

Restoration Operations Report August 2019

Health and Safety

We had no reported Health and Safety issues this month.

Topsoil on Whitehouses Spoil tip

This August work party was set out to be a two-week effort and we had good volunteer Team Leader and Volunteer cover. The primary task was to import 680 tonnes of topsoil and spread it evenly on the area known as the Whitehouses spoil tip. This exercise was predicted to be weather sensitive due to the transit of the delivery trucks over the neighbouring farmland, so we allowed extra time for the possibility of bad weather affecting the traction available. At the end of the exercise we had received 36 eight wheeled truck topsoil loads each of which was just over 18 tonnes. The trucks were able to cross the 800m of farmland to deliver without a problem but then got wheelspin when empty and climbing back up the hill.



(Photo by Tony Borrill)

The topsoil was moved by using excavators and dumpers to get an even coverage over the whole of the area.



This what the area looked like after the delivered soil was spread.

You might remember that particular August week when it was very good weather and then it rained and rained! Deliveries were stopped from the Friday, over the weekend until Tuesday the week after, when fair weather was promised. The last 9 truck loads were delivered on the Tuesday and our weather contingency had been vindicated!

Mooring Wall concrete block reinforcing

During the spoil delivery programme, we also had a team working on the blocks laid in July. The first task was to fill the hollow concrete blocks with more concrete and then to lift two rows of solid blocks and install reinforced concrete in their place. The reinforcing will add stability to the blocks when the additional “concrete sleeping policemen” are laid on the bed Bentomat later.



Filling the hollow concrete blocks with concrete and de-aerating with a vibrating poker.



This was the result.



And the inevitable view from Bridge 4

Whitehouses Fences removed Hut and Toilet moves

The time had come to clear the Whitehouses compound and the first stage was to remove the Heras fencing from the whole area. We are keeping the public away from the works with a fence next to Bridge 4.

The green storage hut was cleared out, the hut moved to its new home on a ledge the other side of Bridge 4 and the contents neatly stored away. The hut has a fence round it to add extra security.



And this is how it was moved

Yes, we do have a picture of the toilet being moved by its special lifter.



Shortly after this picture was taken, the ancient plywood began to fail, and it was gently lowered. A new lift technique using slings/strops was used. The toilet has now been serviced and is ready to be trundled back down to the work site.

Bulk excavation on the Tring side of Bridge 4



View from Bridge 4 looking towards Little Tring. The bank has been marked out and vegetation clearance and bulk excavation started



Green Storage hut now on the other side of Bridge 4

Pipeline depth examination

In order to decide what should be done with the pipeline between Bridge 4 and Little Tring, it was necessary to establish the depth of the pipe below eventual bed level.



We found the pipe which was in good condition and at 1.75m below final bed level. This was a short distance from the Lamp hole.

Fence at border with Whitehouses spoil tip

Another job to do: - This fence was started and will separate the Whitehouse area from the farmland that has the topsoil on it. The farmer next door will add sheep fencing to this structure.



The view from Bridge 4

Yes, here it is! The view at the end of the work party.



In this view the Whitehouses area can be seen, with no fencing, and the top soiled land beyond. There is still some levelling and landscaping to do.

Team Leader Training

We have had a couple of volunteers offer to become team leaders and they were briefed over the course of this work party regarding Volunteer welfare, health and safety practices and of course cracking the psychological whip!!

Once these people feel confident that they can lead a work party day (and we are happy with them) they will get further, mentored, experience before being on their own with a volunteer team.

The end is in sight

Work finished on the second Thursday and next day the machines went off site (third Friday). All in all, a busy month!

Tony Bardwell