

Wendover Canal Trust – December 2022 Work Party Report

The one-week December work party started on 2nd December.

The plan was to backfill the Bentomat laid out during the October work party, then roll out the bed mat and backfill with spoil. The sluice gate at Whitehouses was planned for repair.

The work party was followed by a Waterway Recovery Group BITM (bit in the middle) weekend dig.

Wet weather prior to the work party hampered activities on site.

Health, Safety and Environment

There was a complaint about a site bonfire burning plastic. The policy on using bonfires will be reviewed.

Removable edge protection was fitted to the site trailer because volunteers need to stand on the trailer bed when unloading concrete blocks.

Bridge 4.

The area around Bridge 4 was tidied up and surplus materials moved back to the compound.

Whitehouses Sluice Gate

A new gasket was cut and fitted to the backing plate to the sluice gate. The gate was refitted and the operation checked. A water test could not be carried out because of the lack of water in the canal.



New gasket cut and fitted.



The sluice gate refitted.

A separate report detailing the work carried out to the sluice gate will be prepared for Canal and River Trust records.

Canal Channel

The day before the work party, water lying in the canal channel was pumped out to allow work to progress, however the spoil that had been stockpiled on the canal bed in November was too wet to support the weight of the excavator, so it was not possible to backfill these sections of the bank as had been planned.

Some spoil was placed on the banks where the bed mat had not been rolled out.

(Below...)

Rough profiling of both banks was carried out along the canal channel from the last lined section towards our car park.

The spoil was used to backfill sections of the former tip where the ash has been removed and the towpath bank needed widening.



Spoil placed on the towpath bank.



Rough profiling off side bank.



Spoil placed to widen towpath bank.

Odd Jobs

On Wednesday the 5t excavator broke down and couldn't be fixed.

Alternative work was undertaken by the volunteers.

The Armco barrier around the winding hole that was used as edge protection during Phase 1 of the restoration was taken down and moved back to the compound.

The picnic bench at Whitehouses was moved to an area close to Bridge 4 on the offside.



Picnic bench at Bridge 4

Tidy Friday

Tidy Friday was spent planting tree and hedge whips at the winding hole and along the offside fence at the narrows.

Some reeds at the winding hole were cut by hand.



Tree planting at the winding hole.

Site Visits

On Wednesday 7th December the site was visited by Ross Field, IWA Operations Manager.

He was impressed by the scale of the work that was being undertaken by Wendover Canal Trust Volunteers.

He is going to pass on his father's contact details because he thinks he would be interested in volunteering with us.



Another site visitor during Tidy Friday.

BITM weekend

The main activity during the BITM weekend was to install the fence between Little Tring Farm and the canal.

16 volunteers were on site and completed the fence installation.

In addition to the fence some of their volunteers continued with the rough profiling of the canal channel.

WCT thanks go to the BITM group.

(BITM – Bit in the Middle (of England))



BITM installing the fence on a cold and frosty morning.

Outline plan for the January work party

A one-week work party may start on 6th January 2023, this will be weather dependent. The work will be the continuation of backfilling, if it is possible, rolling out and backfilling the canal bed and the final profiling of the canal banks.

M Bradley, 13th December 2022. V