

PRESS RELEASE

18 October 2021

Earlswood Lakes works to be completed by mid-November

Canal & River Trust, the national waterways and wellbeing charity, is close to completing its £1.6 million programme of improvements to the reservoirs at Earlswood. The works, which are required to ensure the reservoirs are compliant with reservoir legislation, have included strengthening the core of the main dam along Valley Road to improve its resilience during flood events.

The lakes at Earlswood consist of three reservoirs - Terry's Pool, Windmill Pool and Engine Pool - built in the early 19th century to supply water to the Stratford Canal. Together they occupy 70 acres and are popular with people from across the West Midlands for walking, fishing and sailing.

Ian Bogges, project manager for the Canal & River Trust, says: "We have completed the majority of our planned works at Earlswood Lakes. As well as strengthening the reservoir dams, installing drainage in the embankment and dredging the Canal Feeder Channel, we have also upgraded two major sections of footpath, added new angling platforms and wildlife habitat enhancements. These habitat improvements include: coir roll soft bank protection planted with native plant species along the Canal Feeder Channel; and securing waste wood in Windmill Pool for invertebrates and fish within the water, and to provide a step up over the metal piles for wildlife.

"We are grateful for the patience of local residents and businesses while we carry out these important statutory works, which are necessary by law under the Reservoirs Act. These works will enable people to continue to use and enjoy the lakes and local waterways, for wildlife, recreation, health and wellbeing."

As part of the reservoir improvement project, the footpaths alongside the left bank of Engine Pool and right bank of Windmill are being widened and resurfaced to make them

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accessible all year round. They are due to fully reopen by mid-November. The Trust will be looking at ways to fund further footpath improvements at the lakes in the future.

The lakes are now refilling with rainwater, allowing sailing to resume, and the temporary works compound in Malthouse Lane Car Park is being dismantled. Wood Lane car park will remain closed until mid-November, when the Trust's final inspections are complete.

The Canal & River Trust's contractor Kier reopened Malthouse Lane Causeway and the Crest Road above the dam alongside Valley Road as planned on 15 October.

For more information about Earlswood Lakes works, go to <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/earlswood-lakes-repairs> or call Canal & River Trust on 03030 404040 or email enquiries.westmidlands@canalrivertrust.org.uk @CRTWestMidlands

For more information on Canal & River Trust including how you can donate money or volunteer to support our work 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 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