



PRESS RELEASE

24 November

Giant River Severn lock gate replacement underway

Two lock gates, each weighing more than an African Bush Elephant, are being craned into Lincomb Lock on the River Severn in Worcestershire next week (27 November).

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of waterways nationwide – is carrying out the work on Monday, 27 November. The hand crafted, seven tonne gates will replace two old gates which had become worn, meaning they were susceptible to leaking.

In order to enable more people to learn about the project the Canal & River Trust will be holding a ‘virtual open day’ during which viewers will be able to see footage of the gates being craned in, interviews with Trust’s team of experts, and watch as the team of divers go into the lock to position the new gates under water. Once they have carried out this work, engineers will drain down the last of the water to reveal an empty lock and what’s lurking beneath the water line. Tune into the ‘virtual open day’ via: facebook.com/canalrivertrust/

The project costs £170,000 and is part of the Trust’s £38million programme to help repair and restore the nation’s 200-year old waterways this winter. Works will include lock gate replacements, restoring historic brick work and draining large sections of water to repair leaking waterway walls.

Mark Abraham, Canal & River Trust construction supervisor, says: “The River Severn is a hugely popular waterway, enjoyed by thousands of people whether they are using the water or the towpath. As a charity this is the kind of work that we have to do to maintain the waterway. If we didn’t carry out gate replacements such as this then boats couldn’t visit the area and local people wouldn’t have a safe, fully functioning river to visit. It’s a big job, swinging massive lock gates out through the air is never easy. The new ones have to fit perfectly, and given that no two locks are the same size, there’s always some suspense until we know the new ones fit exactly right. I’d encourage anyone wanting to find out more about the project to tune into our virtual open day, which should be really exciting.”

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.

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