



## Press Release



Embargo: 10pm Wednesday 21 March 2007

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### **Chesterfield Canal partnership wins national award**

The group behind the restoration of Chesterfield Canal have won the Partnership category of the 2007 Waterways Renaissance Awards.

The Waterways Renaissance Awards, established by The Waterways Trust and the British Urban Regeneration Association (BURA), seek to recognise and encourage best practice in sustainable waterway development and regeneration throughout the UK.

The Partnership category, sponsored by Morrison Construction, aims to recognise a project that exemplifies strong partnership working and co-operative arrangements between the public, private and community sectors.

John Craven OBE, presenter of BBC1's Countryfile and Vice-President of The Waterways Trust, presented the award to Chesterfield Canal Partnership at a gala dinner on Wednesday 21 March 2007.

Chesterfield Canal Partnership has brought together local authorities, statutory and non-statutory bodies, private enterprise and the voluntary sector to protect, restore and develop the canal.

Regeneration is a central aim of the Partnership as the canal runs through some of the most deprived wards in England. The project has been recognised by the Inland Waterways Amenity Advisory Council as of 'national strategic significance'. In order to develop local amenities and boost tourism, visitor facilities have been introduced – a visitor centre, trip boats at Chesterfield and Retford, slipways, marinas and visitor moorings, and new recreational walking routes as well as interpretation panels and leaflets about the area.

A spokesperson for the judges said: "This is a very effective partnership. The Chesterfield Canal Trust plays a major role at all levels and local authorities have put aside any personal ambitions to ensure that the vision is delivered and deliverable.

“The relationship between the public and the voluntary sector has been crucial and has shown the value and wealth of experience that the voluntary sector can bring to a project such as this.”

The Partnership category, one of ten in the awards, is hotly contested and Chesterfield Canal Partnership fought off stiff competition from a water-taxi project in Spalding, the restoration of Ashby Canal in Leicestershire and a canal enhancement scheme in Wolverhampton.

Chris Bennett of Morrison Construction said: “We are delighted that, through this award, we can celebrate strong partnerships between a range of bodies, all committed to developing our waterways for the benefit of the public. This award helps to ensure that across the UK, the standard of approach to enhancing and developing the environment of our waterways improves each year.”

Roger Hanbury, Chief Executive of The Waterways Trust, said: “The modern renaissance of our waterways is transforming the environment, creating education and business opportunities, injecting new life into areas and bringing communities together. As a winner of the Partnership category, Chesterfield Canal Partnership is properly recognised as an exemplar and we hope its success will inspire and encourage others to do the same.”

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**NOTES:**

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High resolution images of the project can be downloaded from:

[www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/press](http://www.thewaterwaystrust.org.uk/press)

**The Waterways Trust** is a national charity working in partnerships with others to promote greater public enjoyment and awareness of the UK's inland waterways. We raise funds for waterway regeneration, conservation, recreation, community, arts, education, access and activity projects. The nationally important designated collections in our three waterway museums at Gloucester Docks, Ellesmere Port and Stoke Bruerne, together with the Waterways Archive, bring the history of the waterways alive for everyone.

**BURA**, the British Urban Regeneration Association, was formed in 1990 to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas, experience and information for the emerging regeneration sector. BURA has become the leading independent organisation for those involved in regeneration. Its unique strength is derived from its wide range of members who represent the private, public and community sectors, and this distinguishes it from all other sectoral interest groups. BURA identifies and promotes best practice in regeneration and advocates an integrated approach to the social, economic and environmental issues involved. The Association offers its members national and regional networks, dynamic and diverse events, seminars and conferences and specialist forums covering key issues of the regeneration