



**Canal &
River Trust**
Making life better by water



**The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development**
Europe investing in rural areas

PRESS RELEASE

1 August 2019

Towpath improvements begin along Llangollen Canal

Waterways and wellbeing charity, Canal & River Trust, has begun work to improve the towpath along the Llangollen Canal in Shropshire close to the nearby Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site.

The project will see the 1400 metres of towpath improved and widened from Gledrid, which links Shropshire to the World Heritage Site, to the Lions Quay Hotel and Spa. The £180,000 programme is being funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Once completed it is hoped more people will visit the canal and World Heritage Site giving a welcome boost to tourism in the local community.

Combined with earlier improvements to the towpath throughout the World Heritage Site once these new towpath works are finished it will mean visitors can enjoy easy access to the waterways and a safe green, traffic free route from Shropshire to the Horseshoe Falls at Llantysilio, Denbighshire.

Adnan Saif, director West Midlands with the Canal & River Trust, said “The Llangollen Canal is a beautiful waterway and is a lovely place to visit and these towpath works will mean people can visit throughout the year without having the worry about uneven surfaces, potholes or getting muddy shoes and boots.

“Improving access to our waterways is one of the ways we are trying to get people more active and out on the canal. Research shows that being next to water improves your mental and physical health and now that the summer is here I can think of no better place to be than on the Llangollen Canal exploring our canal heritage.”

For more information on the work of the Canal & River Trust including how you can volunteer or donate money to support the work we do visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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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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Notes to Editors

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

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) contributes funds to the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

About the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and 11 mile Llangollen World Heritage Site

(Pronounced - 'pont-cuss-ull-teh' meaning 'the bridge that joins')

- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Llangollen Canal became a World Heritage Site on 27 June, 2009.
- The Pontcysyllte is a grade one listed building, a scheduled ancient monument and forms the centrepiece of the 11 mile World Heritage Site.
- The Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was constructed by Thomas Telford and William Jessop between 1796 and 1805 during the Industrial Revolution to enable slate and limestone to be moved from quarries in North Wales to the Midlands and beyond.
- The aqueduct measures a record-breaking 1,000 ft (307m) long and at its highest point it is 126 ft (38.4m) above the River Dee.
- A cast iron trough, which holds 330,000 gallons (1.5 million litres) of water, is 11ft wide and 5ft 3ins deep. It is emptied by pulling out a giant plug in the centre and takes two hours to drain.
- There are 19 elegant arches and 18 slender sandstone piers, each with a 45ft span.

For more information about visiting the Pontcysyllte and Llangollen Canal World Heritage, special events to mark 10 years since inscription or supporting these 200-year-old heritage structures by donating or volunteering with the Canal & River Trust, please go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk. Find out about special events on the Pontcysyllte at its dedicated Facebook page or through Twitter or Instagram.

The anniversary celebrations have received funding via the Regional Tourism Engagement Fund (RTEF) and supported through the Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Welsh Government to improve visitor experience and create stronger destinations.