

Wendover Canal Trust – January 2023 Work Party Report

The one-week January work party started on Friday 6th January. The plan was to roll out the bed mat and backfill with spoil. The sluice gate at Whitehouses was planned for testing if water was available.

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

A big thank you to the volunteers who turned out during the week.

Health, Safety and Environment

No accidents or incidents were reported.

Bridge 4.

A gate was constructed, and fitted into the new fence at Bridge 4.



Whitehouses

The sign at Whitehouses had blown down. It was refitted in place.

Although there had been a lot of rain the water levels above Bridge 4a were still low.

Some filling of the canal channel occurred, but not enough to fill the canal in front of Whitehouses to test the sluice gate.



Canal Channel

The day before the work party, water lying in the canal channel was pumped out to allow work to progress.

The canal bed still had some standing water which mixed with the spoil to create a slurry making working conditions very muddy.



Wet conditions in the canal bed.

Approximately 35m of bed mat was rolled out along the base of the canal.

Concrete 'sleeping policemen' (struts across the canal to provide support) laid, and banks backfilled where we could reach.

Surplus spoil was placed in the canal bed ready to complete the backfilling of the banks later in the year.



The start of rolling out the bed mat.

Odd Jobs

The green fencing along the towpath was tidied up and extended towards the car park. Windy conditions are likely to un-do some of the good work.

The WCT survey team established level control points through the car park to the Narrows. These will allow the canal profile to be set out accurately. In addition some control points were set up through the former tip area.



Level control point.



Control point in the tip area.

Tidy Friday

Tidy Friday was spent strimming the triangular area near the winding hole and planting trees.

When established the trees will provide a barrier to limit public access to the badger setts in the triangle.



Site Visits

On Friday 13th January, Gagan Mohindra, MP for the local South West Herts constituency visited the site.



Gagan Mohindra with WCT Chairman, Clive Johnson.

Corporate Volunteering Days

Two corporate volunteering days are planned for 16th and 26th January. These will be reported in the next operations report.

Outline plan for the February work party

A one-week work party will start on 3rd February 2023, this will be weather dependent. The work will be the continuation of rolling out and backfilling the canal bed and the final profiling of the canal banks.

WCT have been commissioned by Canal and River Trust to carry out vegetation work between Wendover and Halton in preparation of the towpath improvements later in the year. This work will be carried out during the February work party.

M Bradley, 14th January 2023. V2