

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Hanwell Flight given prestigious international environmental award

The Canal & River Trust – **the charity that cares for the nation’s canals** – is celebrating after the iconic Hanwell flight in Ealing has been awarded a prestigious Green Flag Award for the first ever time.

The Green Flag status, now into its third decade, is awarded to spaces that boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.

It follows months of work by the Trust and local volunteers to intensify litter picks, paint lock gates as well as installing new reed beds in the water to improve habitat for wildlife such as grey crested newts, butterflies, herons and kingfishers.

The Green Flag covers a one mile stretch of the Grand Union Canal, encompassing the seven locks that make up the Hanwell Flight. Built over 200 years ago the flight is one of the most iconic waterway locations in Greater London.

Ros Daniels, Canal & River Trust regional director, says: **“We’re delighted that Hanwell Flight has been recognised with a Green Flag. It’s a testament to the hard work of our team alongside a massive effort from our volunteers who do so much to improve the Flight. Green Flags are typically awarded to the highest quality parks worldwide, so this**

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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

award recognises that canals offer places to relax, escape for a while and get close to nature – something we as a charity are dedicated to providing.”

**International Green Flag Award scheme manager Paul Todd adds: “It’s fantastic that we have more Green Flag Awards in the UK than ever before, joined this year by 131 International winners. Each flag honours the thousands of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the high standards demanded by the Green Flag Award. We congratulate each and every winner on their fantastic achievement.”**

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

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## Notes to editors

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The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations 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) @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

The Green Flag Awards Scheme (<http://greenflagaward.org/>) is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Keep Britain Tidy is a leading environmental charity. We run programmes including Eco-Schools, the Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces and the Blue Flag/

Seaside Awards for beaches. We also campaign for the country to be litter free and waste less. To find out more about Keep Britain Tidy, our programmes and campaigns visit [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org).

Any green space that is freely accessible to the public is eligible to enter for a Green Flag Award. Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag Award status. A Green Flag Community Award recognises quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Green Heritage Site Accreditation is judged on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation.

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