

PRESS RELEASE

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Welsh canals to receive over £20 million from UK Government

Glandŵr Cymru, the Canal & River Trust in Wales, is celebrating after the Montgomery Canal and Llangollen Canal secured over £20 million in funding from the Government's UK Levelling Up Fund.

The funding, which will restore a stretch of the Montgomery Canal in Wales, and deliver visitor improvements along the Llangollen Canal, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage site, is the largest single investment made in improving and securing the long-term future of canals in Wales.

The projects will be delivered in partnership with Powys County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council and a range of partners and volunteers. The investment will benefit local people and the thousands of boaters and visitors who come to visit Wales each year, as well as economic benefit to shops and restaurants in neighbouring towns and villages.

The funding will focus on progressing the restoration of the Montgomery Canal from the Wales-England border at Llanymynech to Arddleen. The project will involve dredging the canal and the replacement of Walls and Williams bridges to once again allow boats to navigate. Three new nature reserves will be created.

Along the Llangollen Canal, access to the 11-mile UNESCO World Heritage Site will be improved to allow greater movement of visitors to the area encouraging cross border tourism. The project will include improvements to Trevor Basin and the footpaths around the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a new footbridge over the River Dee, improving the footpath to the village of Cefn Mawr and installing new interpretation signs.

Richard Parry, chief executive at Canal River Trust, said: "This funding is wonderful news and is a huge boost for our Welsh canals. The Montgomery and Llangollen canals are visited by thousands of boaters and tourists from across the world who visit to experience how beautiful the canals are and to spend time along these historic waterways.

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“We’ve got a lot of hard work ahead of us and we’ll be working with our partners and volunteers to deliver these two huge projects which will further transform the canals, bring economic benefits and boost tourism for Wales – we can’t wait to get started.”

The Government’s £4.8 billion Levelling Up Fund contributes to the levelling up agenda by investing in infrastructure that improves everyday life across the UK, including regenerating town centre and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

For more information about the work of Canal & River Trust including how you can volunteer or donate money to support our work visit www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

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For further information contact Sarah Rudy on 07788 691 219 or email 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