

PRESS RELEASE

1 July 2019

CANAL & RIVER TRUST FIXING 'BEATING HEARTS' OF KENNET & AVON CANAL **Restrictions to navigation at Caen Hill Flight**

The Canal & River Trust, the charity that cares for the Kennet & Avon Canal, has announced restrictions to navigation over the summit of the canal and at Caen Hill Flight as it works to repair a faulty pump.

The western Kennet & Avon is replenished by an automated pumping system which transfers water from the Bristol Avon to the summit pound. When the pumps are out of action, it puts an additional strain on the water resources on the stretch, which the Trust is already managing carefully due to the recent dry weather.

The faulty pump has been removed for urgent repairs. The second pump cannot transfer enough water on its own to meet canal demands above the Caen Hill Flight and is being inspected on site.

The restricted opening hours, between the bottom of Caen Hill Flight and the bottom of Crofton Flight, are intended to enable boaters to pass through the Flight while conserving water to help keep the canal open for as long as possible. Regularly updated details of the restrictions are available on the Canal & River Trust website canalrivertrust.org.uk/notices

The charity is asking boaters to help save water, and limit future restrictions, by not drawing water through any lock outside of the working hours and sharing locks where possible. Boaters can also help by minimising their use of water as much as possible at all times by, for example closing the paddles after use and not running the water outside of opening hours.

Rob Eaton, Canal & River Trust's regional operations manager for Wales & South West, explains: "The pumps at Caen Hill are the beating hearts of the flight - continually moving water back up to the summit to keep the canal topped up. We are doing everything we can to resolve the situation and get the pumps back to full health. The work could take up to a month and,

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

T: 0203 3204 4514 **E:** press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk **W:** 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

depending on the recovery of natural water resources, some restrictions may be needed throughout the summer.

“As the situation continues to change we’ll be frequently reviewing the availability of water, and the work’s progress, and adjusting the restrictions. We urge people to register for our email stoppage notices which give regularly updated information. Thank you for your patience and support to help conserve our limited water supplies.”

If anyone has any concerns about the water levels or questions, during this period they should contact the Trust by emailing - enquiries.walesouthwest@canalrivertrust.org.uk or calling them on 0303 0404040.

Registering for current information on the stoppages can be done via the Canal & River Trust website: canalrivertrust.org.uk/my-trust/register

Ends

Notes to editors

For more media information please contact gill.harrison@canalrivertrust.org.uk on 07711 546404

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