



## PRESS RELEASE

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ISSUED: 16 February 2018

### NORTH WALES AND BORDERS CANALS ARE POPULAR HOT SPOTS WITH BOATERS

North Wales and Borders canals are among the busiest in Britain, according to an annual survey of lock usage, published by the Canal & River Trust charity.

The Llangollen Canal and the Shropshire Union Canal have two locks each included in the top eight of the national lock movements league table – proving both canals continue to be hot spot destinations for boaters.

In 2017, the Trust recorded a total 3.8 million lockages, across 1,586 working locks, dotted along the 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales cared for by the Canal & River Trust. The Trust's average lock holds 123,000 litres of water, equivalent to 492,000 cups of tea or 820 bathtubs. Each lockage measures a full cycle of emptying and filling a lock.

The busiest lock again last year was Hillmorton Lock on the Oxford Canal but coming a close second, with 8,831 lockages, was New Marton Lock on the Llangollen Canal. Cholmondeston and Wardle Locks on the Shropshire Union Canal were ranked third and fifth respectively. And eighth popular on the list was Hurleston, Lock One on the Llangollen.

David Baldacchino, Canal & River Trust waterway manager for North Wales and Borders, said: “The Llangollen and Shropshire Union canals are two of the most beautiful man-made waterways in Britain. They offer boaters a wide variety of rural scenery from rolling pastures to dramatic hills and, of course, the chance to cruise across stunning structures like Pontcysyllte and Chirk Aqueducts, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

“The lock statistics provide us with a great measure for how many boaters are using specific canals. Popular canals have a double advantage. Boats add very positively to the vibrancy of our waterways and boaters themselves are important for the visitor economy, particularly in tourist destinations.

“There are currently more boats using the network than at any time in history – even more than during the heydays of the Industrial Revolution. Maintaining our canals, many of

which are more than 200 years old, is a constant challenge and requires a huge amount of investment and effort from our staff and volunteers.”

For more information about the work of the Canal & River Trust charity, check out the website [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) or ring 0303 040 4040. You can also find out about getting involved by becoming a Friend or volunteering.

**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) / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms