

PRESS RELEASE

26 November

ALL IN ALL IT'S JUST ANOTHER 3,000 BRICKS IN THE (CANAL) WALL

The Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for **the nation's waterways** – is this month beginning a £40,000 project to repair a lock near Thatcham on the Kennet & Avon Canal.

Engineers will be painstakingly repairing Widmead Lock over the next five weeks, using over 3,000 bricks to rebuild the walls of the lock. The Trust's project is part of a £400,000 programme of works to improve the canal this winter that will also include replacing giant lock gates and rebuilding historic canal walls. It comes at a time when more people than ever are using the canal to boat, run, cycle and fish, amongst a host of other activities.

The Kennet & Avon Canal is 87 miles long and passes through some spectacular landscapes as it winds through Berkshire, Wiltshire, and into Bath.

Adam Barnes, Canal & River Trust supervisor, says: “The Kennet & Avon Canal is an amazing space, somewhere to escape to and relax and slow down. As the charity that cares for the canal this is a good example of the type of work we have to do to keep it **in top condition for the thousands and thousands of people who use it. It's intricate work, with more than 3,000 bricks being set carefully in place, and we aim to finish before Christmas. The lock will be closed while we do the work, but the remainder of the canal is open, so I'd encourage everyone to come and discover all it has to offer.**”

For more information about the work to repair and restore the canals, as well as how you can volunteer or donate to the Canal & River Trust, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk

Ends

Notes to editors

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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

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The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across Wales and England. 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