

Ahoy! National Highways' funding stream helps historic light vessel's future in Hull

National Highways, who are carrying out major improvements to the A63 at Castle Street, is contributing just over £1m to Hull's maritime regeneration project which will see the Spurn Lightship moved to its permanent home at Hull Marina.

The vessel, to be eventually berthed next to the recently built Murdoch's Connection footbridge, will see her fully rejuvenated with improved accessibility and signage, thanks to Hull City Council (HCC), the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the government-owned company's [Designated Funds programme](#).

She is expected to open as a key visitor attraction in spring 2023.

James Leeming, Senior Project Manager for the A63 Castle Street and Murdoch's Connection major projects at National Highways, said:

Spurn Lightship was temporarily moved while we built our state-of-the-art Murdoch's Connection footbridge, which is close to Hull marina and will eventually be the lightship's home.

It will be exciting to see a vital piece of the city's 20th century past alongside the A63 Castle Street major work and enhancements to the waterfront which will be accessible for all and fit for the 21st century.

The lightship, which played a key role in Hull's maritime industries by guiding vessels through one of the world's treacherous waterways, the Humber estuary, is now temporarily berthed at William Wright Dock and awaits her conservation work to start at Dunston's shipyard.

The Spurn Lightship's home will be at Hull Marina close to the city's new Murdoch Connection's footbridge and A63 Castle Street improvements. Copyright – National Highways

Built in 1927, the vessel was moored off Spurn in East Riding of Yorkshire and helped vessels to navigate the approach to the estuary – a welcome and thankful sight for sailors and fishermen after long and tiring trips at sea.

Councillor Daren Hale, Leader of Hull City Council, said:

We are delighted to have received this significant funding from National Highways.

This investment will enable the Hull Maritime project to enhance the Spurn Lightship's new home on Hull Marina with landscaping and increased access. These features will improve the experience for all our visitors when the lightship reopens in 2023.

National Highways, formerly Highways England, manages four designated funds, allocated by the Government, to deliver benefits above and beyond building, maintaining and operating England's strategic roads.

From protecting the environment and enhancing the landscape around roads, to improving safety, reducing congestion, and supporting communities, the aim is to make a positive difference to people's lives.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.