



Canal &  
River Trust

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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18 October 2017

### **£200,000 RESTORATION OF CHESTERFIELD CANAL GETS UNDERWAY**

The Canal & River Trust has begun a major overhaul of the Chesterfield Canal as part of a five-month winter maintenance programme on canals and rivers across England and Wales.

The charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of the nation's historic waterways, is starting its annual programme of winter repairs and restoration. The works, taking place until the end of February, will see skilled craftsmen painstakingly repairing historic canal walls, locks and bridges as well as installing new lock gates at certain locks.

The programme will see the Trust invest more than £200,000 on the Chesterfield Canal. Sections of canal will be drained, old lock gates lifted out, new gates installed and 200 year-old brickwork carefully restored.

The works have started with a new set of lock gates being installed at Turnerwood Quarry Lock. While the lock is drained the Trust's engineers will also carry out repairs to the other set of gates as well as working within the lock itself. Lock gates are also set to be replaced at lock 26 near Thorpe Salvin.

Other works taking place on the canal include restoring brickwork at Whit Sunday Pie Bridge near Retford after it was damaged by a vehicle and also repairing brickwork within the canal wall near Misterton. The Trust's skilled teams will also be working to improve lock gates at Shireoaks and Forest Bottom Lock near Babworth ensuring they form a watertight seal.

Sean McGinley, waterway manager for the Trust, said; "The Chesterfield Canal is an important part of the area's rich heritage and each year it's enjoyed by thousands of people either on the water or the towpath.

"These works are all about caring for the canal so that it can continue to play an important role in people's daily lives for many years to come. If we didn't carry out works such as these then boats couldn't visit the area and local people wouldn't have a safe, enjoyable place to get away from it all.

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“Over the next few months our engineers and heritage experts will be braving the cold to give the canal the painstaking care and attention it deserves.”

The Canal & River Trust carries out a year-round programme of works to maintain and repair the 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in its care so they can be enjoyed by the 33,000 boats and 10 million towpath visitors each year. Many of the biggest projects are carried out during the winter months to minimise the impact on waterway users. This year, essential maintenance will include the replacement of worn-out lock gates and repairs to aqueducts, reservoirs and tunnels.

To find out more about the work of the Canal & River Trust, and how you can get involved, go to [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).

## **ENDS**

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### **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.

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