



THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 91

June 2012

May & June Working Parties

These two working parties saw bank lining completed up to the start of the Stage 2 mooring wall despite some of the worst weather conditions we have met over our years of restoration.

One major advance – if we had a staff suggestions scheme, Brian Harris would be the clear winner. I was one who was doubtful as to whether Brian's invention for placing spoil above the coir rolls would work – I can only say it has been highly successful and eliminated virtually all manual shovelling of spoil from the top of the bank.

When I worked for British Rail the reward for a successful staff suggestion was usually in the order of 1% of annual pay – sorry Brian 1% of zero = zero! Anyway, many, many thanks to you, Brian.

Brian's frame operates as follows:



Roger Leishman

The frame is placed using lifting slings on the excavator bucket with one side resting on finished bank and the other side on a temporary coir roll placed vertically as per the old method. The excavator then fills and consolidates the spoil to the required depth. A deep board across the bottom nearly eliminates the loss of spoil falling down onto the bed.



Roger Leishman

On completion of a section by the excavator the frame and coir roll are moved forward for filling the next section.



Roger Leishman

Once the frame has been moved forward the excavator does a final trim of the new bank with some hand trimming that is necessary at the top of the bank before moving on to fill the next section.

The success of this method was demonstrated by the completion of 33 metres of bank in one day – if we complete the length of lining to the Tring end of the Stage 2 mooring wall in August, this could see lining up to Bridge 4A completed in a further 42 fine working party days, by spring 2013 at the earliest.

Credit for innovation must also go to Tony Bardwell who is building a similar device so if this is successful, we could be working on both banks at the same time and cut down the overall timescale but this will depend on the availability of machine operators.

July Working Party

The aim at this working party is to complete five 20 metre lengths of bed lining. This involves laying the Bentomat rolls, 'sleeping policemen' concrete strips over the joints and backfilling with spoil from levelling the bed as work proceeds supplemented by spoil from the bed along the mooring wall length and profiling the banks ahead.

If bad weather stops bed laying, a reasonably dry bed is essential, the scrub will be cleared from the towpath bank with an excavator and taken to the tip at Little Tring for disposal.

KESCRG July Week

I have included for volunteers a schedule covering this event when we have to provide site supervision by one of our team throughout the visit.

We are still short of a volunteer for the Tuesday, 17th July, any volunteers?

August Working Party

This is our nine day working party and, weather permitting, the aim is to complete as much as possible of the lining through the length of the Stage 2 mooring wall.

RAF Halton

I have just received a very welcome offer from RAF Halton. They are offering parties of 10 to 15

recruits on a Saturday/Sunday weekend to fit in with our bank lining schedule when we need block laying.

It is difficult to be specific on dates at this stage but initial thoughts are that the last two days of the August Working party, 11th and 12th August could be devoted to the RAF block laying the Stage 2 mooring wall length on both banks with our volunteers concreting the strip between the top row of blocks and the mooring wall?

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 Transit tipper and two are available for up to two working sites. Each qualified first-aider will have a kit with him/her when on site.

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!).

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 2012:

DATE	WORKING AT	WORK TO BE DONE
2012		
Friday 6 th July to Thursday 12 th July	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining.
Saturday 14 th July 9 to Friday 20 th July	Whitehouses	Wharf wall and settling tank renovation A KESCRG ONLY WEEK
Saturday 4 th August to Sunday 12 th August	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining. OUR USUAL AUGUST LONG WEEK. ASSISTANCE FROM RAF HALTON ON 11th 12th?
Friday 31 st August to Thursday 6 th September	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 5 th October to Thursday 11 th October	Stage 2	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 2 nd November to Thursday 8 th November	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 30 th November to Thursday 6 th December	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining.
Friday 30 th November to Thursday 6 th December	Stage 2/3	Bed and bank lining

Roger Leishman, Restoration Director. 7 Hall Park, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2NU.
(Tel:01442 874536, e-mail rwleishman@gmail.com)