



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**7 August**

### **Hot weather causes explosion of ‘green carpet’ of duck weed on London’s canals**

The high temperatures being enjoyed in the capital this summer are having an interesting side effect, with London’s canals being invaded by a green carpet of weed.

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the nation’s canals – has begun the painstaking task of removing millions of pieces of floating duck weed from the water, which multiplies rapidly in the heat.

While an individual piece of duck weed is no bigger than a ladybird, congregated together they can resemble a thick carpet across the canal. This accumulates litter, which can be problematic for the hundreds of boats and leisure craft on the water. The weed is not harmful to people, but dogs and other animals have been known to mistake it for grass, and ended up in the water. Significantly, if left to thrive, it can cause problems for other aquatic wildlife by starving it of oxygen and sunlight.

The Trust’s teams are collecting up to 60 tonnes of duck weed each week on the River Lee in east London and the Regent’s Canal that runs from Paddington through to Limehouse.

Tom Oliver, Canal & River Trust operations supervisor, says: “Duck weed is really noticeable on some sections of London’s canals and rivers at the moment. It’s not harmful to people, but if left it can become really thick, causing problems for wildlife, boaters and other people using the waterways. It is really frustrating to remove, as the weed is so small and the disturbance to the water made by our boats makes it a bit of a moving target.

“Clearing the weed is a good example of the type of work we do as a charity. And with it being a perennial problem we’re keen to find a way of using to our advantage, whether that’s biofuel or something else.”

The Trust is reminding people to take care when out walking with dogs and with their families, and asking people not to throw litter onto the weed.

For more media information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to volunteer with or donate to the charity, visit <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

## **Ends**

## **Notes to editors**

For more media information contact [joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk) 020 3204 4410

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.

[www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

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