



PRESS RELEASE

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New recognition for boaters completing Tardebigge Lock Flight, the longest flight in the country

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the nation's waterways, is launching a new certificate that commemorates any boaters completing the 30 locks that make up Tardebigge Lock Flight in Worcestershire.

The Flight is the longest anywhere in the country and with navigation of all the locks taking anywhere up to five hours, it prompted the Trust to recognise boaters completing the journey.

With the region's canals more popular than any time in living memory it's estimated that over 1,900 trips have been completed this summer.

The Trust has also praised the work of its army of volunteer lock keepers, who have been out in force along the Flight throughout the spring and summer to give extra support to boat owners and holiday makers using the Worcester & Birmingham Canal.

Tardebigge's 30 locks are spread over two and a quarter miles, and enable boats to ascend or descend 67 metres in height, higher than the tower of Worcester Cathedral. The Flight is a halfway point between Worcester and Birmingham, the country's canal capital.

Timothy Booker, Canal & River Trust waterway supervisor, said: "Tardebigge Flight covers such a scenic section of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal and navigating through 30 locks takes a lot of effort, so we want to recognise anyone who completes the challenge. Hopefully it gives further gravitas to the Flight, which is a bit of sleeping giant. It's a major waterway landmark enjoyed by boaters and other visitors throughout the year."

"A special mention must also go to our team of volunteer lock keepers who give up their time to help people navigate the locks. With so many locks, a bit of help is often very much appreciated. As a charity it's fantastic that so many people continue to support our work and bring extra life and enthusiasm to such a beautiful stretch of canal."

"We think that life is better by water, it's great that so many people are choosing to visit the canal in one way or other, and if recognition of their efforts can encourage more people then that's great."

Boaters keen to claim their certificate can do so by scanning on a QR code located on posters on the flight or by emailing timothy.booker@canalrivertrust.org.uk

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to volunteer or donate, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

Ends

Notes to editors

For more media information contact 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. 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