station also houses a pump which plays a vital role in keeping the Grand Union Canal open and is one of a series located along the canal. Without these pumps, the canal would run out of water during the busy summer boating season.

James Clifton, from the Canal & River Trust, said; “Soulbury Three Locks Pumping Station has been helping to keep the Grand Union Canal topped up for almost 180 years and it is wonderful to think that a structure dating back to the year Queen Victoria was crowned is still being used today. The Canal & River Trust is delighted that, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, we are able to restore this important part of Britain’s working heritage.”

Stuart McLeod, Head of HLF South East said: “Thanks to National Lottery players, this piece of canal heritage will be restored for generations to come. Once finished the building will provide a base for a local craftsman, giving it a new lease of life, after being empty for so many years.”

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

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Notes to editors:

During the restoration the building is being archaeologically recorded to ensure that its sequence of construction is understood and that no details relating to its original or changing use are lost. Work is at an early stage but it has become apparent from a study of the brickwork that it was built in four phases.

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

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife.

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