



Canal &
River Trust

Historic Workshops for Makers & Creatives

Help shape Ellesmere Yard's new
community of craft and creativity

A rare opportunity is emerging for makers,
crafters, and creative businesses to be part
of the next chapter of Ellesmere Yard – a
unique heritage site on the Llangollen Canal.



Heritage
Fund





Historic England

INVEST SHROPSHIRE

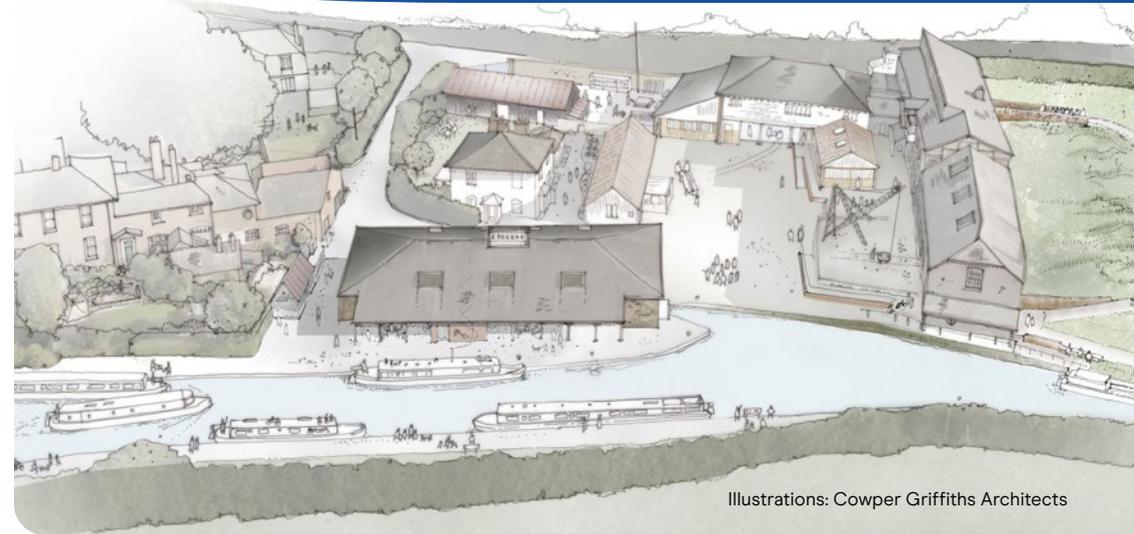


Funded by UK Government

As part of the Forging Ahead project, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Ellesmere Yard is being restored and reimagined as a vibrant centre for craftsmanship, enterprise, and community.

While only a few workshops are currently available, more spaces will be created as historic buildings are restored – with completion expected by 2029.

We're now inviting expressions of interest from makers who'd like to be involved, help shape the plans, and become part of Ellesmere Yard's creative future.



Illustrations: Cowper Griffiths Architects

Why Get Involved?

A workspace with history

Work within beautifully restored Grade II and Grade II* listed canal buildings shaped by Thomas Telford's legacy.

Join a community

Connect with local makers, artists, and craftspeople who share a passion for skill and creativity.

Show your craft

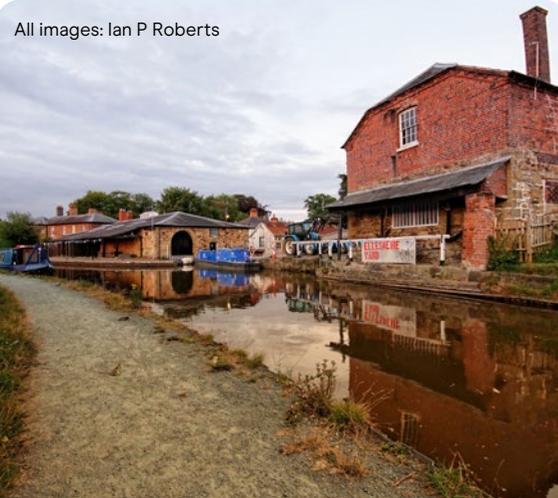
Take part in heritage events, open days, and workshops designed to connect the public with making and craft.

Shape the future

Contribute your ideas as we design new workshop spaces and plan Ellesmere Yard's long-term creative use.

Ellesmere Yard: Crafting a Future from 200 Years of History

Tucked along the Llangollen Canal, Ellesmere Yard has been at the heart of Britain's waterways since 1805 and is one of the last operational canal yards still in use today.



All images: Ian P Roberts



Its blacksmith's forge, pattern room, and dry dock have supported the canal network for over two centuries. Many of its remarkable buildings were influenced by Thomas Telford, offering a direct link to the age of innovation that shaped the Industrial Revolution.



Register your interest today

Let us know about your work, share your ideas, and stay updated as the project develops.

Contact: forging.ahead@canalrivertrust.org.uk

INFORMATION



Forging Ahead: Restoring for the Future

With support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Forging Ahead project is securing the future of Ellesmere Yard as functional canal yard, creative hub, and visitor destination.



Over the coming years, restoration work will:

Conserve and repurpose historic buildings for makers and small creative businesses.

Develop a visitor experience focusing on heritage and canal history.

Offer training and volunteering in heritage and traditional skills.

Host events and tours that celebrate the site's story and craftsmanship.

We already have a blacksmith, joiner, and stained-glass artist bringing new energy to the site – the foundation of a creative community that will continue to grow as restoration progresses.



Registered charity
number 1146792

Want to know more?

Please get in touch, as our team would be delighted to give you a tour of the yard and walk you through our plans for the future.

Contact: forging.ahead@canalrivertrust.org.uk



INFORMATION