

Wendover Canal Operations Report for May 2021

PIPE CAPPING

What we call “Pipe Capping” is protecting the canal from collapse into the route of a water supply pipeline, which was installed under the bed of the canal from 1906-10. We use ready-mix concrete reinforced with steel mesh. This is going at a pace despite this month’s very variable weather. We have decided to make the capping wider than in previous years, as we intend to use it as a roadway as well (which will save time and therefore money in plant hire). It is now 2.6 M wide, which is going to be a huge advantage to us in the wet months as we will not be up to our knees in MUD.

This work-party we have completed a record 125 M of capping/roadway. We have had 5 days of concrete deliveries, with 3 x 4 cubic M loads each day, which required 60 dumper journeys carrying 1 cubic metre at a time. These concrete days have been a minimum of 1 day apart, to allow us to dig out and level ready for the next concrete. We also have a new shuttering system based on the steel road formers but in timber, this has made the levelling so much easier and therefore quicker. Our hired 6 tonne dumpers just fit within the shuttering and can drop the ready-mix straight into position.



Note Bridge 4 receding into the distance. Below is the same scene, only 3 hours and 2 deliveries later:



[continues...

The picture below shows how the concrete is delivered, down into the dumper behind the lorry:



[continues...]

BRICKWORK BRIDGE 4

This is an ongoing project; the more we uncover of the brickwork, the more we find needs repairing. Loose bricks were cut out, and new or re-used bricks were laid, most days throughout the extended fortnight. There's always room for another bricklayer, so any more budding bricklayers out there, please contact operations@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk .



HEALTH AND SAFETY

Covid 19 team-working all went well because we had two areas of working, no reported incidents this month.

HUT 3

This hut (by the car park) has now been additionally protected from theft, by an even better lock, and cladding the exterior with 18mm ply. This awaits a coat of paint, so any painters out there please come forward.

BADGER WATCH

Checking for signs of any further badger activity in the Tip area, is ongoing.

DRIVER TRAINING

Another 2 Dumper drivers have been authorised. We now have 23 authorised Dumper drivers and 13 10B excavator drivers plus 5 10A excavator drivers. We have more new people joining us all the time and the plan is to have all volunteers who wish to become drivers put through the system and become authorised.

HISTORIC REFUSE TIP

Further excavations are on hold, hopefully for a short time, while we try to get grants to cover the cost.

TIDY FRIDAY

We constructed decking for the new viewing platform at Whitehouses. We put in the base for this on the last Tidy Friday. We also spent time designing base for the IWA tree seating.



Compiled on behalf of Tony Bardwell, by John Reynolds with help from Clive Johnson. Any feedback to webmaster@wendoverarmtrust.co.uk .