



Glandŵr Cymru Canal & River Trust

Cadw cysylltiad rhwng pobl, natur a hanes
Keeping people, nature & history connected

SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL

Update as of from 23 March 2018

It's been a week since the collapse of a part of the Shropshire Union Canal in Middlewich, & we thought this was an ideal time, to share with you what has taken place to date:

To date:

- A fish rescue enabled 300lb weight of fish to be relocated to the Trent and Mersey canal including bream, roach, carp and eels (weighing up to 4lb in weight!)
- Approx. 20 large trees have been removed from the embankment and the River Wheelock.
- A specialist team are on site to remove other trees that have been undermined by the breach
- A 12m long dam has been erected across the dewatered canal bed at Middlewich aqueduct
- 3 pumps will pump a maximum of 865,000 litres of water per hour to fill the dewatered section of the canal to assist with the stranded boats, & these will be relocated on the Trent & Mersey canal
- Ecologists have completed a survey looking at the impact on the local wildlife
- 4 truckloads of debris were collected and removed. Big thanks to everyone involved in this, including SUMBA (Shropshire Union Middlewich Branch Adoption)
- 1 pair of waders (& staff member) stuck in the mud!

In addition:

- The Canal & River Trust have been in daily contact with the boaters that have been affected in the area informing them of progress at each stage as well as local landowners
- Updates have been sent to canal side residents as we know more about what is taking place
- The Waterway Chaplains have been on site and met the boaters that live on board offering assistance when required
- Three local schools have had information sent to them earlier in the week advising pupils about keeping themselves safe
- Keeping everyone safe at the site at the beginning of the week was extremely difficult. The safety barriers and signage were regularly removed & many people were putting themselves at risk. This has now been adapted, now that we know more about what has taken place and areas of the towpath have been cleared for access and where it is unsafe, barriers have been erected.

North Wales & Borders Waterways

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Patron: H.R.H. The Prince of Wales. Canal & River Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 7807276 and registered charity number 1146792, registered office address First Floor North, Station House, 500 Elder Gate, Milton Keynes MK9 1BB

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- Investigations are currently taking place into the cause of the breach and early estimations on the cost of the repair are looking at between £2million and £3million. However, this is still early days and investigations are ongoing.
- The response from the community has been fantastic with offers of volunteering, free use of meeting rooms and of course, the individuals that have already started fundraising to assist with the repairs.

The Canal & River Trusts Emergency Fundraising Appeal has been launched and information can be found at:

CANALRIVERTRUST.ORG.UK/BREACH

Thankyou to everyone for their support to date and please get in contact if you would be interesting in volunteering or fundraising, as well as any ideas about how we can ensure communication is shared across the community