



Wendover Arm Trust

Operations Report 9 February 2021

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

Overview

April is now the earliest month that we are likely to resume work on site, but that does depend on when the Covid 19 vaccination programme reaches our volunteers and when they feel comfortable with being on site with others.

Health and Safety

No work parties = no incidents or accidents. However, there are other things happening to maintain our future H and S programme.

To make handling and laying of the Bentomat easier with less labour and heavy lifting, we are designing a Bentomat handling excavator attachment that will take an uncut roll and place it directly along the canal bank at 45 degrees. The required stress calculations have been done for safety and insurance of a lifting tool, and, where required, the design has been modified to make improvements. We have a contracting company prepared to manufacture the lifting rig, as and when the design can be signed off for safety. A 13-tonne excavator will probably be required to lift the mass of a Bentomat roll and the rig and we are looking for a suitable (cheap/scrap!) bucket so that the lifting bars etc. that connect to an excavator can be cut off and welded to the lifting rig.

Our experience over the last year has shown that we need more Volunteers to be First Aid trained. Some of the shortfall has been caused by existing trained volunteers not coming on site (for various personal reasons) and, we have been running extended work parties with new volunteers.

The existing First Aid trained Volunteers will soon require a 2-day refresher course and new volunteers will need a three-day course. The training level will be to First Aid at Work (FAW) standard which is a transferrable qualification. The training will be free to any volunteers wishing to attend the locally run course.

The only stipulations that we have are that you should be willing and able to potentially attend the work site for one or two days per work party.

If you feel that you can be a first aider, then we want to hear from you!

Excavating and removing the Historic refuse tip.

Our Project group, set up to get the tip material off site, has been working hard. The group is currently working with CRT and sub-contractors to finalise the various agreements and contracts for the first Trial phase.

Herts County Council/Dacorum Planning advised that the work can be carried out under "Permitted development", however we may need to seek advice from the Highways Department for the road access issues to the site.

Early March has been set as a target start date for the Trial excavation.

For the removal of the bulk of the tip, the Group are evaluating the proposals from several major companies. Based on the advice from those companies, we will be making some more small excavations to take samples for lab analysis. The reason is that some parts of the tip will be "non-hazardous", and this means the material can go a short road distance straight to landfill. A major part of the tip clearance costs is road haulage, and the hazardous/remediation sites are all further away than the basic landfill sites.

Some areas are known to contain a small, local, amount of bonded Asbestos (probably a more modern “disposal”) and we need to establish and segregate the Asbestos in the correct manner. It should be noted that the “unique to the Wendover Arm” Coal tar lining will be staying on site.

Volunteer skills survey

Thank you for those that offered their “other” skills, the information has been safely recorded.

Water in the canal

As you may have noticed, there has been a lot of rain! It may have dried out a bit before we can get back on site.....



This is the “dry” section looking back towards Bridge 4!!



This is the view from Bridge 4 looking back towards Whitehouses and that is a bit wet as well.

Tony Bardwell Operations Director