

PRESS RELEASE

September 2021

£3.5M PROJECT AT TEES BARRAGE NEARS COMPLETION

LARGE GATE CYLINDER REPLACEMENT TO TAKE PLACE THANKS TO PLAYERS OF THE PEOPLE'S POSTCODE LOTTERY

A TIMELAPSE VIDEO WILL BE SHOT OVERNIGHT ON SUNDAY 19th AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE MEDIA TO USE

This weekend, work on a five-year major restoration project at the Tees Barrage, owned and operated by waterway and wellbeing charity Canal & River Trust, moves closer to completion.

Costing an estimated £3.5 million in total, with a contribution of around £600,000 towards the project thanks to players of the People's Postcode Lottery, the project is the most extensive repairs programme to be undertaken at the Barrage since it was built in 1995.

The works to all four gates and cylinders - fundamental components of the Barrage – will ensure that the structure continues to fulfill its flood alleviation and tidal control role, which has helped regenerate a previously run-down stretch of the river to become a busy tourist and visitor attraction.

The final phase in the five-year project will see the replacement of one giant gate cylinders this weekend (Sept 19th).

Players of the Postcode Lottery previously helped fund the replacement of two gate cylinders and now through an extra award from the PPL's Postcode Earth Trust, the final two gate cylinders can be replaced.

George Poole, Project manager for Canal & River Trust, said: "We're very grateful for the continued support of the players of the People's Postcode Lottery which has enabled us to carry out vital maintenance and replacement work to this important landmark."

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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 e, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

The replacement cylinder, weighing around 15 tons, lifts and lowers one of the four gates at the barrage. It will be craned into place overnight and connected to the gate the following week. Once tests are complete to check for leakage, stop logs will be lifted out on October 3, and the gate will be able to operate normally.

George added: “Tees Barrage is not only a great feat of engineering it has played a vital role in improving the waterway and environment by alleviating flooding risk. It is now a popular visitor spot.

“The additional funding from players of the People’s Postcode Lottery will also be used to help us use the barrage as an educational tool with the provision of a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) hub for local school children. The aim is to bring these subjects to a real-life setting.”

Canal & River Trust is keen to encourage more people to take advantage of their local canal or river as research shows that spending time by water is good for both physical and mental health.

The construction of the Tees Barrage has made the location a visitor hotspot and has seen watersports in the area flourish. Costing £55 million to build, the barrage is an impressive structure standing 70 metres wide. The construction included a lock for boat navigation, fish passes for migratory fish and it even generates electricity from tidal power.

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Notes to Editors

Tees Barrage

The UK’s largest civil engineering projects of its time, the Tees Barrage comprises a river barrage, road bridge, footbridge, barge lock, fish pass and white-water course.

Canal & River Trust

The waterways and wellbeing charity that 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

People's Postcode Lottery

Since 2012, players of People's Lottery have raised £12.5million for Canal & River Trust. This includes many important projects from community outreach and habitat protection to large-scale structural projects

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