



Wendover Arm Trust

Operations Report 23 June 2021

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

Overview

Dry and sunny with all with all work completed just before we had 70mm or rain in two days! The weather was with us for once

Pipe capping

This section of canal has an 18" glazed clay pipe installed underneath to allow water from Wendover to reach the pumping station when the canal was "dried" many years ago. Due to the age of the pipe (which is now abandoned and blocked) protective measures must be taken to avoid damage to the new lining system if the pipe ever collapses. A concrete "raft" or capping is being installed to do that.

The pipe capping/roadway has continued at a pace during the good weather. We now have 245 m of capping from bridge 4. During the recent works the second "lamp hole" into the pipeline was reached. As can be seen in the picture, the lamp hole is close to the towpath because of the glazed clay piping being laid in straight lines. The next section of pipe goes off at a different angle to "graze" the offside apex of the next bend to the right. The lamp hole pipe was cut down below bed level and covered with a concrete slab before the normal pipe capping concrete was installed.



This is the top of the "lamp hole" to enable inspection of the water flow 2m down in the pipeline. To the left is the towpath.

Here we are 245 m from Bridge 4 which is now not visible round the corner





Pipe capping progress has been much improved by placing the concrete “form work” wider apart to allow dumper access. The result is also a wider “road” that will be used for subsequent excavation and lining work thus avoiding the churned mud we usually suffer from in winter.

Whilst excavating the bed for the capping we are going below the coal tar lining and the original excavation level when the canal was originally built. The local strata are very hard primeval chalk and, even with modern diesel-powered excavators, this is difficult work! We can imagine the Navvies digging through this by hand, it must have been slow and tiring. Later, when the pipeline was installed, the steam powered excavator probably struggled to get to 2m down as well! Luckily the pipeline excavation shows us where the pipeline is buried.

Swing Bridge brick work restoration

Work on the old Swing bridge walls has been continued. The foundations for a curved wall have now been built up with heritage bricks to form a “lead in” from the 45-degree banks to the width between the swing bridge walls. This must be robustly built to withstand boating “errors” for many years to come!



The Old Swing Bridge walls are meticulously repaired with heritage bricks and lime mortar after the loose bricks and old mortar have been removed

The “training” wall begins to take shape complete with stop plank recess. We will repeat this on the offside bank as well!



Two “brick Wranglers” hard at work

Memorial Benches

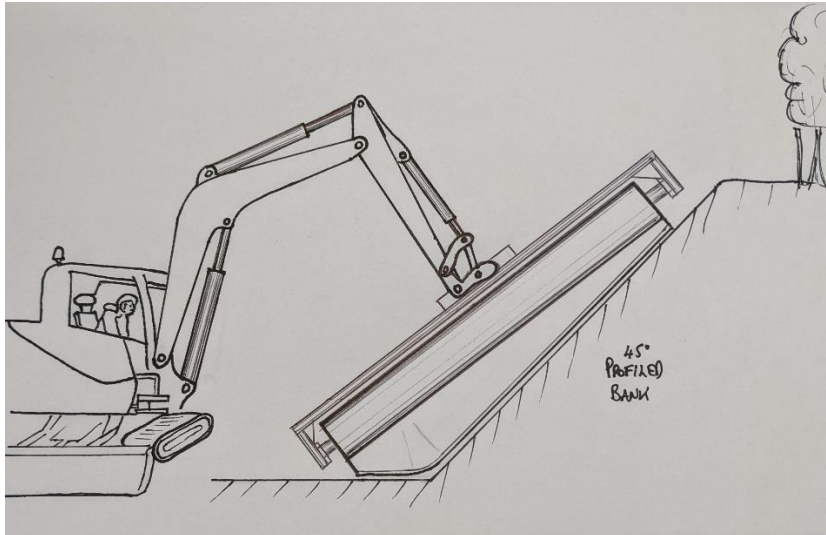
The first of several Memorial Benches was “planted” on the offside bank near to Whitehouses.



A short rest after securing a Memorial Bench. Good Job!

Bentomatic

We are still developing a new method for laying the Bentomat lining by use of an excavator. This uses a fabricated steel structure so that a Bentomat roll can be lifted and manipulated with an Excavator. The framework has been designed, stress proven by analysis and built by a specialist Company. Special welding techniques were used to guarantee the joint strength required. A roll of Bentomat weighs around 1 tonne so a 13 tonne Excavator is required to avoid tipping over. After initial trials, some adjustments have been made, and it is hoped more trials can commence in July.



An Artists impression of the Bentomatic in use.

This equipment has been nicknamed in honour of Wallace and Gromit.

When in use the reliance of manually handling the Bentomat and the subsequent difficulties involved will be much eliminated. We will also not have to spend time and energy cutting the large Bentomat roll into smaller pieces to aid handling.

Historical refuse Tip

Following on from some intense work clearing the tip area (including the Bentomat cutting slab!) and obtaining several technical proposals from Hazardous material removal specialists, we are now in the process of further analysing the material in the tip. This has been done after we were given advice by one of the potential contractors and it may mean that we can reduce the cost of removal of the material if we can show the material is less hazardous than previously thought. The results will be available towards the end of July.

Tidy Friday

Tidy Friday turned out to be torrential Friday with 70mm or rain falling in just 2 days. Two hardy volunteers strimmed round Roger Leishman's memorial tree, saw the plant machines off site and then went home to dry out!

Health and safety

One incident of a concrete splash to an eye. Washed out satisfactorily with a sterile eyewash

Wanted

An Archivist to sort out and help store hundreds of pictures on our cloud-based archive. We have many historical pictures that need to be stored for multiple access users. Once we have a viable storage and description procedure, extra help will be provided to get the pictures into the cloud.

Tony Bardwell

Wendover Arm Trust Operations Director