

Wendover Canal Trust – December 2023 Work Party Report

The two-week work party started on 1st December and concentrated on laying 200m of towpath at Little Tring.

A total of 79 volunteer days during the work party.

Health, Safety and Environment

When lifting one of the bulk bags of Type 1 one of the strops snapped. The strop had been inspected by the independent test house ISI and carried an up to date tag.

Other strops were inspected and some have been withdrawn to be destroyed. As a result, chains were used to lift the bulk bags.

Towpath.

Advance warning signs were placed at each end of the towpath (at Bridge 4 and at the site entrance) on Friday 10th November.

At the start of each day warning signs were placed at the ends of the towpath where work was being carried out. Work was stopped to allow members of the public to pass through the work area. In this way the towpath was kept open.

Starting from the end of the section of towpath laid as a trial earlier this year, 200m of towpath was set out. This was the maximum distance that could be reached using a 13t excavator running along the bed of the canal to lift bulk bags of Type 1 onto the towpath.

A 1t excavator was used to scrape the shoulders of the existing path to create a 1.5m wide stone path.

The ground was covered with a geotextile to prevent stone punching into the ground below the path.

Type 1 was delivered to site in bulk bags and carried along the bed of the canal using the 13t excavator.

The bags were lifted to the towpath and slit open to allow the Type 1 to be discharged. Spreading the Type 1 was done using spades and rakes. The Type 1 was laid in two layers. Each stone layer was compacted using a pedestrian drum roller.



Lifting Type 1 to the towpath.

During the work party, Herts County Council offered 20t of loose Type 1.

This was delivered and transported to the work area using the bucket of the 13t excavator.

Once the two layers had been compacted the surface was dressed with 6mm to dust stone to bind the surface.

The fine material was compacted using the roller.

Surplus Type 1 has been bagged-up and stored on site.



Finished section of towpath.

Bridge 4, expansion joints.

Loose silt and sandbags were excavated by hand from the back of the stop planks and the tarpaulin released and thrown over the stop planks with the top batten still attached.

The joints in the bed of the canal were exposed for inspection. Water was pumped out so that the bed joints could be seen.

The wall joints between the concrete bridge hole and brickwork were inspected. It was found that the sealant did not cover the full joint. The concrete make-up piece at the end of the bank blocks was broken out and showed no sealant.

The sealant in the wall joints was chiselled out so that a full inspection could be made.



Back of the stop planks with the bed joints exposed.

**Towpath joint****Offside joint**

Proposals for the repair of the joints have been sent to Canal and River Trust.

The repairs involve taking down some of the brickwork to form a better edge then installing the approved sealant. It is not intended to carry out any work to the joints in the bed of the canal.

Safety and site security;

The green netting along the towpath was checked and secured.

A section of the netting had been thrown into the canal.

A section of fence was installed in between the compound area and Little Tring Farm



General;

The black polythene was replaced on the exposed Bentomat where strong winds had disturbed it.

The stockpile of bricks was reloaded onto pallets and moved into the compound area.

Two loads of scrap metal were disposed off-site to a scrap metal merchant.

There was a general tidy up of the compound area with rubbish removed from site in a builders skip.



Bricks stored in compound



Cabstar loaded with scrap metal.

Tidy Friday

A tidy Friday event was held on 10th November to prepare an area at the triangle by the winding hole to be planted with trees. Wendover Canal Trust have received 420 trees and 120 hedging plants from the Woodland Trust.

On Sunday 26th November Scouts helped plant 210 trees.



Scouts (and parents) planting trees.

A second Tidy Friday event was held on 15th December and was spent planting more trees in the triangle area.

Outline plan for the January 2024 work party

Wendover Canal Trust are awaiting the report of the soil and water testing carried out in October. Without the report Canal and River Trust are unable to approve the restart to the canal lining.

Depending on the weather (if it is likely to be too cold bricklaying cannot be carried out) preparation work to the compound at Wharf Road will be carried out and the repair to the joint at Bridge 4 continued. Due to the Christmas shut-down period the January work party will be delayed by one week to start on 12th January.

Finally.....

All at Wendover Canal Trust would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

M Bradley, 17th December 2023. V2

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