**WENDOVER CANAL TRUST**

**WAT PROC 006**

**Rewatering.**

**Monitoring, safety, and risk management**

**[www.wendoverarmtrust.co.uk](https://wendoverarmtrust.co.uk/)**

**Registered Charity No. 801190**

**Document Location**

The editable version of this document is held by the Wendover Canal Trust Operations Director. It is available to all members of the Wendover Canal Trust and the public via the Wendover Canal Trust’s website:

[www.wendovercanal.org.uk](http://www.wendovercanal.org.uk)

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**Revision History**

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| **Issue** | **Date** | **Author** | **Summary of changes** |
| Issue 2 | Nov 26 2021 | A. Bardwell | Incorporates missing words and typo corrections. |

Notes: -

1/ Please see WAT PROC 004 for The Rewatering Method Statement.

2/ The rewatering process is to be done in two stages with a different water level for each stage.

1. Monitoring

1.1 Programme /timetable

The method statement has two stages. The first calls for the water level to be up to Whitehouses Apron Level and if all looks OK, go on to the full Wendover stream level.

Monitoring is required once per day after the bund has been opened on 27th November.

Previous rewatering events have shown that it can take weeks rather than days to rewater a new section. There are too many variables to make a reliably more accurate estimate.

Depending on the water flow rate this may run to the start of the January working party. Monitoring is also required over Xmas & New Year holidays.

Once the water level has reached the Whitehouses apron level the board needs to be put back in the bund at bridge 4a to stop the water flow.

At this stage monitoring can be reduced to once every other day if there are no issues or problems arising.

Monitoring of the whole section, including the water level, will continue for several weeks and reports made to CRT who will decide on the acceptability of the leakage before we can move to the next stage.

With permission given from CRT, the bund board can be fully removed and kept nearby in case of emergency.

During the second filling process we need to revert to monitoring once per day until the section is perceived to be at Wendover stream level. At this point the bund board has to be put back into position to cut the possibility water flow into the section.

Note that it is possible that water will flow through the three arches at Whitehouses and over the weir position (with no weir boards) and thus flow into the Wilstone culvert. If this happens, we will need to monitor the water flow until it stops and then monitor for further water level drop due to leakage or evaporation.

If there are no issues or perceived problems, we can revert to monitoring every other day.

Water level readings need to be taken, recorded, and passed to CRT for information.

CRT will decide the timescale and acceptability of the leakage rate in the section and when they will give permission to remove the board at Bridge 4a bund.

Note also that we may be able to reduce the frequency of monitoring if there are no issues or problems.

1.2 Instructions for Monitors

Resource volunteering to monitor should undertake the task at approximately the same time every day, no later than 10am each morning. When the water level starts to rise against the Stop Planks a second monitoring walk might be introduced at 14:00 until the water level is stable. The afternoon monitoring time has to consider the actions that might be subsequently needed to correct a problem and the time that darkness makes working impossible or too risky.

Monitor volunteers will be instructed by a Zoom meeting with all the monitoring volunteers, particularly those who aren’t Team Leaders, they will be informed about all of the logistics, lock codes, access to tools etc This is also an opportunity for them to ask questions and seek clarity.

Only Monitors that have been fully briefed can conduct the monitoring process.

It will be made clear to all monitors that the task may well include taking remedial action when onsite, not just reporting status. (Arrive appropriately dressed in Wellies and hi viz etc)

Once the re-watering commences as many volunteers / supporters should be encouraged to walk the Tow path to provide extra eyes on the situation as well as the official monitoring person.

During Work Parties, if possible, the Team Leaders should be responsible for the inspection, including machine delivery days and Tidy Friday.

1.3 Role of the Monitor

A monitor who has added his name to the roster list must inform the Operations Director if he is unable to attend at the allotted time/date. This must be done in a timely manner to allow a suitable substitute to be appointed.

* An adult volunteer who will undertake a daily visual check of the water levels between bridge 4a and 4 no later than 10am
* monitor the canal banks, Whitehouses brickwork and Stop planks at bridge 4 for any leakage
* Monitor the land, particularly on the Tow path side, below the level of the canal for evidence of water puddling. This might indicate leakage that is seeping into the fields
* Record, by taking photographs, of the water height gauge (or other recognisable feature) the level of water in the re-watered section
* At the bridge 4 Stop planks, review the level of seepage through the planks and onto the pond area beyond
* At the Drayton Beauchamp pipeline entrance, the second plastic pipe that allows water to pass through the bund needs to be inspected and cleared of debris if required.
* If necessary, pump water from the pond over the Stop planks back into the watered section of the canal. Two-man operation.
* Report daily to the WCT Operations Director or appointed deputy about the status onsite, any issues identified and share photos
* If required, take remedial action after it has agreed with the WCT contacts and Operations director or his nominated deputy.

2. Risk Assessments

2.1 Scope of risks considered

This document will only focus on specific risks relating to this activity and not the more general risks that could happen anywhere on the restoration work site. The existing work site health and safety documents and procedures are to be followed at all times including the instructions for working close to a body of water.

2.2 Risks specific to the rewatering process

* Failure of WCT built canal infrastructure between bridge 4A and 4, including Stop Planks, resulting in excessive leakage

If any of these risks arise, they will be obvious to a Monitor.

The first mitigation will be to inform, by telephone, the Operations Director, or appointed deputy, of the observation.

The second mitigation will be to replace the stop board to prevent more water going into the section. This can be done after informing the Operations Director or his deputy.

The third mitigation, in the case of a perceived urgent problem, will be to both put the board back into the bund to stop water ingress (as above), and to raise the Whitehouses sluice paddle with the provided windlass to initiate draining the section. This can only be done after informing the Operations Director or his deputy first. Please note that raising the paddle must be done very cautiously. If the flow is too rapid any debris or floating items, such as tree branches, could be drawn into the flow and such items could cause serious blockage problems to the underground culvert system that runs through to Wilstone reservoir. This action must only be considered in the case of a dire emergency.

The fourth mitigation is for the leakage at the stop planks to be excessive. In this case there are three routes available. The first will be to stop the water ingress by use of the board at Bridge 4a bund and that may include also raising the sluice at Whitehouses (with the same permissions required as above). The second would be to use wood ash or other authorised material to stem the leak, or thirdly bring a water pump in to use. Water pumping action requires the attendance of a second person for safety reasons. (Both of these would need the Operations Director or his deputy to give permission)

There must be no attempt to stem any stop plank leakage by entering the rewatering section to reach the “wet side” of the stop planks unless the water level is reduced to a minimum.

3. Contacts and who should be informed

Wendover Canal Trust contacts in the first instance will be the Operations Director. 01296 634973 07798640675. Also reachable by text and WhatsApp and “operations @wendovercanal.org.uk”

The canal and River Trust contact is Mike Wheeler mike.wheeler@canalrivertrust.org.uk ,

07887 545 379 who can be contacted in an emergency. In general, the first point of call is to be the Operations Director who will liaise with Mike Wheeler/CRT as required.

General Communications

The Operations Director will distribute a regular status report to all Volunteer Monitors and key Stakeholders within WCT and CRT

4. Logistics

4.12 Volunteers

The Operations Director will set up a suitable monitor roster list that will be delivered to all volunteers and Monitors.

4.2 Tools and equipment

All tools, pump, hoses, fuel, windlass etc need to be in one wheelbarrow in the car park containers ready to go.

These should be labelled with DO NOT TOUCH OR MOVE for OTHER JOBS. If there is a problem, we need to allow a Monitor to respond with the correct equipment as soon as possible

A petrol-powered water pump and associated equipment should be tested before rewatering and then stored next to the stop planks under a suitable tarpaulin or other waterproof cover such that it is available for immediate use.