

PRESS RELEASE

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New giant lock gates set to be lifted into Newark Town Lock as part of major winter maintenance project

The Canal & River Trust has started works to replace two giant sets of lock gates at Newark Town Lock as part of a major programme of works taking place across the country this winter.

The charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of waterways in England and Wales, is investing more than £330,000 into the works to replace both sets of lock gates as part of its annual winter maintenance programme.

As part of the works, which are due to last until mid-March, the Trust will be installing temporary dams in order to drain the lock enabling the charity's expert engineering teams to lift the gates safely into position.

During the works the Trust is holding special open days, on 26th and 27th February, enabling members of the public to get a behind the scenes tour of the project. Visitors will be able to step down into the drained lock on specially installed walkways to get a close up view of the works and speak to the Trust's skilled teams. The open days will also have family friendly activities available in the lock-side garden, and an opportunity to visit the town's dry dock, the largest inland dry dock in the UK.

Phil Mulligan, regional director for the Canal & River Trust in the East Midlands, said: "The works at Newark Town Lock are a great example of the work that we do to preserve and protect the nation's precious waterways. Our expert teams will be out in all weathers this winter replacing lock gates and repairing historic brickwork.

"Research proves people feel happier and healthier by water and over the pandemic particularly, the River Trent has offered a valuable lifeline for so many, providing a perfect place for local recreation and exercise. That's why it's so important that we keep it open and safe for everyone to use, whether people enjoy a waterside stroll, cycling, boating, paddling or angling.

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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

“We’re really looking forward to welcoming people to our open days in February and enabling them to get a closer look at the works and learn a bit about their local history. It’s not every day that you get to stand at the bottom of a drained lock and we hope that lots of local people will join us.”

The new lock gates have been hand-crafted using traditional methods in the Trust’s specialist workshops at Stanley Ferry in Yorkshire. A single lock gate can take up to 20 days to make and has a working life of between 25 and 30 years. In order to be watertight they need to be built very precisely, fitting tightly to the masonry of the lock walls and to each other.

To find out more about the work of the Canal & River Trust, including how you can support through volunteering or making a donation go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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For further information please contact: Stephen Hardy on 07920 077190 or email stephen.hardy@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.