PRESS RELEASE

18th July 2018

CANAL CHARITY TO RESTORE ICONIC WIGAN PIER STRUCTURE

Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, is this week starting the restoration of an iconic industrial feature at Wigan Pier.

The coal staithe - upturned railway tracks which allowed carriages full of coal to be tipped on to boats – is believed to be the terminus of the Winstanley Colliery Railway that brought coal from Winstanley Colliery. The original is said to have been sold as scrap for £34 in 1929 so the current structure is a replica version created by students of Wigan and Leigh College in 1986.

Over the past 32 years the timber and metalwork has deteriorated, so the Trust is undertaking works to remove and restore the structure, ensuring it can continue to be part of the town's industrial story for generations to come.

Bill Froggatt, heritage adviser at the Trust, explained: "The staithe is something of a local icon so it's important that we look after it. Our teams will be dismantling the structure and then taking it away for repair, and it should be back in place in a few weeks.

"We know that spending time by the water can be great for our health and happiness, and interesting historic features like this help shape the local character of a place, making those walks along the towpath or trips aboard a boat even more special."

There will be occasional towpath closures during the works, details can be found on site and at https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices

Plans for the regeneration of Wigan Pier as a multi-leisure destination were revealed earlier this year. Step Places has been chosen by Wigan Council, in partnership with Canal & River Trust, to take forward the vision to transform the 18th century industrial buildings into a striking modern destination. Find out more at: www.wigan-pier.com

-ends-

Images show the coal staithe as it looks now, and pit head girls using a similar coal staithe to load coal on to a boat on the Wigan Flight, Ince-in-Makerfield.

For further media requests please contact:

Gemma Rathbone, National Press Officer

Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

m 07557 256482 **e** gemma.rathbone@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England & Wales. We believe waterways have the power to make a difference to people's lives and that spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier. By bringing communities together to make a difference to their local waterway, we are creating places and spaces that can be used and enjoyed by everyone, every day.
www.canalrivertrust.org.uk