

# PRESS RELEASE

---

14 October 2021

## Stoke Canal awarded prestigious environmental award

Waterways and wellbeing charity, Canal & River Trust, is celebrating after the Trent & Mersey Canal in Stoke-on-Trent has been awarded a Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy.

The Green Flag status, now into its third decade, is awarded to spaces that boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities.

The award, the first for the canal in the city, is on an eight-mile section of the Trent & Mersey Canal from Kidsgrove to Stoke-on-Trent. Popular with boats and important for wildlife, the canal provides local people with a valuable, green and blue space that can be used for exercise, commuting to work and school or simply taking time out to be amongst nature.

The Trent & Mersey Canal, engineered by James Brindley, was the country's first long-distance canal. It is full of interesting features, including the Harecastle Tunnel, which was once one of the longest canal tunnels in the country. The towpath creates a green corridor through Stoke-on-Trent, offering alternative cycling and walking routes that connects people to neighbouring towns and villages.

Working with the local community and partners such as Stoke-on-Trent City Council, colleagues from the Trust have been able to make huge improvements to this stretch of canal including creating wildlife corridors, improving signage, and removing fly tipped rubbish from the towpath.

Adnan Saif, Canal & River Trust regional director, said: "We're delighted that the Trent & Mersey Canal has been recognised with a Green Flag. It's a testament to the hard work of local volunteers, partner groups and our colleagues to bring about so many improvements. There is still a lot of work to do in the area, but the award reflects the value of the canal and the huge progress that has been made over the last few years.

"Our canals provide local people and visitors really important green and blue traffic-free routes. They are on the doorstep of so many people in the region and we know that spending time on and by the water is good for health and wellbeing, that's why it is so important they are looking great and have received this recognition."

Canal & River Trust, Toll House, Delamere Terrace, London, W2 6ND

**T:** 0203 3204 4514 **E:** [press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk) **W:** [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk) **Twitter:** [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd, said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making the Trent & Mersey Canal worthy of a Green Flag Award.

"To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who do so much to ensure that the Trent & Mersey Canal has high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management and is a place that supports people to live healthy lives."

Stoke-on-Trent City Council leader, Councillor Abi Brown, said: "It is fantastic that the Trent & Mersey Canal in Stoke-on-Trent has been awarded Green Flag Status. We're committed to strengthening sustainable travel opportunities for all our residents and we have such a vibrant network of green, accessible, open spaces right across the city.

"We have worked with the Canal & River Trust over a number of years to improve our waterways in the city, which are great spaces for local people to enjoy. We will continue to work together to keep improving not just the infrastructure, but the role that canals play in the culture and heritage of our great city."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

For more information about the Canal & River Trust, including how you can volunteer or support the charity, visit [canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**ENDS**

For more media information contact Sarah Rudy, comms & campaigns manager on 07788 691 219 or email [sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.rudy@canalrivertrust.org.uk)

**The Canal & River Trust** cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations 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) @CanalRiverTrust @crtcomms

The **Green Flag Awards** Scheme (<http://greenflagaward.org/>) is run by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, in partnership in the UK with Keep Scotland Beautiful, Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. The scheme also operates in an additional 14 countries including Portugal, New Zealand and USA.

Keep Britain Tidy is a leading environmental charity. We set the standard for the management of parks and beaches, inspire people to be litter-free, to waste less and to live more. We run programmes including Eco-Schools, the Green Flag Award for parks and green spaces and the Blue Flag/ Seaside Awards for beaches. To find out more about Keep Britain Tidy, our programmes and campaigns visit [www.keepbritaintidy.org](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org).

Any green space that is free to enter and accessible to the public is eligible to enter for a Green Flag Award. Awards are given on an annual basis and winners must apply each year to renew their Green Flag Award status. A Green Flag Community Award recognises quality sites managed by voluntary and community groups. Green Heritage Site accreditation is judged on the treatment of the site's historic features and the standard of conservation.