



PRESS RELEASE

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Major dredging project underway at Sharpness Dock

Around 10,000 tonnes of silt is set to be removed from the tidal basin at Sharpness Dock in Gloucestershire during a major dredging project this week.

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that runs the port, is carrying out the work to ensure that the gateway from the River Severn into the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal is fit for the hundreds of boats that use it each year.

The dredging is carried out by a specialised boat that uses a pump to Hoover up the silt from the bed of the dock. The underwater debris is then sucked through a pipe, before being returned to the estuary from where it came.

The Trust aims to increase the depth of the dock's bed by up to 1.2 metres.

Built in 1874, the dock enables a huge variety of vessels from all over the world to access the canal. Recent visitors passing through have included historic vessel MV Balmoral and ships featuring in the Gloucester Tall Ships Festival.

Work is expected to last until 28 August.

Lewis Kneale, Canal & River Trust customer operations supervisor, said: "Sharpness is such an important site for ships from all over the country, and the world, so to dredge like we're doing is absolutely vital. It's probably the largest dredging operation at the dock in twenty years.

"The project is a good example of the variety of work we do as a charity. Although most of the canal is tranquil and used by thousands of people for a bit of peace and quiet, here at Sharpness we have an amazing dock which continues to play such an important role for the local area and industry throughout Britain."

To find out more about the Sharpness Dock and the Canal & River Trust, including how you can volunteer or donate, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

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Notes to editors

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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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