

# CANAL RESTORATION CREATES COMMUNITY WATER FEATURE FOR SELLY OAK

Whitehouse Wharf is a new water feature in Selly Oak, which will create a public amenity for the local community.

It is situated near Dudley Number 2 Canal, built to connect the Dudley and Worcester & Birmingham canals. It once provided an important link to the Dudley coalfields, and the industrial town of Selly Oak, now part of Birmingham, grew up around the canal junction.

The new section of canal includes a bridge linking shops to Selly Oak town centre, a new public square, and the historic remains of an old limekiln. The large water space will enable boats to enter or exit the soon-to-be restored Dudley Number 2 Canal. It will also form an attractive water feature in the heart of Selly Oak, to be used by the whole community for canoeing, paddleboarding, angling, or just sitting and enjoying.

The £300,000 project was made possible thanks to the support of the Canal & River Trust, the site's previous leaseholders (Sainsbury's and M&G Real Estate), and over 50 funders, companies and individuals who have helped pay for it. The Canal & River Trust has committed to maintain the new water space, which forms part of the Worcester & Birmingham Canal.

The project forms part of ambitious plans to preserve the many attractive old buildings in Selly Oak.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street dug the first hole at a ceremony in March 2022 to mark the start of the three-month project. He noted: "This is a hugely important project for Selly Oak and the wider region, and I endorse it wholeheartedly. Our canals provide a safe and enjoyable way for residents to exercise, commute and connect with nature."



Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor, digs the first shovelful of ground at Whitehouse Wharf

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