

PRESS RELEASE

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CANAL & RIVER TRUST TO RECEIVE OVER £1.6M FROM GOVERNMENT'S HERITAGE STIMULUS FUND

The Canal & River Trust, the national waterways and wellbeing charity, has been awarded over £1.6 million in funding for 15 projects across the country.

The funding, which has been awarded via the Heritage Stimulus Fund, part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund, will help the charity's vital work to safeguard the nation's historic canals and rivers, so the public can enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of being by water

The projects to receive funding include Hunts Lock on the River Weaver, Sawley Locks 1 and 2 on the River Trent, Diglis Lock 1 where the River Severn meets the Worcester & Birmingham Canal, Soulbury Three Locks on the Grand Union Canal, and Wigan Flight Lock 71 on the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, which all received grants of over £100,000. The full list can be found in the Notes to Editors.

Richard Parry, chief executive at the Canal & River Trust, said: "The canals were built over 200 years ago and are a vital part of our industrial heritage: you can still use the locks, bridges, tunnels and aqueducts, across our 2,000 miles of waterways, that were great feats of engineering in their time. The grant funding we are delighted to be receiving from the Culture Recovery Fund will enable us to carry out important repairs to 15 waterway sites of social and historical importance, much-loved by those who use them and the communities that live alongside.

"Today we recognise the wellbeing benefits of being on or by the water, with our waterways right on the doorstep of millions of people; as a charity, the Canal & River Trust looks after them, promotes their benefits for the nation's physical and mental health, and safeguards them for generations to come.

"This funding will be spent during our annual winter works programme, which is essential to ensure our canals and rivers can continue to provide a valuable resource to the public. We are forecasting a reduction in income of around £20 million due to the pandemic and, while we have

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prioritised our spending to ensure we have a full programme, this funding will be valuable in helping us carry out all our planned works.

“The task of looking after our waterways remains a challenge: one we are committed to as we aim to keep them in good working order for the nation. We are delighted that the importance of our work has been recognised by the Government.”

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said: “As a nation it is essential that we preserve our heritage and celebrate and learn from our past. This massive support package will protect our shared heritage for future generations, save jobs and help us prepare for a cultural bounceback post covid.”

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how to volunteer and donate, visit: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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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 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

List of Canal & River Trust projects funded by the Grants for Programmes of Major Works strand of the Heritage Stimulus Fund, part of the Government’s Culture Recovery Fund

Coventry Canal, Coventry Basin, Weighbridge building

Grand Union Canal, Blue Bank Lock, Lock 37

Grand Union Canal, Soulbury Three Locks, Lock 26 conservation of side ponds

Grand Union Canal, Soulbury Three Locks, waterway wall repair

Hertford Union Canal, Parnell Road Bridge (Bridge 5), impact damage repair

Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Lock 58 (Johnson's Hillock)

Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Lock 89 Headgates

Leeds & Liverpool Canal, Wigan Flight Lock 71, Wigan Lock repairs

River Lee, Ware Bridge (Bridge 64), a.k.a Tumbland Bridge

River Trent, Sawley Locks, Sawley Locks 1 & 2

River Weaver, Hunts Locks

Shropshire Union Canal, Chester Dry Dock, Chester dry dock lock gate replacements

Worcester & Birmingham Canal, Coffin Bridge, repair steps, brick repairs, arch, new hand rail

Worcester & Birmingham Canal, Diglis Lock 1, Diglis Lock repairs
Worcester & Birmingham Canal, Tardebigge Locks, Lock 39

The Culture Recovery Fund

445 heritage organisations across the country are set to receive a lifesaving financial boost from the Government thanks to the £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to help them through the coronavirus pandemic.

The organisations will share £103 million to help restart vital reconstruction work and maintenance on cherished heritage sites, keeping venues open and supporting those working in the sector.

This vital funding is from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage and the Heritage Stimulus Fund - funded by Government and administered at arms length by Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Both funds are part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund which is designed to secure the future of Britain's museums, galleries, theatres, independent cinemas, heritage sites and music venues with emergency grants and loans.

433 organisations will receive a share of £67 million from the Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage to help with costs for operating, reopening and recovery. This includes famous heritage sites across the country, from **Wentworth Woodhouse** in Yorkshire to **Blackpool's Winter Gardens**, **Blyth Tall Ship** to the **Severn Valley Railway**, the **International Bomber Command Centre** in Lincolnshire to the **Piecehall** in Halifax. The funds will save sites that are a source of pride for communities across the country.

12 organisations, including English Heritage, Landmark Trust, Historic Royal Palaces, and the Canal & River Trust, will receive £34 million from the Heritage Stimulus Fund to restart construction and maintenance on cherished heritage sites to preserve visitor attractions and protect livelihoods for some of the most vulnerable heritage specialists and contractors in the sector.