

PRESS RELEASE

6 January 2022

CANAL CHARITY BEGINS PHYSICAL WORK TO REPAIR BREACH ON LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

The Canal & River Trust is continuing work to repair a collapsed embankment which swept a section of the 200-year old Leeds & Liverpool Canal at Rishton, Lancashire, into the River Hyndburn.

The waterways and wellbeing charity, Canal & River Trust, has estimated the work to fix the canal will cost nearly £1.7 million.

Contractors working on behalf of the Canal & River Trust initially installed emergency dams on either side of the breach to secure the canal. Now a temporary road and construction site compound have been established next to the breach and an access to the canal bed has been constructed to enable physical work to begin.

Around three thousand tonnes of stones and other materials will be used to reconstruct the canal and build a new culvert carrying a stream under the canal.

The Canal & River Trust is working hard to re-open the canal as quickly as possible. The current programme of works estimate that the canal will re-open in late spring, subject to weather conditions.

Dilwyn Parry, senior project manager at the Canal & River Trust, said: “It’s taken a while to physically start work to fix this hole. We needed to solve the problem of getting all our equipment and vehicles to the remote site, and the scope of works is complex and had to be carefully planned out. Behind the scenes, specialists have been ensuring the ecology, heritage and environment around the breach is safe-guarded and engineers have been working on the design plan required to repair the canal.

“The Leeds & Liverpool Canal is an extremely popular canal for the hundreds of boaters, walkers and cyclists that use it every day for their health and wellbeing. We appreciate that this is a

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major disruption for people who enjoy the canal and towpath and we're working hard to re-open the canal as quickly as possible."

The Canal & River Trust is guardian to more than 380 miles of canals and rivers in the North West, as well as hundreds of locks, bridges, aqueducts, tunnels and reservoirs. This winter, the charity is investing £16.5 million on carrying out specialist repairs, upgrades and maintenance work to the North West's historic waterways.

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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