



PRESS RELEASE

24 January 2018

CHARITY REPAIRS MILTON KEYNES CANAL BRIDGE

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of canals and rivers in England & Wales, is carrying out repairs to Willen Bridge along the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes.

Originally built 200 years ago the bridge crosses over the canal near Willen Park and is a popular walking and cycling route for local residents wanting to access the city centre and enjoy a relaxing stroll or cycle along the waterways.

Over time, the brickwork along the water line and on sections of the waterway walls supporting Willen Bridge have been damaged mainly by wear and tear. In order to carry out the much-needed repairs, the canal beneath the bridge has been drained and sections of the damaged walls removed before they are rebuilt in new brick. The towpath underneath the bridge, which was cracked in places, will also be resurfaced.

The Grand Union Canal slowly weaves through Milton Keynes and offers 14 miles of lock-free cruising. From Cosgrove in Northamptonshire to Fenny Stratford boaters and visitors can enjoy a scenic countryside view of Milton Keynes and feel a million miles away from the busy hustle and bustle.

Robert Warner, from the Canal & River Trust, said: "This bridge is a really busy crossing point over the canal but over the years the walls that help support it have been damaged and worn away so we needed to repair them.

"Local people living in Milton Keynes are really lucky to have the canal right on their doorstep as they are never more than a short walk or drive to the waterways. Our canals are great places to visit in the winter and there is still lots of wildlife to see - you just need to make sure you wrap up against the chill and wear some sturdy shoes as the towpath can be muddy in places."

For more information on the Canal & River Trust including how you can donate or volunteer to support the work we do visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For further media requests please contact: Sarah Rudy, National Press Officer on 01908 302 584 / 07788 691 219 or email sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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