

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

The 5-day work party started on 10<sup>th</sup> July and continued maintenance work around the site compound and the store by the pumping station.

### **Chairman's Update**

We received a request from Canal and River Trust which led to the following announcement: Throughout our restoration we have always ensured that we adhere to relevant legislation, work closely with CRT, and have their approval for what we do and the methods used. CRT have asked us to pause work temporarily in order to carry out a joint review. The review is to ensure that current methods continue to meet latest environmental standards etc.

Since then, WCT have held a number of online meetings with key CRT contacts. The main area for discussion has been the black substance variously referred to as coal tar, bitumen or asphalt, which the Victorians used to line the canal. CRT require further testing of this substance and nearby ground and water, to confirm earlier test results which showed it not to be hazardous. We are liaising with CRT and a specialist testing company, to agree what testing is required. Assuming this testing produces the expected results, which we hope to know by September, there will be some other CRT checks, but these will hopefully be concluded more quickly. Sadly, we are therefore not yet close to being able to re-start full restoration. WCT and CRT are holding a design review meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

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

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

### **Housekeeping jobs.**

The new concrete mixer was moved onto the concrete base and secured with chain and padlock.

Some bramble growing in the site compound area was cut back and a boundary fence erected.



**New boundary fence**

The vegetation was cut back around the timber shed and the roof inspected.

The shed was given a coat of wood preservative.



**Newly treated timber shed.**

Repairs were carried out to the WCT pick-up to secure the timber boards.



**Timber boards secured.**

### **Tidy Friday**

Grass cutting and removal of arisings was carried out at Whitehouses and the pocket park.

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

The work will be to continue with 'housekeeping' and 'Tidy Friday' tasks while the suspension from CRT remains in place.

M Bradley, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023. V1

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