

Wendover Canal Trust – May 2023 Work Party Report

The ten-day May work party started on 10th May. An extra day was arranged before the work party to pump excess water from the work area.

The plan was to continue the canal lining, by completing the 40m laid during April and profiling the next 40m ready for relining during June.

At the end of 11th May, our chairman received a request from Canal and River Trust which led to the following announcement:

Throughout our restoration we have always ensured that we adhere to relevant legislation, work closely with CRT, and have their approval for what we do and the methods used. CRT have asked us to pause work temporarily in order to carry out a joint review. The review is to ensure that current methods continue to meet latest environmental standards etc. This is being progressed as quickly as possible and we thank you for your patience and understanding meanwhile. We will keep you informed of progress.

Health, Safety and Environment

No accidents or near misses were reported during the work party.

Canal lining.

The offside bank was protected with solid concrete blocks and the coir roll was placed on top.



Offside protected with concrete blocks and coir roll.

Due to the CRT suspension no other work was carried out to the relining.

Memorial Bench

A memorial bench was transported to the site of the winding hole near Buckland and was installed on a concrete base.



Memorial Bench at Buckland

Installation of IWA sponsored monolith.

The monolith for Whitehouses Pocket Park was transported to site and installed at Whitehouses.



Newly installed monolith

Tidy Friday Tasks.

A number of 'Tidy Friday' tasks were undertaken, including strimming around saplings and spreading wood mulch, painting the site huts, mowing the paths at Whitehouses.

Training.

The plant that was on site was used to train volunteers.

Volunteers were trained in the use of excavators, dumpers and site trailers.

Hand tool training in the use of strimmers and the Hyundai mower was also given.

Visitors to site.

On Tuesday 16th May the site was visited by Ray Alexander, Chairman of IWA West Country Branch. Ray has been a member of WCT (previously WAT) for many years and has followed the progress of the restoration.

Ray is on the IWA High Level Panel and has been looking into possible funding for highway bridges where A roads have been de-trunked. The old A41 bridge falls for possible funding from this source.

Ray thanks WCT volunteers for the tour and said how impressed he was of the work being carried out.

Outline plan for the June work party

A ten-day work party will start on 7th June 2023. The work will be to continue with 'housekeeping' and 'Tidy Friday' tasks while the suspension from CRT remains in place.

M Bradley, 8th June 2023. V2

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