

Crossing the Road in Longdon Upon Tern

We are very grateful to John and Middy Arnold of Wharf Cottage in Longdon upon Tern for lending us the newspaper cutting below which shows the old canal bridge in Longdon being levelled and the road straightened during that sad period when the S&N canal infrastructure was being gradually dismantled.



Trustees have recently been visiting Longdon upon Tern to get a better grasp of local views on restoration proposals through the village via work with Rodington Parish Council. It was through these visits that they first met up with John and Middy and had an invite to walk the line of the canal through their land and to take a look inside their historic canalside warehouse. The stone walling at the edge of the wharf can still be seen and the warehouse itself is still in very good condition, complete with pulley wheels to remind us of the time when this was the thriving commercial centre of the village and home to the coal business which belonged to John's parents. John and Middy recalled with great warmth the period when the canal, along with its famous iron aqueduct, still had pride of place at the centre of village life and they expressed their sadness as they saw the bridge and the very existence of the canal being erased bit by bit.

It is ironic that the Trust had put forward plans to re-route the canal around

the edge of the village in order to avoid what had looked like significant difficulties in crossing the main village road in its original location. However, after meeting with several of the residents whose gardens included the original canal line, or whose outlook would be significantly impacted by a re-instated bridge, it was discovered that the original line would appear to be much the preferred option. Hence our engineering team are now concentrating on an approach which would see a bridge re-installed on the same site and, if possible, incorporating this within a scheme which might help to bring about much sought after speed controls on this very busy road through the village.

