

PRESS RELEASE

27 March 2024

CANAL CHARITY APPOINTS TECHNICAL EXPERTS TO HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHALLENGES

With the nation's canal network facing the growing challenge of climate change-driven storms and floods, Canal & River Trust has put in place long term framework contracts allowing it to call upon specialist technical expertise to help look after the network's reservoirs, embankments, cuttings, and other structures.

With most of the canal network's earth-built structures constructed over two centuries ago, the Trust must understand how climate change is impacting the network and make sure its historic assets are safe. A key way of establishing the integrity of these structures is by carrying out a programme of ground investigations.

Ground investigations are also used to assess potential contamination and put in equipment to monitor potential ground movement of canal structures or groundwater levels. They are an integral part in the design of construction projects and allow the Trust to assess the condition and likely future behaviour of its canals, reservoirs, and river navigations.

Moving from a single source, from 1 April 2024 the Trust's in-house team will be able to call upon support where needed from Arcadis (UK) Limited, RSK Environment Ltd, and Geotechnical Engineering Limited.

Allowing the Trust to tap into innovation from other sectors when planning works required to keep the canal network open and safe, the charity has also agreed terms with specialists in technical engineering and design services. Again, moving from a single source, support will be available from Arcadis Consulting (UK) Limited, Pell Frischmann Consultants Ltd, and Stantec UK Limited.

Malcolm Horne, chief infrastructure and programmes officer at Canal & River Trust, said: "The UK's canal network is a fantastic example of long-lasting civil engineering; living heritage which is still in active use today. This 250-year-old network is also facing the impact of a challenging,

Canal & River Trust, National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire

E: press.office@canalrivertrust.org.uk W: www.canalrivertrust.org.uk Twitter: [@CanalRiverTrust](https://twitter.com/CanalRiverTrust)

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: National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW

changing climate, with the multiple storms in the past few months alone causing £millions of damage. To keep our canals safe and available for years to come, we must make sure our historic structures are sound, and that we're planning our works with the best possible knowledge, both from our in-house expertise and drawing on the latest advances from other industries."

Canal & River Trust is the owner of the third largest collection of listed structures in the UK, and manages 1,579 locks, 55 tunnels, 2,969 bridges, 279 aqueducts and 71 reservoirs. The charity is moving from a single to multi supplier model for its Professional Service and Geotechnical Inspection contracts from 1 April 2024. This will increase resilience for the delivery of projects and broadens the pool of available resources. The Trust will be able to access a wider range of innovation, best practice options, technical and sustainable solutions.

The new contracts are awarded following a rigorous five-stage tender process carried out over an 18-month period. They are for a period of up to eight years, with an initial term of four years.

-ends-

For further media requests please contact:

Jonathan Ludford, Canal & River Trust

m 07747 897783 e jonathan.ludford@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Notes to Editors

The Canal & River Trust cares for and brings to life 2,000 miles of canals and river navigations 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 @CanalRiverTrust