



PRESS RELEASE

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CANAL & RIVER TRUST PUBLISHES FIRST OUTCOMES REPORT

The Canal & River Trust, the charity which cares for 2,000 miles of inland waterways in England and Wales, has launched its first outcomes report to an audience of policy makers and officials at the Foundling Museum in London. *Waterways & Wellbeing, Building the Evidence Base* sets out the Outcomes Measurement Framework (OMF) the Trust has developed to measure the broad social, economic and environmental impacts that its waterways and the activities of Trust have on the communities they serve.

The report explores the waterways' contribution to economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing in England and Wales and details the methodologies being adopted by the Trust to measure the real improvements people see in their lives thanks to canals and rivers. By developing a robust and transparent evidence-based system of outcome reporting the Trust will be able to track trends, improve its insight and performance, and demonstrate how it is helping to meet UK and Welsh Governments' goals and measures for wellbeing.

Heather Clarke, Director of Strategy & Planning at the Canal & River Trust, said: "This report brings together the work of the past few years as we seek to capture more rigorously the positive outcomes that the Trust's canals and river navigations deliver, making a material difference to people's lives. This is just the start, but it is a base camp from which we can climb as we build greater understanding and appreciation among policy makers, politicians, partners and funders of the positive outcomes generated by our waterways."

The OMF was developed in collaboration with Cardiff University's Sustainable Places Research Institute and with support from an external reference group, comprised of experts from a range of backgrounds, representing: academia; the public, private and charity sectors with an interest or expertise in public policy and benefit measurement; and specialists in outcome measurement supporting charity sector.

Nancy Hey, Centre Director at What Works Wellbeing and a guest speaker at the launch event, said: "The work that the Canal & River Trust is doing on outcomes measurement is groundbreaking. We know that access to green space and heritage activities boost wellbeing for

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all, but this work is showing impact beyond how we might traditionally view it. The approach is something that can be useful for a wide range of other organisations. Because it gives a more robust and rounded understanding of how our waterways touch our lives and communities it means that we can do more to improve the lives of people in the UK.”

Waterways & Wellbeing, Building the Evidence Base can be downloaded from <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/about-us/outcomes-of-our-work>.

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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. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust