

**MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL
CRUMLIN ARM WORKING GROUP
20TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

CANAL WORKS CURRENT STATUS

1. The latest phase of canal channel de-silting and relining works commenced in January 2005 and extended over a length of some 700m between Crosskeys Deeps and Pontywaun Overflow. The tender sum was £109,172.19 and the works funded via the Canal's annual capital works allocation.
2. The works encountered unforeseen ground conditions i.e. greater volumes of silt than originally anticipated and lack of clay lining to the channel that resulted in the need to undertake significant additional emergency works. Consequently, the capital works instigated in 2004/05 extended into the 2005/06 financial year and funding the cost of the additional works has absorbed the majority the 2005/06 capital allocation for Canal improvement works.
3. Operations to refill the Canal with water commenced during mid-June 2005 upon completion of the extended desilting and relining works. During the course of refilling the canal increased leakage of water from the Nant Carn Aqueduct at Pontywaun was noted which resulted in the need to dewater the uppermost section of the Canal in order to address the potential adverse impact of increased leakage on the stability of the Aqueduct.
4. The major water supply for the Canal discharges at the head of the network immediately north of Nant Carn Aqueduct. Consequently, the need to dewater the upper reaches of the Canal prevents supply of water into the network. The recent period of warm and dry weather has exacerbated the loss of water from the Canal to a point that currently only isolated pools of standing water are present between Pontywaun and Darren Road, Risca.
5. The means by which the water supply to the upper reaches of the Canal has been investigated and works to re-route the main supply provided by the Nant Carn commenced on 14th September and are anticipated to be completed by the end of September. An update on the progress of the works to reinstate the water supply will be given at the meeting.
6. The estimated cost of works to fully address the Nant Carn Feed and undertake structural repairs to the Aqueduct and the restoration of the Canal's walls are provisionally estimated at a total of £650,000 with Stage 1 of the Corridor Study Action Plan.