



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

16 May 2017

£25,000 REGENERATION PROJECT IS COMPLETE IMPROVING GATEWAY TO HISTORIC GLASSON BRANCH ON THE LANCASTER CANAL

The Canal & River Trust, which looks after the Lancaster Canal, has worked in partnership with Thurnham Parish Council to completed a £25,000 project that has transformed the gateway into Lancaster's 230-year old Glasson Dock.

Once the largest port in the North West, importing cotton, sugar, spices and slaves from Africa and the Indies, Glasson Dock situated on the head branch of the Lancaster Canal has changed significantly since the harbour opened in 1787. Located on the 2.5 mile stretch of the Glasson Branch on the Lancaster Canal which opened in 1826 and provided the towns of Kendal, Lancaster and Preston with a link to the sea, today, Glasson Dock is a Scheduled Monument, protected by the Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Glasson is a quiet village with a marina and a small, active port and the Glasson Branch of the Lancaster Canal has swapped cargo for leisure boating.

Thurnham Parish Council successfully secured a £17,280 Landfill Communities Fund grant from the Lancashire Environmental Fund along with contributions from the Canal & River Trust to carry out the transformation. New shrubs, trees and a grassed area were planted to replace overgrown vegetation and broken and uneven paving. A new bench now offers a viewpoint to enjoy the renewed space and look out onto the Dock and cycle racks have also been installed nearby via Morecambe Bay Partnership.

Nick Smith, Enterprise Manager at the Canal & River Trust has been leading on the regeneration project with Thurnham Parish Council, he said: "We've worked with the local community to improve the main approach into the village, changing an area that had become an eyesore into a much more open and inviting space. It's brilliant to help make a positive difference to this community and to provide a much more fitting welcome to the Lancaster Canal and help create a space people can feel proud of."

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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

Katie Hutchinson, Education Coordinator at the Canal & River Trust added: "As part of this regeneration project we have visited Thurnham Glasson C of E Primary School to deliver a water safety talk to children from the local community and help them to understand more about the history of the Glasson Dock Branch and the Lancaster Canal through a hands-on canal building workshop."

Maggie Stainton from Thurnham Parish Council said: "Residents at our public consultation in 2013 were clear about the need to do something about old mooring site known locally as the 'Babagee area', an overgrown area of land which is a key gateway into for visitors to Glasson. We responded to the requests of residents to bring about a positive change to their village and put our efforts into making this happen and creating an inviting entrance to Glasson for visitors and locals alike will enjoy."

Andy Rowett, Fund Manager, Lancashire Environmental Fund said: "It's important to see Landfill Communities Fund grants used for regeneration projects like this improving the environment and bringing new focus to this historically important area."

Ends

For further media requests please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites. We believe that living waterways transform places and enrich lives and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

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The Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) is a partnership between Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council, The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside and Community Futures.

The Fund has distributed over £20m of **Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)** grants support to community and environmental projects which benefit the environment and people of Lancashire since its start in 1998. The Fund is supported financially by Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd, Lancashire County Council and various third party funders. The Landfill Communities Fund is regulated by ENTRUST. For more information about LCF visit www.entrust.org.uk.

Community and environmental groups can apply for awards up to £30,000 from three funding streams –



Green Grants (up to £1000), apply online via the website



Small Grants (up to £15,000), **Expression of Interest** form required on website



Main Grants (up to £30,000), **Expression of Interest** form required on website

Projects to date have included improvements to community facilities, general environmental improvements, creation and management of habitats, improvements to parks, gardens, open spaces, play areas, recreational facilities, ponds, canals and rivers and natural biodiversity. Groups can find out more at www.lancsenfund.org.uk

For further information about Lancashire Environmental Fund contact:

Anne Kingston, Communications Officer, at LEF on 01772 317248, mobile 07843 079574 or e mail annekingston@lancsenfund.org.uk or visit www.lancsenfund.org.uk

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling Landfill Operators (LOs) to contribute money to organisations enrolled with ENTRUST as Environmental Bodies (EBs). EBs use this funding for a wide range of community and environmental projects in the vicinity of landfill sites. LOs are able to claim a credit (4.2% for 2016/2017) against their landfill tax liability for 90% of the contributions they make. Since its inception in 1996, over £1.4bn has been spent on more than 53,000 projects across the UK. For further information, please visit www.entrust.org.uk or see HMRC's general guide to Landfill Tax.

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