

STATEMENT

23 March 2020

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE FROM THE CANAL & RIVER TRUST

Following our message from last week, our response to this unprecedented crisis continues to evolve. Our priority remains to support the national effort to keep people safe and fighting the pandemic, strictly following the Government's advice.

Our 2,000-mile network of canals, towpaths, reservoirs, docks and river navigations remain open, but we strongly encourage people to **stay local and strictly observe social distancing measures**. As our waterways run through [towns and cities](#) across the country, they bring the countryside into urban areas, providing many of us with the opportunity to get outdoors and connect with nature without travelling far from home.

So until advice changes, you may continue to use your local towpath to exercise and get some fresh air, but please observe the latest Government guidance on social distancing – do not congregate, keep moving, allow space for others to pass, and be very mindful of moored boats where people will often be self-isolating.

'Virtual wellbeing'

For the many people who are self-isolating, or who do not live close to a canal or river, you can continue to experience the calm and beauty of the waterways from the comfort of your own home by visiting our [website here](#) or following us on social media.