

St Martha Parish Council

Councillor Toynbee's Report for the meeting on 16th April 2026

Update of the lack of water entering the Gunpowder Mills at the 'snail' junction.

In late December of 2025 the current owner of Postford House noticed that water had ceased flowing through the leat on his property.

The leat, after leaving Postford House, continues towards Chilworth. Some of the water branches off in a field behind the war memorial and joins the cut at the Gunpowder Mills at the 'snail' junction. The main part of the leat carries on, behind the Percy Arms, and feeds the large lake at Tangley Mere.

The problem of the lack of water stems from an area south of Albury just before the leat enters Postford House. Here it passes under the railway along with the natural stream. The railway bank has collapsed on the leat and the water from the leat is now flowing into the natural stream and the leat is completely blocked.

The owners of Postford House and Tangley Mere are very concerned about this situation and have been in discussions with Network Rail, the Environment Agency, Albury Estates and owners of adjoining land. Discussions are ongoing as to who is responsible for the repairs and, once that has been agreed, how those repairs would be made, given that heavy machinery would have to enter the site across several fields.