

PRESS RELEASE

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STANDEDGE TUNNEL RE-OPENS AFTER WINTER WORK

After a busy winter of maintenance work and a successful volunteer recruitment campaign, Standedge Tunnel and Visitor Centre will re-open to the public on March 27th.

Standedge is an historically important attraction as it is Britain's longest, highest and deepest canal tunnel. Constructed in 1811, it is now managed by the waterways and wellbeing charity Canal & River Trust.

Attraction manager Andy Widdowson said: "The winter break has been a really productive time to get everything ship-shape for the new season.

"As a charity, we're especially pleased to have a number of new volunteers come on board - as people giving up their time is crucial to preserving this historic site. We're still recruiting for more volunteers to help us across all areas – so anyone interested please do get in touch."

Volunteers are still needed to help with driving the boats, maintenance, gardening and grounds work, tours and talks, administration and the café.

Andy added: "The Watersedge Café will also be open from March 27th, serving great cakes, tea and coffee and light bites. After a record-breaking year in 2019, we're also looking to build on our conference and wedding venue hire – a vital source of revenue which helps the Trust maintain Standedge and keep it a fascinating glimpse into our past."

For more information on Standedge, including volunteering, contact Standedge direct on 01484 844298, or email standedge@canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For further media requests please contact:

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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

Standedge Tunnel is on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and is listed as one of Canal & River Trust's Seven Wonders of the Waterways. It is nearly three and a half miles long, 196 metres (645 feet) above sea level, and goes 194 metres (638 feet) underneath the Pennines. It took 16 years to build and was finished in 1811. The last commercial boat passed through the tunnel in 1921 and it was closed to all traffic in 1944. After falling into a state of disrepair, the tunnel underwent a major restoration project in 1990, and in 2001 was reopened to the public.