



PRESS RELEASE

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CHARITY BEGINS REPAIRS TO HISTORIC BROUGHTON BRIDGE

The Canal & River Trust is calling once again for motorists to slow down when crossing over Broughton Bridge in Aylesbury after the bridge was hit by a careless driver causing £25,000 worth of damage.

The charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England and Wales, is making the call now that the repairs to rebuild the damaged brick walls are underway. Significant damage was caused to the 200-year-old bridge with this most recent strike resulting in Broughton Lane being temporarily closed to traffic whilst the repairs take place.

Neil Owen, Regional Engineer for the Canal & River Trust, said: "Brick bridges like this are such an important part of the Aylesbury Arm Canal's character and the area's history. Each time a bridge is hit a small bit of history is lost and it is heart-breaking for us to spend so much time and money caring for these amazing structures just to see them so carelessly damaged.

"Over the last year we've had to spend over £1million across the country repairing bridges hit by drivers and that's money which, as a charity, we could better spend maintaining and looking after the region's canals.

"If motorists just slowed down a bit and took more care and attention then they would save themselves and us a lot of cost and aggravation, and protect the nation's important canal heritage."

The Canal & River Trust are currently in talks with Buckinghamshire County Council regarding the reopening of Broughton Lane and the installation of traffic lights to control and slow down traffic as it crosses the bridge.

For more information on the Canal & River Trust including how to can volunteer and donate towards the work of the Trust visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For media enquiries please contact Sarah Rudy on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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