

## **Nursery Road Embankment to Chute Bridge, Barnton.**

Following the landslip at Barnton Chutes in January 2021, Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C) have been forced to close the Public Right of Way.

The land is in private ownership. The private landowner is not in a financial position to repair the landslide.

Gas have since diverted their gas main, and the Canals and Rivers Trust have cleared enough width within the canal for a single boat to pass on a give way basis.

The Canal and River Trust erected hoarding and initially closed the route however, this was handed over to CW&C and is being monitored by CW&C Highways to ensure that the route is closed off securely to stop use of the route due to the potential danger.

CW&C have carried out an initial structural report together with ongoing visual inspections. CW&C Highways were in the process of progressing the structural assessment but unfortunately progress was delayed. (A new Contractor was awarded the Highway Maintenance Contract & the re-opening of Soot Hill following the landslide took precedence)

However, CW&C are currently discussing the next stages of structural review with the new Highway Contractor - Colas, and their structural engineering consultants, to inform them on the stability of the embankment, what potential methods and indicative costs it would require to stabilise it.

It is to be noted that neither the Canals and Rivers Trust nor Cheshire West and Chester Council currently have any available funding to potentially stabilise the landslip to re-open the route for use. Therefore, for the time-being and possibly long term, this route will remain closed.