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METHOD STATEMENT
FOR
Laying a Towpath

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:

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Printed copies may be out-of-date.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

Revision History

Issue	Date	Author	Summary of changes
2	28/02/23	M Bradley	Use of road pins, removal of pins on completion and when site unattended
3	1/11/23	M Bradley	Material delivered to work area in bulk bags.
4	9/11/23	M Bradley	Note added regarding excavated material.
5	16/4/24	M Bradley	Method amended to use plant on the towpath
6	26/4/24	M Bradley	Method amended for the use of power barrows. Towpath assessment and plan added.

Description of work to be carried out:

This method statement covers the work to lay a towpath using unbound stone without timber edge boards.

The detail of the towpath is shown on Drawing No. WAT/MJB 16 rev3.

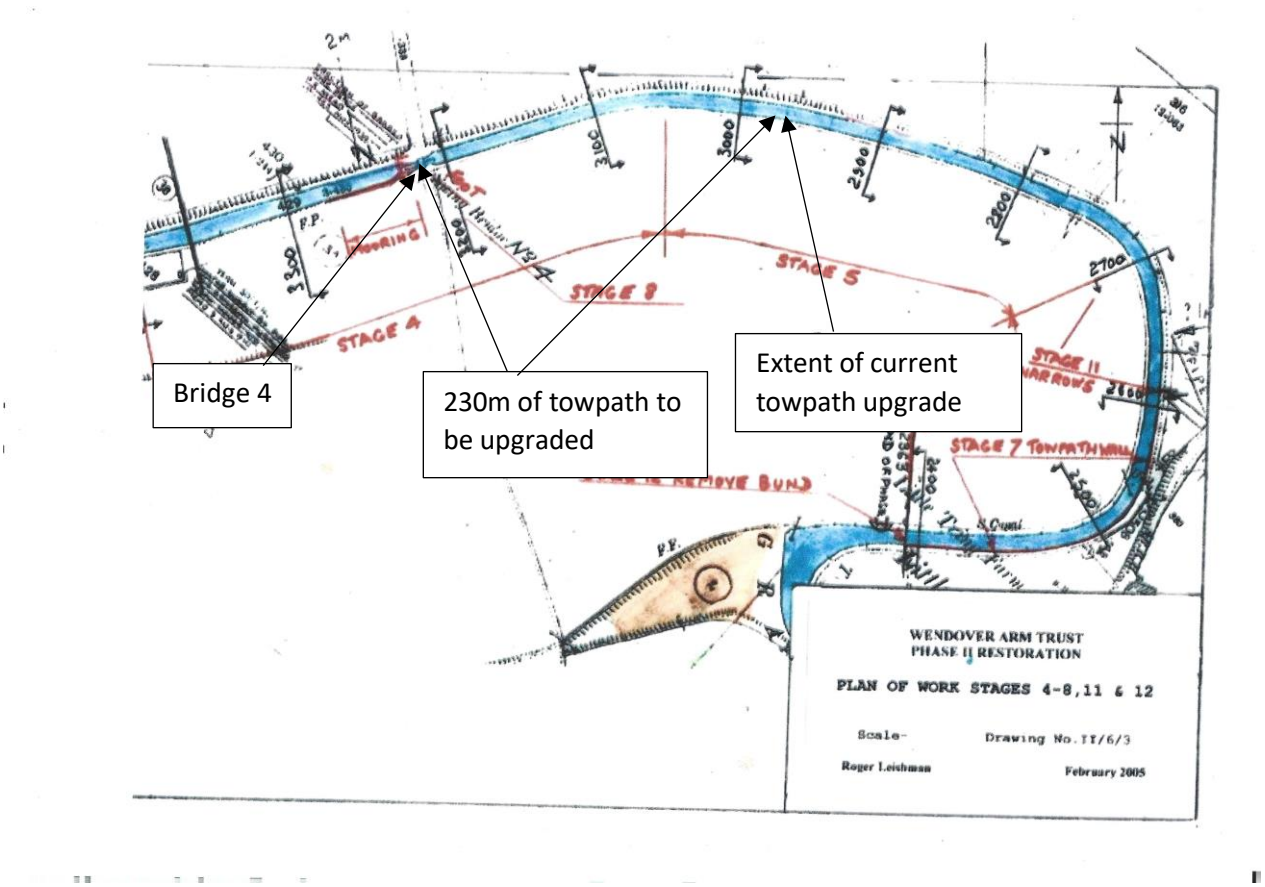
Hazards associated with task /work:

- Storage of materials.
- Manual handling.
- Uneven ground.
- Use of plant.
- Working in a public space.
- Vibration from equipment.
- Noise.
- Falling materials.

Risk assessments and other method statements / documents to be referred to:

Risk assessment WCTRA S16 Laying a Towpath. (available on Wendover Canal Bringing it to Life - Wendover Canal Trust)

Plan of the work area.



Methods to be undertaken:

- Advance warning signs will be placed at each end of the work area.
- Before the work starts warning signs will be erected daily at each end of the working area.
- The sides of the towpath will be set out at 5m intervals using road pins set at 1.6m apart and marked at 150mm above the final excavation level. The level will be determined by using a spirit level and measuring 150mm from the existing surface of the towpath.
- During all work on the towpath a banksman will be in attendance to stop work to allow towpath users to pass.
- The soil to the sides of the existing towpath will be excavated to the level of the flat area of the existing towpath using a 1t excavator. Surplus soil will be side cast for later reuse. The soil will be used to protect the shoulders of the towpath. Any surplus soil will be placed on the canal side verge and will become part of the reprofiled bank during relining. Any soft spot encountered will be excavated by hand and backfilled with compacted Type 1 fill.
- Geotextile will be cut to length using a sharp knife on a cutting board. The geotextile will be placed across the towpath.
- Type 1 will be delivered to site and stockpiled at the canal end of the access track. A 13t excavator will load the bucket with stone and travel along the canal bed as far as the roll of Bentomat. The bucket of stone will be placed on the towpath and the 1t excavator used to load a powered wheelbarrow. The wheelbarrow will travel along the excavated towpath and tip the stone onto the prepared area.
- Two powered wheelbarrows will be in use. The towpath is wide enough throughout the area of work for the wheelbarrows to pass safely.
- Type 1 will be placed in two layers and spread using rakes. The first layer will be approximately 100mm and will be compacted with a pedestrian roller. The second layer will be placed slightly above the level marks, spread using rakes and compacted with a pedestrian roller. The Type 1 will extend beyond the 1.5m width and will be sloped down the meet the existing ground.
- The surface of the towpath will be dressed with 6mm to dust stone and will be wet compacted using a pedestrian roller.
- The setting out pins will be removed as soon as each 5m section has been completed and any voids filled with compacted Type 1. No pins will be left in when the site is unattended.

Towpath Assessment.

The length of towpath to be upgraded is within the section of the canal that has been relined. The bank slopes are at 45 degrees. Plant operating on the towpath will not encroach within 500mm of the edge of the canal bank. Applying the 45 deg rule, the towpath is suitable to support the plant.

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.** **When using pedestrian roller; Ear protection.**
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:	**Hand tools: spirit level, road pins, hammer, shovels, rakes, sharp knife.** **Power tools: pedestrian roller.** **Plant: 1t and 13t excavator.**
WELFARE FACILITIES:	**Portaloo on site.**
FIRST AID:	**First aid cover will be supplied by the WCT first aiders or first aiders from visiting groups.** **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.**