**WENDOVER CANAL TRUST**

**METHOD STATEMENT**

**FOR**

**Sealing the Stop Planks at Bridge 4**

Wendover Canal Bringing it to Life - Wendover Canal Trust

**Registered Charity No. 801190**

**Document Location**

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

Wendover Canal Bringing it to Life - Wendover Canal Trust

Printed copies may be out-of-date. The latest version is held on the Wendover Canal Trust’s website.

**Revision History**

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| **Issue** | **Date** | **Author** | **Summary of changes** |
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| **Description of work to be carried out:**This method statement covers the work to reduce the water flow through the timber stop planks at Bridge 4. |
| **Hazards associated with task /work:*** Working near water.
* Manual handling.
* Uneven ground.
* Submerged voids in the canal bed.
* Falling materials.
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| **Risk assessments and other method statements / documents to be referred to:**Risk assessment WCTRA S17 Sealing stop planks at Bridge 4. (available on Wendover Canal Bringing it to Life - Wendover Canal Trust) |
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| **Methods to be undertaken:** * The specialist tools (stop plank hooks, T-bar) will be obtained from CRT at Tringford Pumping Station.
* The aluminium stop planks, currently stored in the connecting pipe between the weir area and chamber will be removed and set aside to be returned to CRT.
* CRT will be notified of the release of water.
* The water level in the canal between Whitehouses and Bridge 4 is to be reduced.
* The penstock at Whitehouses will be opened to allow flow into the sump and then into Wlistone reservoir, do not leave the windlass on the wind mechanism.
* The second penstock will be raised to facilitate quicker dewatering form the canal between bridges 4 and 4a (a note will be made of the starting position so that the penstock can be returned to this position later).
* Once the canal water level drops below the bund walls at Whitehouses, the second penstock will be lowered to its starting position.
* When the water has drained from the area between the bund walls the cap will be knocked off the pipe through the bund wall, taking care not to dislodge the pipe.
* When the water has drained from the canal between Whitehouses and Bridge 4 work can start at the stop planks.
* The ‘horse trough’ will be pumped out.
* Materials will be moved to Bridge 4.
* Access will be gained into the canal at bridge 4 by a suitably secured ladder (CAUTION: the bed of the canal may be soft and hide voids and there is a drop in the canal bed at the Wendover end of the bridge hole).
* The lifting handles will be removed from the stop planks using hand tools and returned to the store in the site compound.
* Any debris will be removed from the wet side of the stop planks using suitable hand tools.
* The tarpaulin will be opened out and spread out centrally across the wet side of the stop planks.
* The top of the tarpaulin will be temporarily supported on the stop planks using sandbags.
* Timber battens will be fitted vertically to the sides of the tarpaulin and wedged into place with horizontal timbers across the canal, no screws or nails are to be used to avoid puncturing the tarpaulin.
* The toe of the tarpaulin will be secured in place using sandbags trodden into the bottom corner.
* The top of the tarpaulin will be secured using a timber batten screwed into position.
* Once the tarpaulin is secured in place the penstock at Whitehouses will be closed and the pipe through the bund wall capped.
* The stop planks at Bridge 4a will be removed to allow water the flood back into the canal.
* The water level and stop planks will be monitored to ensure that there is no leakage through the stop planks.
* The canal will be allowed to refill until the level at Bridge 4a is attained.
* Tools and aluminium stop planks will be returned to CRT.

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| **PPE:** | Hard hats and high visibility jackets to be worn at all times.**Gloves and other appropriate clothing including suitable safety footwear should be worn. Wellington boots will be required by volunteers entering the canal channel.** |
| **PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:** | **Hand tools: specialist tools for operating the penstocks, shovels, battery operated drill.****Materials: timber battens, sand bags, screws, tarpaulin.** |
| **WELFARE FACILITIES:** | **Portaloo on site.**  |
| **FIRST AID:** | **First aid cover will be supplied by the WCT first aiders.** **First aid kit will be carried by first aiders.** |
| **EMERGENCY CONTACTS:****FIRE:** **AMBULANCE SERVICE:****STOKE MADEVILLE HOSPITAL:****HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HOSPITAL:****LOCAL POLICE:** **TRING:** **HEMEL HEMPSTEAD:** **AYLESBURY:** | **IN ANY EMERGENCY DIAL 999****999****01908 262422****01296 315000****01442 213141****01442 827272****01442 271000****01296 396000 Note:****If asked for location by emergency services, it is important that the exact location of the nearest ROAD ACCESS or BRIDGE is provided. Refer to EMERGENCY CALL OUT INFORMATION sheet.** |

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