



Canal &
River Trust

PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal (1816 – 2016)

BBC ONE SHOW SPOTLIGHT ON NEW COAST TO COAST CANOE TRAIL

The Canal & River Trust's new Desmond Family Coast to Coast Canoe Trail has come under the spotlight in three short films broadcast by the BBC One Show at the beginning of September.

BBC presenter Andy Torbet took on the challenge of becoming the first person to kayak the 162 mile trail from Liverpool to Goole. He completed the journey in eight days and along the way interviewed the Trust's project manager Greg Brookes, North West Waterway manager Chantelle Seaborn and award-winning Bingley Five Rise lock keepers Nick Stead and John Lobley.

The canoe trail is a five year project, funded by a £1.3 million grant from the Desmond Foundation. It aims to work with young people aged 16-25, creating healthier communities and employment opportunities as well as leaving a lasting legacy, a coast to coast canoe trail, for future generations to enjoy.

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The route takes in the country's longest single manmade waterway, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal, and the Aire & Calder Navigation, and involves carrying canoes around more than 100 locks, including the 21 lock Wigan flight, Bingley's famous Five Rise Staircase and paddling through a mile long tunnel at Foulridge.

Greg said: "We are only in year two of the project and Andy has done a fantastic job in blazing a trail for future canoe enthusiasts. We look forward to hearing from more people completing the trail over the coming months and years."

For more information email: Coastto.Coast@canalrivertrust.org.uk or find us on Twitter - @crtCanoeTrail or facebook - CRTCanoe Trail.

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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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