

PRESS RELEASE

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BOATING BOOST FOR CHESHIRE'S WEAVER NAVIGATION, THANKS TO CANAL CHARITY DREDGING

The River Weaver Navigation, in Cheshire, is ship shape again, thanks to a major dredging programme by the Canal & River Trust charity.

The Trust, which cares for the Weaver Navigation and 2,000 miles of waterways, has just finished an extensive five month project to deepen a two mile stretch of the river from Saltersford Locks, north of Weaverham to Anderton Boat Lift, near Northwich.

One of the beneficiaries of the deeper river is the newly restored Daniel Adamson 'Danny' steam ship, the former flagship of the Manchester Ship Canal, which now offers passenger trips along the River Weaver. The enlarged channel will also give a major boost to a new boat and ship repair business, Northwich Drydock Company, which took over a former commercial boatyard at Hunts Lock in 2017.

The £850,000 project builds on previous dredging work at Dutton Locks, near Acton Bridge, to carve out a deeper channel from the Weaver's confluence with the Manchester Ship Canal and River Mersey at Runcorn.

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. 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: First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

Spot dredging over the summer has resulted in the removal of around 30,000 cubic metres of silt and mud, weighing a jumbo-sized 40,000 tonnes, equivalent to 8,000 African elephants. Next year the Trust plans to continue the phased dredging programme by deepening the navigation at the confluence with the River Dane and down to Hunts Lock, south of Northwich.

Duncan Davenport, Canal & River Trust customer operations manager, said: “This is an incredibly important development in maintaining the River Weaver as a navigation. Like all rivers, it silts up over time, so the job of keeping the waterway open for boats of varying sizes is a constant challenge.

“We are particularly pleased to be working in partnership with the Daniel Adamson Preservation Society to link their Heritage Lottery Funded-ship with the Canal & River Trust’s HLF funded-Anderton Boat Lift.

“Starting in spring next year, waterway enthusiasts and schools will be able to enjoy an extensive programme of river trips and educational visits combining the two great attractions. This will not only bring science and history to life for school groups, it will also be a massive boost for tourism in Cheshire, creating a unique, world class visitor destination.

“Widening and deepening the river channel will also enable larger coastal vessels to travel up the River Weaver to use the drydock, paint shed and boatyard services provided by the new entrepreneurial Northwich Drydock Company. The Trust is delighted the old boatyard has been brought back into use and we are keen to support this dynamic, fledgling business as much as we can. We look forward to the fantastic sight of watching ‘The Danny’ and other vessels becoming regular visitors to this beautiful waterway.”

For more information about visiting the Anderton Boat Lift or how to volunteer or donate to the Canal & River Trust, check out www.canalrivertrust.org.uk or call the customer services team on 0303 040 4040.

For more information about 'The Danny' steamship, check out www.thedanny.co.uk/.

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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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