

Wendover Canal Trust – April 2023 Work Party Report

The ten-day April work party started on 11th April. An extra day was arranged before the work party to pump excess water from the work area.

The plan was to continue the canal lining and to complete the towpath trial at Little Tring. Two trials were planned, the excavation of the coal tar without soil and the burying of contaminated spoil under the canal bed.

Health, Safety and Environment

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

Canal lining.

The first days of the work party were spent carrying out the final profiling of 45m of the bank on both sides of the canal to receive the Bentomat lining.

40m of Bentomat was rolled out on each bank over the middle weekend. The remainder of the work party was spent placing the hollow blocks, concreting the foundation on both sides. On the towpath side solid block and the coir roll was completed. On the offside the hollow blocks were placed, and the foundation concreted.



Towpath side with the blocks placed.

Towpath construction

The trial length of towpath was completed.

The section of towpath was topped with Type 1 to full depth over the last 20m. a surface dressing of fine aggregate was placed, raked and compacted to complete the work.

In total 167m of towpath has been upgraded.



Towpath upgrade complete

Coal Tar Trial.

An attempt was made to try to excavate the coal tar lining off the bank without disturbing the 'clean' clay beneath. The trial was not successful and was abandoned.

Trial to bury the contaminated spoil.

Calculations have shown that there will be an excess of spoil, contaminated with fragments of coal tar from the former canal lining, that would need to be disposed off site.

The disposal of contaminated spoil is 5 times more expensive than 'clean' spoil. A trial was conducted to excavate 'clean' spoil from under the bed of the canal for disposal and the replacement with contaminated spoil.

An excavation, 4.4m wide at the top and 2.5m at the bottom, terraced in 0.6m layers was excavated.



Excavation of terraces below the canal bed.

The excavation was filled with contaminated spoil from the canal channel and compacted in 300mm layers.

It was found that the contaminated spoil was too wet to compact adequately and will be left to consolidate before work is carried out.

An over-burden of spoil will be placed on this to ensure full consolidation prior to the next stage of the work in the area in 12 months time.



Trial excavation backfilled and compacted.

Tidy Friday

The bench at Bridge 4 was reset where it had become loose in its foundation.

Tree saplings were mulched with tree chippings. The grass below the circular bench was strimmed and a tree chipping mulch was applied.

Waterway Recovery Group Family Camp.

Over the weekend Wendover Canal Trust hosted a Waterway Recovery Group (part of the Inland Waterways Association) family camp where 6 families carried out work in the Whitehouses Pocket Park.

The viewing platform was cleaned and given a coat to preservative. Bird boxes were made up and placed in the trees. The post securing the bug hotel was replaced with a more secure one.

It was not all work! The children were led in activities looking at the plants and insects that abound in the pocket park.



Instruction in bug hunting.



Happy Families

Outline plan for the May work party

A ten-day work party will start on 10th May 2023. The work will be to complete the canal lining of the 40m metres laid out in April. The next section of the banks will be profiled ready for laying bentomat.

M Bradley, 22nd April 2023. V2

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