



Canal &  
River Trust

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LLANGOLLEN CANAL £100,000 WINTER MAKEOVER**

Three sets of locks on the picturesque Llangollen Canal in Shropshire are being upgraded and improved, thanks to a £100,000 winter works package by the Canal & River Trust.

The charity, which cares for 2,000 miles of waterways, carries out an annual programme of restoration and repairs to the nation's historic waterways during the winter to minimise the inconvenience of navigation closures to boaters during the busy summer season.

This month, locks at Marbury, Quoisley and the three lock staircase at Grindley Brook are all receiving a make-over to keep them operational and in good working order for the thousands of boaters who enjoy cruising the popular Llangollen Canal each year.

At Marbury, one of the old composite metal gates has been replaced with a new oak lock gate manufactured in the Trust's own specialist heritage workshop in Bradley, near Wolverhampton. At Quoisley, a failed wall below the lock chamber is being restored, reinforcing the canal channel for generations to come.

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And at the landmark three lock staircase at Grindley Brook, each lock chamber is being improved with repairs to the gates, posts and chamber walls, including a new gate at the bottom.

Wynn Evans, Llangollen Canal supervisor with the Canal & River Trust, explained: “The soil in this part of Shropshire is largely peat and at Quoisley the wall below the lock chamber needed serious reinforcement. Given that the canal is two hundred years old, Thomas Telford and William Jessop’s masterpiece of engineering has survived remarkably well.

“Lock gates only have a working lifespan of two to three decades, so they do need to be replaced at fairly regular intervals. At Marbury the gate had come to the end of its natural life but at Grindley Brook bottom lock, one of the gates had been buckled through misuse. Work at this lock is costing over £33,000 so it was an expensive mistake to make.”

New lock gates are hand-crafted using traditional methods in the Trust's specialist workshops. A single lock gate can take up to 20 days to make and in order for it to be watertight, it needs to be built very precisely, fitting tightly to the masonry of the lock walls and any other gate.

This winter the Trust will be spending over £45million to restore around 164 lock gates across the country, as well as carrying out repairs to aqueducts, reservoirs and tunnels.

To find out more about the Trust's Restoration & Repairs programme and public open days happening across the country go to [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk)

## **ENDS**

### **For 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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