# Major 36-inch water main ruptures in Canonbury, flooding streets and displacing residents



A major burst water main in Canonbury, Islington, sent water pouring into several streets on the evening of Sunday 10 July, forcing around 30 residents to leave their homes and prompting a multi-agency emergency response. According to the original report, houses on Canonbury Street, Essex Road, Elmore Street, Halliford Street and Ecclesbourne Road were affected, with floodwaters reaching roughly 40 cm deep in places and disruption expected to continue into the following day.

The London Fire Brigade described the event as a protracted incident and mobilised a substantial response. “Ten fire engines and around 70 firefighters are dealing with flooding in the area around Canonbury Street in Islington,” a brigade spokesperson said, noting crews used flood barriers and sandbags to protect properties. Firefighters came from a number of local stations and worked through the night to limit damage and make properties safe, with video footage showing doorsteps and vehicles partially submerged.

Emergency services said the pipe involved was large — reported as a 36‑inch main — and the scale of the failure generated more than 20 emergency calls after 10pm. The Metropolitan Police and Islington Council joined the response, closing roads and urging drivers and pedestrians to avoid the area while crews carried out safety checks and traffic management.

Thames Water confirmed engineers were on site to locate the damaged section and work to stop the flow. The company said in a statement that crews were investigating the fault and would remain at the scene to repair the pipe and restore services; editorially, that is Thames Water’s account of progress while repairs are ongoing. Some addresses reported no water or low pressure as crews isolated supplies to protect the network while work continued.

Islington Council said it was providing assistance to those displaced, including temporary accommodation where needed, and public-health and safety messages were issued to residents. Council officers and emergency workers advised people not to drive through floodwater, to avoid the cordoned area and to follow instructions from on-scene crews as recovery proceeded.

Local roads and services were expected to face continued disruption into Monday as engineers excavated to reach the damaged pipe and make permanent repairs. Industry experience suggests work on a large trunk main can take many hours or longer depending on the extent of the damage, reinstatement needs and any associated utilities impacted by the repair works.

Investigations into the cause of the failure were under way while recovery teams prioritised getting homes and roads back to normal. Authorities said they would update residents as repairs progressed and urged anyone affected to contact Islington Council or Thames Water for help with housing or water-supply issues.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[5]](https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/burst-water-main-islington-homes-evacuated-as-areas-under-around-40cm-of-water-5264986)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[3]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/ce8336y0959o), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/burst-water-main-islington-b1242328.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[7]](https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9oj9bk)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/burst-water-main-islington-b1242328.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[5]](https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/burst-water-main-islington-homes-evacuated-as-areas-under-around-40cm-of-water-5264986)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[3]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/ce8336y0959o), [[5]](https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/burst-water-main-islington-homes-evacuated-as-areas-under-around-40cm-of-water-5264986)
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* Paragraph 6 – [[3]](https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/ce8336y0959o), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[5]](https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/burst-water-main-islington-homes-evacuated-as-areas-under-around-40cm-of-water-5264986), [[6]](https://newswav.com/article/burst-water-main-floods-islington-streets-as-dozens-evacuated-from-their-ho-A2508_dZ8jne)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[4]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/burst-water-main-islington-b1242328.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html), [[6]](https://newswav.com/article/burst-water-main-floods-islington-streets-as-dozens-evacuated-from-their-ho-A2508_dZ8jne)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/tv/news/islington-burst-water-main-london-fire-brigade-b2805268.html> - A burst water main flooded several streets in Islington, prompting emergency crews to evacuate about 30 residents from Canonbury Street, Essex Road, Elmore Street, Halliford Street and Ecclesbourne Road on Sunday evening. The London Fire Brigade deployed ten fire engines and around seventy firefighters, describing the incident as protracted. Thames Water attended and said engineers were on site. The pipe, reported as 36 inches in diameter, caused flooding up to 40 cm deep and generated twenty emergency calls. Local authorities warned drivers and the public to avoid the area while crews worked to make properties safe and restore services quickly.
3. <https://feeds.bbci.co.uk/news/articles/ce8336y0959o> - BBC reported that around 30 residents were evacuated after a burst water main in Canonbury Street, Islington, left streets under about 40 cm of water. The London Fire Brigade said ten fire engines and about seventy firefighters attended from stations including Islington, Holloway, Stoke Newington and Euston, using flood barriers and sandbags to protect homes. Thames Water said engineers were working to stop the flow and locate the damaged section, while some addresses experienced no water or low pressure. Islington Council provided temporary accommodation for those affected and urged the public to avoid the closed area while repairs continued overnight.
4. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/burst-water-main-islington-b1242328.html> - The Evening Standard reported that about 30 people were evacuated after a 36‑inch water main burst in Islington, causing flooding up to around 40 cm. Ten fire engines and seventy firefighters from local stations were described as responding to a protracted incident that affected Canonbury Street, Essex Road, Elmore Street, Halliford Street and Ecclesbourne Road. Emergency services received more than twenty calls after 10pm, with Thames Water, Islington Council and the Metropolitan Police also attending. Residents were advised not to drive through flood water and to avoid the area while crews worked to make the scene safe and restore normality.
5. <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/uk/burst-water-main-islington-homes-evacuated-as-areas-under-around-40cm-of-water-5264986> - NationalWorld reported that a burst water main in Islington forced about thirty residents from homes and left roads under about forty centimetres of water. The London Fire Brigade said ten fire engines and seventy firefighters were on scene, calling the incident protracted and urging the public to avoid Canonbury Street and nearby Essex Road, Elmore Street, Halliford Street and Ecclesbourne Road. Emergency services received more than twenty calls after 10pm. Thames Water confirmed engineers were on site to investigate and repair the damaged pipe, while local authorities assisted evacuated residents and warned of disruption to traffic and local water supplies.
6. <https://newswav.com/article/burst-water-main-floods-islington-streets-as-dozens-evacuated-from-their-ho-A2508_dZ8jne> - Newswav carried coverage that a burst water main in Islington caused flooding across multiple streets and forced around thirty people to evacuate from Canonbury Street and nearby roads on Sunday evening. Reports quoted the London Fire Brigade, which mobilised ten fire engines and about seventy firefighters and said flood depths reached roughly forty centimetres. Thames Water sent engineers to locate and repair the damage. Islington Council and the Metropolitan Police assisted evacuees and urged residents to avoid the area. Disruption to traffic and local water supplies was expected as repairs continued into the following day and services were interrupted locally.
7. <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9oj9bk> - The Evening Standard video hosted on Dailymotion shows flooded streets in Islington after a burst water main, reporting that around thirty residents were evacuated from homes on Canonbury Street and nearby roads. Visuals show water reaching doorsteps, vehicles partially submerged and crews erecting barriers. The narration confirms ten fire engines and about seventy firefighters attended, with Thames Water and police assisting. Viewers are urged to avoid the area and not to drive through flood water. The clip highlights the scale of the incident, deployment of flood barriers and sandbags, and warns of protracted disruption to local traffic and water services.