



Annual Restoration Conference 2025

Saturday 26th April, National Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port

09:30	Coffee and Registration
10:00	Welcome Compère Paul Rogers
10:05	Introduction Sean McGinley, Director of Yorkshire & North East at Canal & River Trust
10:20	Session 1: Grand Union Canal Water Transfer Project Led by Peter Walker, Head of Strategic Infrastructure Projects at Canal & River Trust; Sarah Jayne O’Kane, Stakeholder Engagement Lead at Severn Trent Water; with John Pomfret, Northampton Branch IWA member
11:05	Session 2: Restoration; Moving Forward Led by Mike Palmer, Waterway Recovery Group Chair; with Hugh Pearman, Chair of the Heritage Advisory Panel at The Inland Waterways Association
11:50	Coffee break
12:10	Breakout Workshop Options A: Water Transfer; Continuing the Conversation John Pomfret, Northampton Branch IWA member B: Changing Conversations Around Heritage Led by Hugh Pearman, Chair of the Heritage Advisory Panel at The Inland Waterways Association; Charlie Norman, Director of Campaigns and Public Affairs at The Inland Waterways Association; Mike Palmer, Waterway Recovery Group Chair C: Q&A Workshop with Canal & River Trust Chaired by George Rogers, Development Manager at Chesterfield Canal Trust
12:50	Lunch – Local branch video in main hall and chance to visit foyer stalls
13.40	Session 3: Working With Young Volunteers; Duke of Edinburgh Award focus Kate Simons, National Volunteer Manager at Canal & River Trust; Christine Howles, Communications and Marketing Trustee at Lichfield and Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust
14.25	Close Mike Wills, National Chair at The Inland Waterways Association
14:40	Final Thoughts Paul Rogers Compère
14:45	Group Photo
14.50	Optional guided/self-guided tour of the museum