



CLARENCE HOUSE

As Patron of the Canal & River Trust, I am greatly encouraged to see how much has been accomplished since the Trust was launched in 2012.

For the past decade, the Canal & River Trust has been protecting, preserving and promoting 2,000 miles of canals and rivers across England and Wales – the finest network of industrial heritage in the world. It is enormously heartening that so many people are now able to enjoy the network, bringing vital green and blue space to the doorstep of millions of people in towns and cities.

When I reflect on all that has been achieved – hundreds of miles of canals have achieved Green Flag status, illustrating the quality of these spaces – none of it could have been done without the tireless help of the extraordinary volunteers and partners who care for the locks, bridges, tunnels, embankments, aqueducts, and thousands of listed and historic assets that make up the network.

I have no doubt that as we face increasing challenges in relation to how we best preserve the environment in the twenty-first century, the Trust will strive to ensure that the 250 year old network is as prepared and resilient as possible. Likewise, through championing the benefits of canals and rivers for low carbon transport and tourism, sustainable drainage, water transfer and generation of low carbon energy, I am sure the Trust will be helping society to mitigate some of the effects of climate change.

The latest chapter in the long history of the waterways is only just underway and I look forward to seeing all that the Canal & River Trust can achieve in the next ten years.