



Wendover Arm Trust

Operations Report 19th January 2021 Volunteer version

Website: - <https://wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/>

Overview

We can usually find a way to solve every problem that slows down the restoration. What is stopping us now is not mud, flooding, lack of funds or volunteer numbers. What is stopping us are a large amount of exceedingly small molecules that need to invade our living cells to reproduce. The molecules are too small to see with a light-based microscope, yet their effect is visible over all the canal restoration community.

The January work party was abandoned, and it is quite likely that the February (and maybe March) work parties will suffer the same fate.

Health and Safety

With no work party we have had no incidents or accidents. However, there are other things happening to maintain our H and S standards.

Mud and water have always been a challenge and driver of potential accidents. The Team Leader group have come up with a potentially better way of shifting the water and slurry into the restored section beyond Bridge 4 back to bridge 4a. We plan to use the centre plastic pipes from the Bentomat rolls which turn out to be 110mm diameter and the same as sewer pipe connectors. This will allow a semi-permanent large diameter drainage system.

We have also been given permission from CRT to use the pile of old stop planks we have on site and use them as we see fit. These will be used to create temporary bunds to control mud and water flow in short sections of canal.

To make handling and laying of the Bentomat easier with less labour and heavy lifting, we are currently evaluating a Bentomat handling excavator attachment that will take an uncut roll and place it directly along the canal bank. We will find someone who can do stress calculations and ask them to do some calculations for safety and insurance of a lifting tool.

Work has been done on how we set out and fix the concrete pipe capping formwork to the excavated bed. To save time and effort and greatly reduce the possibility of the form work moving during concreting, the end design of the form work (150 mm high x 4m long) will be changed to give interlocking sections and a new type of clamp mechanism that holds the formwork at the correct height on the pins inserted in the bed.

Risk assessments and process instructions will be needed before we use this equipment.

Excavating the Historic refuse tip.

The Tip Project group was set up to evaluate the best way to get the tip material off site using the various options that we now know about. This Group is currently working with CRT and sub-contractors to finalise the various agreements and contracts for the Trial phase.

There are other important aspects being worked on. We need a licence to use the triangle of land next to our existing car park. The proposed licence agreement has now reached the Herts County Council legal team and we await their decision.

CRT have applied for pre-planning permission for the proposed new/modified highway entrance on the HCC triangle and for moving the hazardous/non-hazardous tip material off site. We now await to see what advice the HCC planning people will tell us.

Leanda Richardson

As many of you know, Leanda has decided to steer her volunteering activities towards the NHS where she has contributed before.

Leanda has made a big contribution to the Operations side of the restoration, not only working on site, and getting sunburnt, wet, and muddy, but working in the “back office” on all manner of Operations tasks. Here are a couple of pictures showing Leanda typically smiling and getting on with the job!



Neither of these pictures could be said to add glamour but, of course, glamour comes from within!

Leanda has promised to come back to the work site now and again just to get the feel of the mud in her hair and rainwater in her boots. We will look forward to it.

Tony Bardwell

Operations Director