



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

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January Working Party

The decision had to be taken not to use hired plant along the bed of the canal due to the very wet/icy conditions prevailing over the Christmas period. All our efforts were directed to having major clear-ups of the Trust store hut at Tringford Pumping Station and the storage site at Little Tring, including a good bonfire of cleared rubbish. A start was also made in clearing the offside bank adjacent to our ready-mix loading point at Little Tring. Not great progress on restoration but very useful housekeeping.

February Working Party

With improved weather restoration work was in full swing again. Bulk excavation of Stage 3 was completed up to the manhole, under the road cone, where it is intended to end the present run of pipe capping as can be seen below. The next section to be re-watered will end at a bund under Bridge 4A.



Bert Matraves

BULK EXCAVATION FOR THE NEXT LENGTH TO BE RE-WATERED IS COMPLETED

The final 15 metres of Stage 2 pipe capping was prepared ready for concreting at the March Working Party.



Bert Matraves

WORK MOVING INTO STAGE 3

This view from Bridge 4A shows work in hand at the end of stage 2 where bulk excavation is complete and only the 15 metres of pipe capping and offside bank reinstatement are outstanding before bank profiling and bank/bed lining can commence. In the foreground the line of the underground pipe is in the middle of the bed, thus avoiding cutting into the offside bank but making concrete pouring more difficult as there will not be enough room for a dumper alongside the trench.

During the week both banks were cleared of scrub up to the manhole and stumps removed and carted back to the tip at Little Tring. Young trees on the banks at various points were also removed.

To complete housekeeping at Little Tring the area on the offside just inside the inner gates at Little Tring was levelled off and covered in hardcore and road stone as a car park for volunteer's vehicles.

Please note that excavators, dumpers, the VW Transporter and any other mud bearing vehicles are not to be driven over this parking area.

On the last day of the working party it was disappointing to find that vandals had removed the protective plastic sheeting and timber from the top of the wall formwork at Bridge 4 that is ready for concrete pouring. This can only have happened on the previous day, or evening before, when work was only in hand at Little Tring. It was replaced and hopefully will remain undisturbed until March!

March Working Party

Given good weather, the aim is to concentrate on concreting. This will include the last mooring wall base pour at Bridge 4, three wall sections at Bridge 4 and the last 15 metres of Stage 2 pipe capping plus as much more Stage 3 pipe capping as possible.

At the present there is just enough room for a dumper to pass the pipe capping excavation and transport the base formwork to the Stage 2 mooring wall on the Saturday. After this, further pipe capping will move to the centre of the canal bed right through Bridge 4A for 128 metres to the manhole where it will stop. This will cut off access to Stage 2 mooring wall until the capping is completed.

June Working Party

It is a bit early to talk about the June Working Party but the new site for Festival 2011 creates a dilemma. When the festival site was at Little Tring, we not only helped with the fencing but carried on with restoration works for three or four days over the festival weekend, good publicity for visitors to see work in progress, and there was no June working party. This year, because the festival is being held in Hemel Hempstead, restoration work would not be a practical proposition although we will be helping with fencing etc. as mentioned below.

To keep up our progress, particularly as we have lost three working parties due to bad weather over the last two winters, a June working party this year is highly desirable although it will be the weekend after the festival. It is appreciated that those volunteers taking their boats to the festival will not be available, however a small workforce could make great progress with work like pipe capping or, if this is completed, profiling banks for Stage 2 prior to lining.

Ray and I will be very grateful for a feedback from those volunteers who could assist at a June working party.

Festival 2011 Sat 28th (12noon) to Mon 30th.May

It is now agreed that the Trust will be using land owned by the Box Moor Trust alongside the Grand Union Canal at Hemel Hempstead. Please keep these dates open, especially the Thursday, Friday, Saturday morning and Tuesday to assist with the setting up/taking down of fencing etc.

Web Site

The address of the Trust Restoration web site (that is linked to the main Trust site) is:

<http://wendovercanal.org.uk/>

Katherine Deaney, the Trust Membership Secretary, is updating her computer systems and will be trying out the renewal of membership and Club 100 via e-mail on you in the near future. If you are a recipient, please let her know if there are any problems.

General Notes.

All volunteers receive and sign for the Trust's Restoration Handbook that includes full Health and Safety requirements for the restoration works. The handbook is the property of the Trust; if you leave the working parties for any reason, please return your Handbook to either Ray Orth or myself.

Hard hats for use at all times and high visibility jackets to be worn on sites with mobile plant in use are kept in the store at Tringford and must be drawn/returned there.

One first aid kit is kept in the store, one in the VW and two are available for up to two working sites.

Also available in the store at Tringford are ear defenders and goggles that must be worn when using strimmers, angle grinders, concrete breakers and the like. BW will supply hard hats, gloves and footwear with reinforced toecaps on request. We normally work from 9am to 5pm (or dark if earlier!) when we are hiring plant or taking delivery of ready-mix concrete early in the morning.

There are breaks for morning tea/coffee, packed lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. We take our own food and drink.

DATES FOR WORKING PARTIES

So you can plan your diary ahead, the following are the dates of future working parties for 2011:

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
2011		
Friday 4 th March to Thursday 10 th March	Stages 2/3/4	Concrete pours at Bridge 4 mooring wall and continue with pipe capping in Stages 2/3.
Friday 1 st April to Thursday 7 th April	Stages 2/3/4	Continue with concrete pours at Bridge 4 mooring wall and pipe capping in Stage 3.
Friday 6 th May to Thursday 12 th May	Stages 2/3/4	KESCRG are scheduling to be with us on the Saturday and Sunday.
Thursday 26 th May to Tuesday 31 st May	Box Moor, Hemel Hempstead	Box Moor Canal Festival (Saturday pm/Sunday/Monday). Working Parties Thursday/ Friday/Saturday am/Tuesday
Friday 3 rd June to Thursday 9 th June	Stages 3/4	See note below to volunteers only.
Friday 1 st July to Thursday 7 th July	Stages 3/4	
Saturday 6 th August to Sunday 14 th August	Stages 3/4	BITM have suggested coming for a visit in August but the dates are not yet fixed.
Friday 2 nd September to Thursday 8 th September	Stages 3/4	
Friday 30 th September to Thursday 6 th October	Stages 3/4	
Friday 4 th November to Thursday 10 th November	Stages 3/4	
Friday 2 nd December to Thursday 8 th December	Stages 3/4	

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