

# News

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## Muse cleans up for Canal & River Trust in Leeds

Colleagues from Muse Developments' Leeds office joined forces with waterways and wellbeing charity Canal & River Trust to help improve a local waterside space.

The 'Towpath Taskforce', which consisted of a ten-strong team from Muse and six members of the Trust's property team, spent the day litter-picking and managing vegetation around Granary Wharf in Leeds beside the River Aire.

Muse has recently introduced a new volunteering policy, which enables employees to take one day's paid leave a year, to carry out a day of volunteering with a registered charity. Employees are encouraged to take the opportunity to volunteer their time and skills, during work hours, to support a registered charity of their choice.

National developer and urban regeneration specialist, Muse, has a long-standing relationship with Canal & River Trust through its national Waterside Places joint venture, which specialises in transforming urban waterfronts. The partnership harnesses the unique natural qualities of our waterways to create mixed, balanced, diverse and sustainable places.

Waterside Places was responsible for delivering Granary Wharf, a mixed-use development next to the River Aire in Leeds city centre which is now an established, multi-award winning waterside community.

David Wells, regional director for Yorkshire, the North East and the East Midlands at Muse, said: "We're delighted that, as an office, we've been able to support one of our long-term partners by volunteering our time to transform a local waterside area.

"Muse's core is creating innovative and vibrant new places and communities, so it was great to have hands-on involvement in improving such an important waterside area in Leeds city centre.

"As a business, we offer all colleagues the opportunity to take part in activities with charitable organisations that are close to their heart, but we're also committed to making meaningful contributions to the communities we serve, and our volunteering days are just one way we can give something back."

Sean McGinley, Yorkshire & North East director at Canal & River Trust said: "We were delighted to partner with Muse for the day and were impressed with their eagerness to roll their sleeves up and help us make a difference to this stretch of the water.

"We want our waterways to be accessible, beautiful and inspiring places for as many people as possible to enjoy as we believe spending time by water can make us all healthier and happier.

"Volunteering with the trust is a great opportunity for businesses and individuals alike to discover their local waterway, have fun while making a difference."

Muse is working in partnership to deliver projects in Leeds and across Yorkshire including Logic Leeds, the £100 million landmark industrial and logistics development by Junction 45 of the M1, the Forge Island regeneration scheme in Rotherham and Merchant Gate in Wakefield through The English Cities Fund joint venture with Homes England and Legal & General.

Canal & River Trust spends around £1million a year dealing with litter and fly-tipping, and recently launched its #PlasticsChallenge, urging people to help it keep our waterways clear.

For more information, please visit [www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/get-involved)