

PRESS RELEASE

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HISTORIC NORTHWICH BRIDGE REPAIRED BY CANAL CHARITY

Northwich's Hayhurst Bridge, the world's first electrically-operated swing bridge, is to be updated with essential repairs by the Canal & River Trust charity.

The Trust, which cares for the River Weaver Navigation and 2,000 miles of waterways, will be carrying out a five week programme of vital restoration work in partnership with Cheshire West and Chester Council, starting on Monday 1 October.

The bridge, which carries the A533, Chester Way, over the River Weaver in Northwich town centre, is Grade II-listed. Designed by Weaver engineer John Arthur Saner and installed in 1898, it was the first road swing bridge to be supported by floating pontoons.

Trust project manager Simon Harding said: "Hayhurst Bridge has a very special place in history. It is over 100 years old and occasionally parts need to be replaced to keep the structure sound for the next generation.

"Over the next five weeks, we will be replacing a worn out steel plate installed in 1976 and re-surfacing the road. All the work will take place overnight so the bridge can be re-opened to traffic during the day."

Hayhurst Bridge will be closed overnight for five weeks from 1 October, weekdays 10pm-7am, weekends 10pm to 12 noon.

For more details about how to support vital repair and restoration work on your local waterways, please check out www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer services team on 0303 040 4040.

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For further media requests please contact:

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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.

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