

Wendover Canal Trust – October 2023 Work Party Report

The 5-day work party started on 9th October and continued maintenance work around the site compound.

Chairman's Update

We agreed with CRT what testing should be done. Southern Testing were on-site on the Thursday of this work party, taking samples. We expect a report from them in 4-6 weeks from that date, i.e. the second half of November. We will then discuss the results with CRT and agree any necessary steps.

In addition, Mikk now has to prepare a great deal more paperwork for CRT, well in advance of any task we want to undertake. Mikk will be asking several of you for further help with this. We have also been discussing how to progress the following projects, as debated at the AGM:

- 1) Tidy up the canal entrance at Wharf Road, Wendover with new brickwork and railings;
- 2) Extend the Little Tring towpath improvements as far as the beginning of where we have laid the bed mat. (We concluded at the AGM that at least some of our volunteers would like to progress this, and that the benefits of achieving this outweigh the risk to WCT funds if we have to fund the materials ourselves.)

Mikk will also need help to progress these projects.

Health, Safety and Environment

During clearing of vegetation in the compound area, a volunteer was stung by a wasp. A wasp nest was discovered in the tall grass. The nest was marked so it could be seen by other volunteers.

Housekeeping jobs.

Safety and site security;

The Heras fencing at the narrows and the green netting along the towpath was checked and secured. The banners on the bridges were secured.

The site signage was audited and a list of signs has been prepared.

The trailer was serviced.

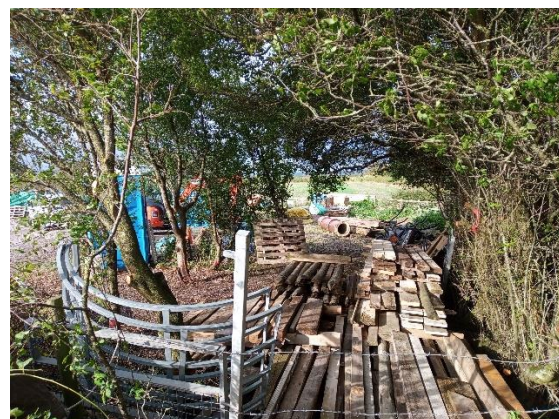
General;

The black polythene was replaced on the exposed Bentomat and surplus building materials were returned to the site compound.

The site compound was tidied and the remaining vegetation cut back. The pile of wood chippings was bagged. The water containers were moved and the area levelled. Holes made by bottlers in the tip were filled with tip material.

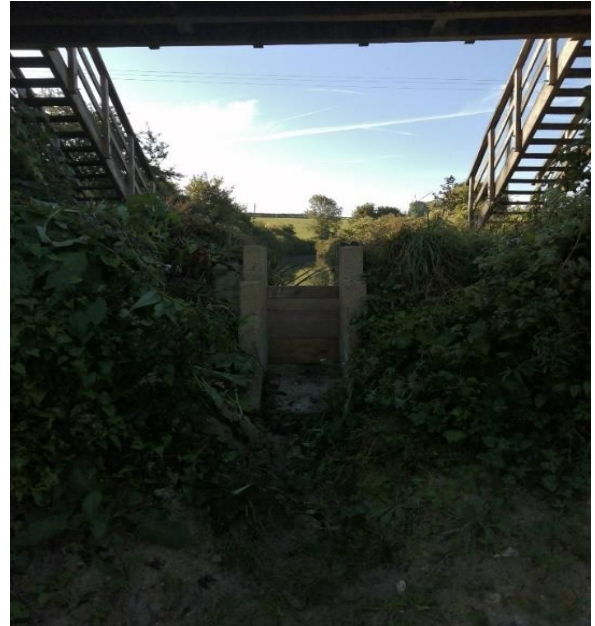


Site compound after tidying.



Timber stop planks were placed in the weir structure at Bridge 4a to ensure the canal remains dry in the section between bridges 4 and 4a to allow inspection and repairs to the joint at Bridge 4.

(Like last winter, the expected supply of water from Wendover has largely dried up due to reeds blocking the channel. However after pressure from us, CRT's contractor is due to have started clearing the reeds, so the water level is likely to rise soon.)



Stop planks at Bridge 4a.

The vandalised bench was returned to its location at Buckland.



Bench at Buckland.

The picnic table at Marsworth Lock 39 was cleaned, the metalwork painted and the table top and seats replaced with new recycled plastic planks. This job was requested by IWA Chiltern Branch.



Painted framework.



Final picnic table

Tidy Friday

The weather on Friday was too wet to carry out the planned grass cutting at Whitehouses. A section of the towpath hedge between Whitehouses and Bridge 4 was cut back.

An extra work party day was held on Tuesday 17th October. The grass was cut at the meadow at Whitehouses with the arisings being raked up and piled off the meadow.



Whitehouses meadow, before



and after.

Outline plan for the November work party

The November work party is cancelled.

M Bradley, 25th October 2023. V2

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