



PRESS RELEASE

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BRADFORD ON AVON LOCKS NAMED BUSIEST ON THE KENNET & AVON CANAL WITH BOATERS

The locks at Bradford on Avon are the busiest on the entire stretch of the Kennet & Avon Canal, according to an annual survey of lock usage, published by the charity, Canal & River Trust.

Awarded 'Green Flag' status in 2017, the Kennet & Avon Canal is over 200 years old, and connects the River Thames at Reading to Bath and the ports at Bristol. The locks at Bradford on Avon are among the deepest on the waterway and last year had 6,114 'lockages', making them the eleventh most popular in England & Wales.

In 2017, the Canal & River 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.

Mark Evans, Canal & River Trust waterway manager for the Kennet & Avon Canal, said: "The locks at Bradford on Avon are really popular with boaters holidaying or just exploring the Kennet & Avon Canal. If you boat or walk along the canal in this part of the world you'll be spoilt with the rural scenery from rolling pastures to dramatic hills - you really will feel like you're a world away from the noisy towns and cities.

"These lock statistics provide us with a great measure for how many boaters are using our 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 including how you can volunteer or donate money to support our work 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. www.canalrivertrust.org.uk / @CanalRiverTrust / @crtcomms