



Canal &  
River Trust

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Update on Cheshire's Acton Swing Bridge £1.5 million repair project on target to complete by July**

Trial swings of Acton Swing Bridge have been carried out as part of vital repairs to the busy 84-year-old road bridge which carries the A49 trunk road over the River Weaver Navigation in Cheshire.

The £1.5 million programme to refurbish Acton Swing Bridge, near Northwich, will help to safeguard the future use of the bridge by thousands of motorists. Work began on 23 January 2017 and is on target to be completed by July.

The work has been arranged by the Canal & River Trust, which cares for the River Weaver and 2,000 miles of the nation's waterways, and is being funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council. The work involves a complete refurbishment of the bridge deck, including strengthening to its underside, as well as improvements to the bridge appearance.

Also part of the work is the ongoing maintenance and replacement of 141 cast iron rollers which enable the bridge to swing. In a recent test movement, local residents may have heard a clanging noise as one of the old rollers failed.

Richard Spencer, project manager at the Canal & River Trust said: "The bridge does not need all the rollers to be operational. A new roller will be installed very soon and this can be done without closing the bridge to traffic.

"Monitoring the condition of the rollers is a constant challenge and on average we replace about four a year at a cost of £4,000 each. As part of the project, we will have the chance to carry out a thorough assessment of the condition of each roller and prioritise future replacements."

The Council's Director of Place Operators, Maria Byrne, added: "The good news is that the current repair work involves replacing the road surface and foundations with lighter

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material which will have the beneficial effect of placing less strain on the rollers in the future.”

To keep the bridge open to traffic, the deck work has been replaced in two phases to allow a single lane carriageway, controlled by traffic lights, to remain open. The first half has now been completed and work is progressing well on the second section, keeping the project on track for a July completion.

About 15,000 vehicles a day cross the bridge. The towpath underneath the bridge and the pedestrian walkway over the bridge continue to remain open as far as is reasonably practicable.

#### **Boating enquiries:**

- During office hours, please contact the Canal & River Trust’s North Wales & Borders Customer Service Team in Northwich on 0303 040 4040 or email [enquiries.northwalesborders@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.northwalesborders@canalrivertrust.org.uk)
- For out of hours emergency enquiries, please contact the Canal & River Trust free phone number on 0800 47 999 47.

#### **Traffic enquiries:**

- During office hours, please contact the Cheshire West and Chester Council Highways team on 0300 123 7036 or email [enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)
- For out of hours enquiries, please contact Cheshire West and Chester Council on 0300 123 7036.

#### **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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