



Press Release

19th of January 2018

Lapal Canal Trust Wins Heritage Lottery support

The Lapal Canal Trust is focused on restoring the Dudley No 2 Canal from Selly Oak to California where it is planned to build a marina with new homes. It will be a significant regeneration project with environmental and health benefits, also creating employment and becoming a tourist attraction.

Terry Stanton, Chairman of the Lapal Canal Trust commented “We are very pleased that the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a £10,000 grant to the Lapal Canal Trust enabling the Trust to proceed with a detailed feasibility study of the route from Selly Oak to California. The feasibility study/Action Plan will focus on our current objective to restore the first 1 ¾ miles of canal.”

The Canal was opened in 1798 providing a quicker route for delivering coal from Dudley’s coal mines to London and the River Severn. It was closed to through traffic when the tunnel collapsed in 1917 and abandoned in the 1950’s. It is one of the very few remaining heritage features of Selly Oak’s Industrial past and includes a beautiful canal bridge built in 1797, one of the oldest in Birmingham.

Vanessa Harbar, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund West Midlands said: “We are delighted to support this project, which, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, will mean that more people will be able to get involved with, protect, and learn about the exciting heritage right on their doorstep.”

The study will build on the Atkins Feasibility Study for the whole route to Halesowen in 2007 and the detailed design study of the route in Selly Oak Park in 2012. The study will be carried out by Moss Naylor Young Ltd and will include an archaeological section by AJ Archaeology and ground survey by Acivico Ltd’s Birmingham City Laboratories.



In addition to the £10,000 grant from the HLF the total estimated cost of £25,000 will be met by a grants of £5000 from the G J W Turner Trust, with grants also from the Henry James Sayer Charity, the Headley Trust and Lapal Canal Trust members contribution.

The Study is expected to be completed in April 2018. In parallel the Lapal Canal Trust has also commissioned Gifted Philanthropy fundraising consultants to produce an Action Plan to raise the estimated £2m cost of the first two stages of just over half a mile from the Birmingham to Worcester Canal across the Battery Site to the end of Selly Oak Park.



340 m route across the Battery site submitted as part of the Trust planning application

Please follow progress on our web site www.lapal.org and www.facebook.com/lapalcanaltrust

For queries and higher resolution version of the photos please contact

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Notes to editors

About the Heritage Lottery Fund

Thanks to National Lottery players, we invest money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under our feet to the historic parks and buildings we love, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. www.hlf.org.uk. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and use #HLFsupported.