Autumn Waterways Conference 2026

Places with Purpose

Saturday 14th November, Dudley Canal and Caverns, Dudley, DY14SB

09:30	**Coffee and Registration**
10:00	**Welcome** Compère Paul Rodgers
10:05	**Introduction To the Venue** Paul Crofts, CEO, Dudley Canal & Caverns
10:10	**Opening Message** Henriette Breukelaar, Director for the Midlands, Canal & River Trust
10:20	**Session 1: Placemaking and Canals** Marcus Chaloner, Head of Placemaking & Design, Canal & River Trust
11:00	**Session 2: The Social Impact of Regeneration** Michael Maher, Researcher at the Institute for Social Innovation and Impact, University of Northampton
11:40	**Coffee break**
12:00	**Breakout Workshop Options** **A:** Turning Promotion into Funding - Helen Watson Moriarty, Consultant, Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership (LCRP CIC) **B:** A Week in the Life of Maintaining and Operating a Canal - Aaron Atwal, Regional Operations Manager, Canal & River Trust **C:** Restoration Delivery Plan: Six Months In – Sean McGinley, Interim Head of Asset Management, Canal & River Trust and Andrew Dobson, Senior Restoration Engineer, Canal & River Trust
12:40	**Lunch**
13:40	**Collective Conversation**
14:40	**Short Coffee Break**
14:50	**Breakout Feedback and Panel Discussion**
15:10	**Closing Remarks** Delivered by Mike Wills, National Chair, The Inland Waterways Association
15:20	**Final Thoughts** Paul Rodgers, Compère
15:25	**Group Photo**
15:30	**Boat Trip** For those who purchased a ticket in advance