



PRESS RELEASE

20 October 2017

WORK BEGINS TO IMPROVE CANAL TOWPATH IN AYLESBURY

The Canal & River Trust has started work to improve a stretch of towpath along the Aylesbury Arm of the Grand Union Canal, so that local people and boaters can use it, whatever the weather.

The charity, Canal & River Trust, which cares for and maintains 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England & Wales, is working in partnership with Buckinghamshire County Council to resurface three miles of towpath along the Grand Union Canal, including widening in places.

The work will take place in stages with phase one, due for completion before the end of January, taking place between Highbridge Road to Osier Bed Lock, near Victoria Park, plus 1.3 miles westwards from the Arla Dairy site on College Road, Aston Clinton.

The Trust will also improve the Park Street access steps, including installation of a ramp so that bicycles can be wheeled rather than carried.

The Canal & River Trust is able to carry out this work after it secured £936,000 in funding from Buckinghamshire County Council from approved developments around the East of Aylesbury.

James Clifton, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "This is a really popular walking route for local people, whether for commuting or just pleasure, so the Trust is delighted to be able to make it useable all year round, without having to dodge the puddles. Whilst splashing in puddles may be fun for little ones, it's not so great if you end up covered in mud whilst walking into town or on your way to work."

Mark Shaw, Buckinghamshire County Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "These improvements will give our residents who live near the canal a great opportunity to walk or cycle to work in pleasant surroundings, and avoid traffic congestion on the A41."

Bill Chapple OBE, Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning said: "We're fortunate to have such a beautiful canal corridor and I'm delighted we're able to fund improvements to the towpath to enhance the area for the enjoyment of residents and visitors."

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During the works the towpath will be closed, with local diversion routes in place.

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust including how to donate or volunteer visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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.

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