

## PRESS RELEASE

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12 December

### DIVERS BRAVE THE COLD TO INSPECT GLOUCESTER DOCKS LOCK GATES

A team of divers has taken on possibly one of the region's coldest jobs this week, as they submerged themselves in the wintry waters of Gloucester Docks to inspect the lock gates that connect the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal to the River Severn.

The divers working for the Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for 2,000 miles of waterways in England & Wales, carried out the work below the surface to assess what repairs might be needed to the lock gates, which weigh more than twelve tonnes each – the equivalent of three adult hippopotamuses.

The dive inspection is part of the Trust's work to repair and restore the region's canals over the winter months. This includes replacing giant lock gates and repairing waterways walls, amongst a host of other jobs.

Robert Eaton, Canal & River Trust operations manager, said: "It can't be the most enviable job, putting on a rubber suit and diving deep beneath the water, especially in cold weather like this. But it is a great example of the type of work that needs to be done to keep our waterways in top condition. The canal and river here in Gloucester are as busy and popular as ever. They support businesses, contribute to the local economy and offer a haven where people can escape to. As a charity we want even more people to discover and benefit from these waterways, and to do that they need to be shipshape. The gates themselves are pretty hardy, but we think we can do some work to prevent them leaking – saving time and money by reducing the need to pump water from the river back into the docks. Once we have all the information we need from the dive survey, we can plan the best method to make the improvements. A big thanks go to the dive team and we look forward to making any enhancements that might be needed."

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how you can volunteer with or donate to the charity, visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk).

Canal & River Trust, Toll House, Delamere Terrace, London, W2 6ND

**T:** 0203 3204 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)

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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**Notes to editors:**

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

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](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)