

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WHOLE LENGTH OF THE CANAL

This Conservation Character Appraisal clearly demonstrates that this section of the Shropshire Union Canal has a fascinating and unique history. In order to preserve this for future generations it is vital to protect and enhance this heritage, including the setting of the canal in both its urban and rural sections.

The following recommendations have been formulated in order to achieve this aim.

Principal recommendations: Recommendation Involving

1 Any development must not conflict with the canal setting and must enhance the canal and its heritage by taking account of its historic importance, its environmental value and its role as a public amenity. CW&C and CE

2 Design and conservation should be of the highest possible standard and sensitive to the historic and environmental character of the canal and its environs. CW&C and CE

3 A heritage design brief should be developed for all canal related features and furniture including bridge access, towpath access, locks, and historic bridges. CRT Heritage Department with input from CCHT

4 A simple design guide should be developed for householders living beside the canal to avoid inappropriate features. CW&C and CE with input from CCHT

5 A strategy should be developed to encourage boaters to visit Chester and Ellesmere Port, and provide improved facilities for them. All interested groups

6 Existing heritage canal features must be retained, protected and maintained. CW&C, CE and CRT

7 The wildlife corridor of the canal must be protected and enhanced. CW&C, CE and CRT

8 An awareness of the canal, its history, heritage and environs should be promoted as widely as possible. CCHT

Specific recommendations:

In order to preserve and enhance the heritage, setting and environment of the canal there are more specific recommendations which should be implemented along the whole length of the canal.

Trees, Hedges and Fencing Involving

9 Retain, and reinstate, towpath hedgerows by replanting and laying where necessary. BTCV, SUCS and/or other voluntary groups

10 Plant species suitable to the location. As above

11 Designate more Hedge and/or Tree Preservation Orders. Council Tree Officers

12 All boundaries between adjoining properties and the canal must be appropriate on both the towpath and off side. ?

13 Property owners should be encouraged to relate their premises to the canal in a sympathetic manner. ?

Towpaths Involving

14 The towpath should be free of obstructive structures and vegetation and remain suitable for horse boating. CRT vegetation team

15 The towpath surface in urban areas should be suitable for intensive use and surfaced with materials in keeping with the canal's history and heritage. CW&C/CE and/or CRT

16 The towpath in rural areas should be maintained in a condition suitable for general access and surfaced with materials in keeping with the canal's history and heritage. CW&C/CE and/or CRT with BTCV/SUCS

17 The original towpath surface should, where possible, be retained or reinstated, particularly under bridges and around locks. CRT with BTCV/SUCS

18 If fences or posts beside the canal towpath are replaced, they should be sympathetic to the area in which they are located, and in keeping with the canal's history and heritage. CW&C/CE and/or CRT

Bridges and other Canal Features Involving

19 Repairs to historic bridges should be carried out using original materials and techniques or suitable equivalents that fully respect the original structures. CW&C/CE and/or CRT

20 Where historical evidence suggests that bridges were formerly lime washed, consideration should be given to reinstating this treatment. Voluntary groups

21 Locks and other canal related structures should be painted in the combination of colours traditional to this canal. Voluntary groups

22 Remove lock numbers as they are incorrect and confusing. Voluntary groups

23 Reinstall or retain historic paddle gear. CRT 24 Restore and maintain the Dee Branch to the River Dee. CRT

25 Restore the lengthsman's huts CCHT and CRT

Interpretation Involving

26 A sequence of consistent and durable interpretation boards should be installed at appropriate locations along the canal. CCHT

27 Signage should be installed to develop the Riverside park/circular river and canal walking route in Chester. CW&C

28 The use of information technology to enhance the interpretation of the canal should be encouraged. ?

Wildlife Considerations Involving

29 All policies relating to the canal should be considered with regard to their impact on wildlife, and should ensure that they maintain and encourage native wildlife. ?

30 A wildlife survey of the canal should be carried out. CWT/volunteer groups

31 Better links should be created/maintained to other wildlife corridors. ?

32 All stands of Japanese knotweed, and other invasive non-native species, should be eradicated without delay. CRT vegetation management team and adjoining owners

Suggestions of structures to be listed:

- Caughall (Pretty) Bridge, 134
- Christleton Lock
- Brockholes aqueduct
- Bunbury Locks Warehouse
- Stoke Hall Bridge, 99
- Stop gate at the southern end of Nantwich Embankment

Suggestions of buildings/structures to be locally listed:

- Wharf wall at Burnells' Iron and Galvanising Works, Ellesmere Port
- Wharf near Top Farm, Croughton – if research shows that it is historic
- Stone Bridge House, Chester
- House by former Blacon Hall Bridge, Parkgate Road, Chester
- Water Tower Hospital tower
- Tin Tabernacle, Whipcord Lane, Chester
- River Lock
- Former Temperance Hall, George Street, Chester
- 22 George Street, The Manse, Chester
- Penri Chapel, George Street, Chester
- Mill Hotel
- Old Harkers Arms, Canalside, Chester
- Hoole Lane Lock Cottage
- St Paul's Mission Church, Chester – now residential
- Cheshire Cat public house

- Bate's Mill
 - Bate's Mill Cottage
 - Shady Oak public house
 - Chas Hardern's Castle Wharf, Tiverton
 - Stone Lock Cottage
 - Jolly Tar public house
 - Avenue Cottage, 1 Basin End, Nantwich
 - Shed, east of Avenue Cottage, Basin End, Nantwich
 - Former Boat Shed, Basin End, Nantwich
 - Canal Cottage, Marsh Lane, Nantwich
- Suggestions for the Buildings at Risk Register

- Chemistry Lock Cottage
- Stone Lock Cottage
- Stone Lock Lengthsman's Hut
- Bunbury Locks Stable Block