

July 2019 on the site



Photo - Tony Borrill

This month we had a slightly extended work party week with two weekends included and with good weather made excellent progress.

Bridge 4 is still the best vantage point to see the difference from each month's report. Most of the work has been to excavate the bed in front of the mooring wall, line it with Bentomat and then lay approximately 2,000 concrete blocks to form the canal bed. You will be able to see that the lining and blocking will need to be finished at each end as and when those adjacent features are finished. The blocks will also need to be concreted at the junction with the mooring wall

and at the hollow block end to keep them all in position until the bed mat and spoil are placed in position.

On the towpath side the Bentomat liner was extended to the Bridge 4 wall and the solid and hollow concrete blocks were concreted in place. All the exposed mat on the towpath bank was back filled with spoil, except for the last metre or so to allow it to be connected to the wall later.

On the offside the last few metres of the bank Bentomat/blocks were back filled to cover as much mat as possible.



View under bridge 4



Left - View from top of bridge 4

Bentomat blocking and back filling up to Bridge 4 abutments.



Tidy Friday

The team were out and about cutting the grass and weeds back in various areas. Some more scrub was pulled up to clear the offside area ready for tree planting this autumn.

Site Visitors

We had a visit from Laura Summerbell who works for Canal and River Trust as a Volunteering Leader. Laura is new to this job and was keen to see what we have been doing and what we intend to do in the future. Laura's role is to assist the various Volunteers that are associated with CRT (not just restoration work).

Laura was shown round the various working areas by Leanda Richardson and for each area Leanda explained the progress and the issues requiring attention both for the physical work needed and the help and attention required from CRT and other bodies such as Herts County Council.

We took the opportunity to explain our relationship with CRT and the team at Milton Keynes.

We had yet another delivery of concrete blocks to replace the items used on the mooring wall bed.

Health and safety

The safety and well being of our volunteers is always our first priority and a couple of relatively minor handling incidents this month have led us to review procedures to avoid in future.

Tony Bardwell