

Description of Severn Bore

Although the Severn Bore was known to the Romans, the earliest written description of a Bore was only written around 1780 by Sir Charles Blagden, a noted physician. He watched the bore at Lower Parting, the point where the River Severn divides into two channels at Gloucester.

"As the head of the tide approaches, this roaring is more frequently repeated and every time louder, till at length one can be very certain from the sound that it is just at hand. The first thing to be seen is the dashing of water with great violence over the distant banks, and about the same time the current ceases to run downward. This prepares the bystanders, who naturally fix their eyes, with eager expectation, on the most distant part of the river that appears in view, being, as was mentioned, about 200 yards off; here are commonly some men in boats to meet the tide, and some dogs are thrown in just as it comes, to observe their howling and distress. On a sudden, the boats and dogs are instantaneously raised up and thrown into violent agitation, and at the same time a vast wave or wall of water, reaching across the whole channel of the Severn, and dashing everywhere over its banks, is seen approaching with extreme rapidity. In a few moments it breaks violently against the point with a vast surge and prodigious noise, the wave is instantly divided by the shock, and each part rushing up its proper channel in the same manner as before is quickly out of sight."