

PRESS RELEASE

26 March

Charity plants trees and flowers on River Lee island in Clapton

The Canal & River Trust – the waterways and wellbeing charity that cares for over 100 miles of waterways across London – has joined forces with volunteers from Mace Construction to plant trees and wild flowers at Oxbow Island on the River Lee in Clapton.

The work took place on Thursday 21 March and is part of an ongoing project to improve the biodiversity of the island, which has previously been a hotspot for litter, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour. The project has been funded thanks to support from players of **People's Postcode Lottery**.

Over 30 young trees including oak, cherry and maple were planted, while over 1,500 wildflowers such as bluebells and meadowsweet were sown. It is hoped that improving the biodiversity of the island could have a knock-on benefit for species such as bees, frogs, newts and water voles.

Mace Construction has formally adopted the island, which will see volunteers from the company work alongside the Canal & River Trust to make enhancements over a two year period.

Tim Mulligan, Canal & River Trust ecologist, says: "Oxbow Island has been victim to quite a lot of rubbish and anti-social behaviour in the past, so it's been great to work with our volunteers from Mace to get it back to health. We've already cleared it of waste and now we hope the addition of these young trees and flowers is a new chapter for the biodiversity of the island.

"The River Lee is loved by so many people and we get huge amounts of help from the local community and volunteers to look after it. It's a great place to visit, relax and get the benefits of being by the water. There's still lots of work for us to do, so I'd encourage anyone keen to help to get in touch."

For more information about the Canal & River Trust including how you can adopt a stretch of waterway, volunteer or donate to the charity, visit canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

For more media information please contact 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