



PRESS RELEASE

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BIRD SAFETY IN DONCASTER IMPROVED BY THE CANAL & RIVER TRUST AND NORTHERN POWERGRID

'FLIGHT DIVERTERS' INSTALLED ALONG 300 METRES OF POWER LINES ALONG STAINFORTH & KEADBY CANAL

The skies above Doncaster in South Yorkshire are now safer for thousands of birds thanks to the efforts of the Canal & River Trust and Northern Powergrid.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity which looks after Doncaster's Stainforth & Keadby Canal has worked with Northern Powergrid, the company responsible for the region's electricity network, to help save Yorkshire's swans, geese and other wildfowl with the installation of special 'flight diverters'.

Thirty brightly coloured, special attachments known as 'flight diverters', have been installed by engineers from Northern Powergrid along 300 metres of power lines located at Lock Hill in Thorne next to the Stainforth & Keadby Canal in Doncaster. The 'flight diverters' which are suspended from the power lines, will help to increase visibility of the lines to birds, particularly those flying from nearby Staniland Marina.

The Canal & River Trust contacted Northern Powergrid to request the installation of flight diverters following the report from a member of the public of a dead swan who had flown into the power lines next to Doncaster's Stainforth & Keadby Canal, a waterway looked after by the charity.

Jonny Hart-Woods, Senior Ecologist at the Canal & River Trust said: "Collisions with power lines are a major cause of serious injury for large species such as swans, geese and other wildfowl that cannot change direction quickly. These birds can accidentally fly into power lines because they do not see them at all, or they see them too late to react and they're injured, which often in this situation proves to be fatal."

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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

He added: "It's great to see the flight diverters installed to make this waterway safer for our feathered friends. We've been impressed by the responsiveness to our request by Northern Powergrid and see this improvement in place in just a few weeks."

Mark Firth, Overhead Maintenance Coordinator at Northern Powergrid, said: "It is wonderful to be able to make a real difference to the local wildfowl population and enable the birds to avoid our power lines. The highly visible balls are located at nine-metre intervals along a 300 metre stretch and allow the birds to avoid the power line because they see the light panels. Lines without diverters are very hard to see for flying birds so they highlight the overhead power line and make it much more visible."

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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.

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Northern Powergrid is the electricity distribution business for North East England, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire. The company delivers power safely and reliably to the 3.9 million homes and businesses. The network consists of more than 63,000 substations and 59,000 miles of overhead power lines and underground cables, spanning some 10,000 square miles.

105 is the free number people in England, Scotland and Wales can call to report or get information about power cuts in their area or report damage to electricity power lines and substations. Funded by electricity distributors, including Northern Powergrid, it routes people to their local network operator. The service was launched in September 2016.

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