

PRESS RELEASE

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Historic Foxton Locks receives international recognition with prestigious Green Flag Award

Waterways and wellbeing charity the Canal & River Trust is delighted to announce that the famous Foxton Locks have been awarded prestigious Green Flag status.

It's the first time that the longest, steepest staircase of locks in the country has been awarded Green Flag status and the site now joins more than 2,000 of the best open spaces across the country and joins locations as diverse as the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, Woodhouse Park in Peterlee and Chiswick Old Cemetery in London.

After 18 months that have seen Foxton Locks play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely, the news that the site has achieved the Green Flag Award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that make it such a special place for people to enjoy.

The Trust's staff and volunteers work all year round to ensure Foxton Locks remains a special place for people and wildlife, maintaining the grounds, improving hedgerows and welcoming the thousands of visitors that visit each year.

In making the award the judges commended the site's 'distinct character and strong sense of place which is valued by many' and praised the team there who 'are clearly very dedicated to the site, its history and the investment into its volunteers.'

The Green Flag Award scheme, which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year, is managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The awards recognise and reward well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Speaking about the award Phil Mulligan, regional director for the Canal & River Trust said: "We couldn't be happier or more proud that Foxton Locks has been recognised alongside some of the nation's best open spaces.

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“It’s such a special, historic site and has provided an invaluable local escape for people over the past 18 months. We know that spending time on and by the water is good for health and wellbeing and we hope this award will encourage more people to head to Foxton to recharge their batteries.

“The award is also a great testament to all the hard work that is put in by the Trust’s expert teams as well as our amazingly dedicated volunteers that help to make sure it’s a special place for people to visit.”

Foxton Locks is home to a staircase of ten locks raising the Grand Union Canal 75 feet and sees up to 5,000 boats pass through each year.

Green Flag Award Scheme Manager, Paul Todd, said: “I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making Foxton Locks worthy of a Green Flag Award.

“To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who do so much to ensure that Foxton Locks has high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management and is a place that supports people to live healthy lives.”

To find out more about the work of the Canal & River Trust, including how you can support through volunteering or making a donation go to www.canalrivertrust.org.uk.

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