

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Canal charity asks local people to help improve angling and care for the fishery at Fens Pools in Dudley

Local angling clubs, community groups and members of the public are being given the opportunity to manage the fishing on a local site consisting of several pools on the Fens Pools nature reserve in Dudley.

The site consists of several pools and ponds, with angling permitted on two pools, Grove Pool and Middle Pool. There is a potential opportunity for a third pool that is currently under ownership by Dudley Council.

Canal & River Trust has secured funding to improve some of the facilities, such as access and fishing pegs and the new tenant would need to continue work with the Trust to improve facilities at the fishery and potentially help to deliver Let's Fish events which are aimed at getting a new generation of people into fishing.

Fens Pools is statutory designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) due the special features of interest which are unique to this site. SSSI's and SAC's are the UK's very best wildlife and geological sites. They cover a range of important wildlife habitats and species from wetlands and rivers to remote Moorland and peat bogs, to flower-rich meadows, to exposed cliffs and shingle beaches.

Angling is a surprisingly good form of exercise and with research showing that spending time by the water can help to lower anxiety, Fens Pools have an important role to play in improving the health and wellbeing of the local community.

Carl Nicholls, fisheries and angling technical specialist at Canal & River Trust, said: "This is a great opportunity for a local club or active community group to work with us, improve and develop an excellent amenity at Fens Pools.

"With so many people living on the doorstep the Fens Pools site, it is a great opportunity for angling to have a real positive impact and by getting people out by the water and feeling the health and wellbeing benefits for themselves.

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"The new tenants will play a crucial role in that, helping to manage anglers and angling activities, improve facilities and organise events aimed at getting a whole new generation of people into angling. It's a unique opportunity and we'd encourage anyone interested to get in touch."

Those interested in taking on the fishing rights on Fens Pools should submit an initial expression of interest to [fisheriesenquiries@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:fisheriesenquiries@canalrivertrust.org.uk) detailing:

- Information regarding the club, community or individual
- Outline plans for the day-to-day management of angling at Fens Pools
- Any future aspirations or developments of the fishery
- Plans for delivery of Lets Fish events (coaching bursaries may be available for suitable candidates)

The closing deadline for initial expressions of interest is Monday 30 August and short-listed candidates will each be invited to an onsite meeting to discuss their application in detail.

For more information on the work of Canal & River Trust including how you can volunteer or donate money to support our work visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**ENDS**

For further information contact Sarah Rudy on [sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

### **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](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)