

Operations report for June 2019

Health and Safety

We had a minor injury to a finger this month. This was caused by being trapped between two concrete blocks whilst they were being laid. The result was a small flap of skin on the fingertip. The wound was cleaned up and bandaged. Apparently, healing is going well.

We move and handle many concrete blocks and there is little scope for changing the method or introducing handling tools beyond what we already have. Unless anyone has any bright ideas?

The view from Bridge 4 (several views this month)



The main thing to note is that the lining is now right up to bridge 4.

Despite storm Miguel the spoil available to back fill the banks was far too dry to allow it to be placed to the correct thickness. However later in the week we had lashings of wind and rain but too late to help us. The exposed Bentomat will withstand some weathering and we will cover it up next month.

As can be seen in this picture and the next is that the lower edge of the mooring wall has now been exposed ready for the bed lining to be laid and blocks put on to the mat. The line of spoil that can be seen was placed there for next time in the hope that it will have soaked up the “right” amount of moisture so that we can use it to backfill the bank.



In this view the soil on top of the mooring wall has been scraped back and levelled to start creating a grassed area. Most of the scrub and dead wood has been removed. The remaining desirable trees have been reduced in height and “pollarded”. New trees have been planted and lots more are due in the Autumn.

The point where the towpath lining has been stopped is where several features meet up. There will be concrete, and block work to connect with the pipe capping, the bridge bed and the bank lining blocks. The Bentomat will be tailored round the various features as we go.



The view above shows the end of the bridge support wall (abutment) and the lining so far.



Another view from the top of the mooring wall

Landscaping with Tidy Friday

Work continued on the whole area, stretching from the mooring wall right back to the Whitehouses compound. The previous pictures show the extent of the works. Also, as can be seen in the view above, that hard work has now created the start of a grassy picnic/mooring area.

The grass area around the Little Tring Winding hole and the "Oak tree" was cut back and tidied up.

Other things

We are considering another two-week work party for July. An extra week could be added after the advertised dates. This would depend on the level of volunteer support indicated.

I hope to hear from you!

Tony Bardwell

Operations director