

## **Wendover Canal Trust – March 2023 Work Party Report**

The one-week March work party started on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

An extra day was arranged to install a tree seat at Whitehouses on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

The plan was to continue the canal lining and the seal the stop planks at Bridge 4 from leaking water.

The installation of a memorial bench and tree seat was also planned.

### **Health, Safety and Environment**

No accidents or near misses were reported during the work party.

### **Canal lining.**

The bed of the canal was prepared so that the next section of Bentomat could be rolled out and joined to the previous section.

A section of the current Bentomat was cut off where this had been submerged for the last 2 months.

The new roll of Bentomat was joined and rolled out over approximately 20m. Sleeping policemen (Concrete struts placed across the bed of the canal to protect the join and to provide support at the base of the walls) were cast and the Bentomat backfilled.



**Bentomat joined and sleeping policeman cast.**

A patch repair was made to the Bentomat where the new roll was seen to be damaged when it was being installed.



**Patch repair to Bentomat.**

The surplus roll of Bentomat was raised off the canal bed and secured on hollow concrete blocks and covered with sheeting to protect it from the weather.



**Surplus Bentomat stored on blocks.**

The canal banks were profiled.

Towards the car park 'rough' profiling was carried out.

This excavates the banks down to the former coal tar lining.

Final profiling to receive Bentomat was carried out on the towpath side for approximately 40m.



**Final profile to the towpath (left) side.**

### **Stop plank sealing.**

In order to seal the stop planks at Bridge 4, temporary stop planks were installed at Bridge 4a and the canal was drained down by opening the sluice (penstock) at Whitehouses. This was done under the supervision of CRT.

The lifting handles were removed from the back of the stop planks and a tarpaulin was installed. The tarpaulin was secured in the bed of the canal with sandbags and up the sides using Bentomat and timber battens. The top was secured with a timber batten.



**Tarpaulin secured in place.**

Once the tarpaulin was secured, the sluice at Whitehouses was closed and the temporary stop planks at Bridge 4a were removed to allow water to flow back into the canal.

Very little seepage through the stop planks was observed and at the end of the work party the canal level had risen to approx 600mm below the top of the concrete walls at Bridge 4.



### Successful sealing of the stop planks.

During the work party a lot of the water that had accumulated in the canal bed was pumped out in order to allow the backfill material to dry out so that later in the year the final section of bank backfill can be completed.



Before



After

## **Tidy Friday**

The weather on Friday was too bad so the day was cancelled.

## **Extra day Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

The circular seat provided by IWA Chiltern Branch was installed at the Whitehouses Pocket park.



## **Visitors to site**

Jenny Hodson visited the site to talk about the Waterway Recovery Group Family camp planned for April.

## **Outline plan for the April work party**

A ten-day work party will start on 12<sup>th</sup> April 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, together with completion of the Little Tring towpath.

M Bradley, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023. V2

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