



GLIAS

Vice-President: Malcolm Tucker

Company No. 5664688 England
Charity No. 1113162

Greater

London Industrial Archaeology Society

Please reply to : MT Tucker, 9 Blythwood Road, London N4 4EU, tel 020 7272 7160

LW/Prop41,
Canal & River Trust acting as Trustee of the Waterways Infrastructure Trust,
National Waterways Museum Ellesmere Port,
South Pier Road,
Ellesmere Port,
Cheshire, CH65 4FW

28 Nov 2022

Dear Sirs (and Mesdames),

Dispose of a parcel of land adjacent to Limehouse Basin, Commercial Road, London E14

The Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society objects to this proposal from CRT, to dispose of the strip of land that abuts the western side of Commercial Road Lock, since it will potentially threaten the canal's amenity.

The lock comprises the lock chamber that is currently used for navigation and a second chamber that is now used as an overflow weir. These two chambers are arranged symmetrically in relation to the twin arches of Commercial Road Bridge, the three being original features of the canal, and together they make a spectacular piece of canalscape which is very important to the character of the designated Regent's Canal Conservation Area. The Conservation Area's appraisal document* describes the bridge as 'remarkable'.

The only twin-arched bridge on the Regent's Canal, it is of engineering interest as it optimises the limited available headroom under this major road crossing.

The strip of land beside the second chamber has always been unbuilt on, to provide space for working the lock, and the photo overleaf shows how it gives a very distinctive symmetry to the view of the bridge.

We imagine that the selling off of this previously operational land will be to facilitate development by others, which will then be beyond the control of the Waterways Infrastructure Trust. But that will be contrary to one of the Trust's Charitable Objects, viz. 'to protect and conserve, for public benefit, sites, objects and buildings of archaeological, architectural, engineering or historic interest on, in the vicinity of, or otherwise associated with the infrastructure property'.

Yours faithfully

Malcolm T Tucker, Vice President of GLIAS

