



18 July 2025

Dear Jon,

I am writing to express our concerns regarding the ongoing closure of the Anderton Boat Lift and the lack of communication about the anticipated duration of this closure.

I have previously sent a letter on this matter (please see attached), which was acknowledged by Liam Cooper; however, we have yet to receive a response.

The extended closure is having a significant negative impact on businesses providing boat maintenance activities on the Weaver, such as dry docking, painting, and marina visitor moorings. In addition, there has been a noticeable decline in visiting boats to Northwich, which has led to a decrease in economic activity within the town.

Furthermore, hire boaters, already affected by the breach on the Bridgewater have lost another important cruising route.

The Boat Lift is a critical hub for the canal system and its continued closure without any communication about a reopening date is eroding confidence about the future of our waterways.

We would appreciate an update on the situation at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Mole
Chair, RWNS

Closure of the Anderton Boat Lift

June 2025

I am writing to you on behalf of RWNS and IWA to express our concern at the continued closure of the Boat Lift to boat traffic. This is doubly disappointing since the great work done on the Boat Lift over the last 3 years resulted in a fully operational unit in 2024. It is ironic that in 2025 to celebrate 150 years, the Lift is not working.

Our understanding is that following a breakage of a lifting gate cable (upper West canal side) in January 2025 during a routine test lift, both sides of the Lift were closed to traffic.

1. When will the root cause of the failure be resolved?
2. Why have both sides been closed?
3. What test work has been done on the other gates? Were there any failures?
4. I have been told that work boats are still using the East side?
5. The system has been in operation many years, is it just wear and tear.?
6. Has the broken cable been replaced and tested?
7. What is your timetable to reopen the Lift ?
8. Is there an interim solution ?

I believe English Heritage wish to see and fund an **operating** Lift.

I am meeting the local MP soon to discuss our concerns and the effect on local businesses reliant on the Boat Lift operating. A major Campaign Rally is being held on the Bridgewater August 22nd to 25th aimed at highlighting network closures in the North.

I hope CRT are not being overly risk adverse to delay action ?
Is there anything we can do to assist in reaching a solution ?

Yours sincerely
Jim Mole