



# PRESS RELEASE

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## New towpath opened on Swansea Canal

A new 120 metre towpath has been opened along the Swansea Canal in Clydach this month. The Swansea Canal Society – who carried out the work – were joined by staff from Glandŵr Cymru - the Canal & River Trust in Wales - local councillors, residents and school children to formally open the section on Tuesday, 23 January.

The work took over a year to complete and required the demolition of a large Highways Depot building that had been erected over the buried canal, with the rubble being used to help landscape the new towpath.

The towpath now provides a continuous walkway and cycle path along the canal from Clydach to Ynysmeudwy, much of which is part of Sustrans National Route 43.

The Swansea Canal currently has five miles of navigable water, with the Swansea Canal Society established in 1981 to help bring more miles back into use. Their regular volunteer days are supported by Glandŵr Cymru, who own the waterway, with upcoming projects including dredging works and the restoration of the Mond Lock in Clydach and the Upper and Lower Trebanos Locks.

Martin Davies from Swansea Canal Society, says: “This towpath is just the start of the rejuvenation of the Swansea Canal here. The canal and lock were buried in a 120-metre pipe forty five years ago. We intend to unearth the canal, restore the buried lock and make this concrete yard a linear water garden for the delight of visitors and residents alike.”

David Morgan, Glandŵr Cymru development & engagement manager, said: “It’s fantastic to see the new towpath opened up. I’ve used the route myself and it was always frustrating getting to the old depot site and having to jump off the bike and wheel around the yard before getting back onto the canal. The Swansea Canal Society should be hugely proud of the work they’ve done. Just seeing the turnout at the opening event is testament to the support they have and the enthusiasm for the canal here. It’s another important piece of work in bringing the waterway back into use for people in the community.”

Canal & River Trust, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes, MK91BB

T: 0203 204 4514 E: [press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk) W: [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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More information about the Swansea Canal Society is available at <http://www.swanseacanalsociety.com/> You can also find more details about the history of the canal at <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/>

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### **Notes to editors**

For more media information please contact [joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk) 020 3204 4410