

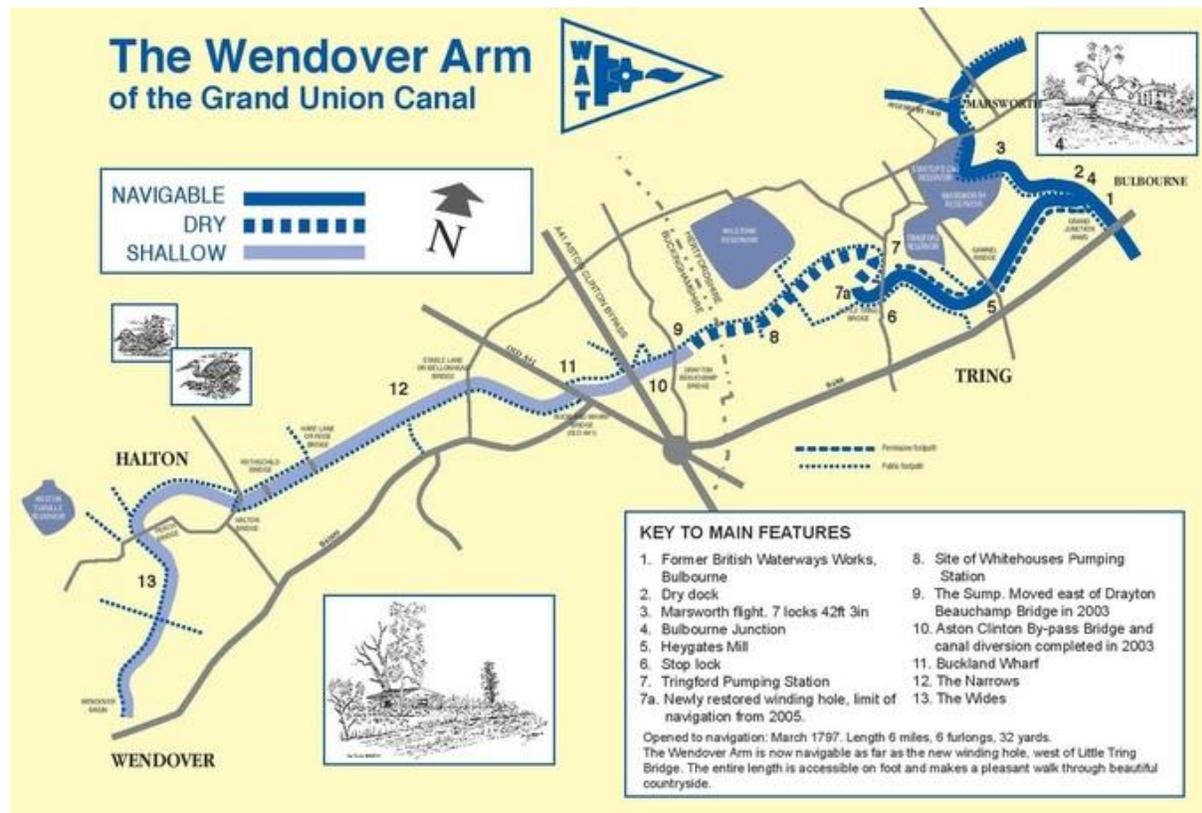
# Wendover Arm Trust - Environmental Policy Statement

## Introduction

Wendover Arm trust (WAT) are committed to fulfilling our responsibilities with regard to the Environment within its length. We aim to minimize environmental impact during the restoration process and implement any mitigation measures that are required.

Environmental Training – All work party volunteers to read and understand the Environmental Policy.

## Site Location



The surrounding area is rural in character, with residential and schools at Wendover Wharf Road, a small number of villages along the route and Heygates Flour Mill at Gamnel Bridge.

The work involves re-watering the dry section of the canal.

## Environmental Assessment

An environmental assessment has been carried out to identify potential environmental impacts of the project being carried out.

The assessment gives consideration to, each work activity to be undertaken and the potential for them to impact on the environment. All work party volunteers to give regard to the environment when undertaking restoration work.

The assessment examined the following:-

### **Noise and air quality**

No developments within the immediate area. Work only carried out 1 week of each month.

### **Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**

Working with local Bucks Archaeology Society for future plans to explain History to visitors at Whitehouses.

Future access to the Whitehouses site, with added public amenity seating in Pocket Park

Future open days at Tringford Pumping Station, to be arranged by WAT

### **Ecology**

Restoring the watered section would link and extend the aquatic habitats which are important for reedbed and aquatic plants, birds, coots and moorhen.

Field survey by CRT trained ecologists – report contained details of species encountered and their habitats. :-

**Birds** – disturbance during breeding risk – avoidance no vegetation clearance during nesting – opportunity install nest boxes on trees

**Badgers** – re-watering obstructs access across channel – possible alternatives to be explored – opportunity improvement of foraging areas adjacent to canal

**Bats** – removal of trees risk – avoid removing roosting features – erect bat boxes on trees

### **Trees**

Survey by Woodland Trust on the Whitehouses site - Ongoing visits with advice given, Donations of suitable young trees (Whips) received November 2019 and due November 2020.

Clearance of the original scrub of overgrown hawthorn bushes has had a beneficial impact on biodiversity. Re-watering will ensure the canal route will not return to its previous overcrowded way.

**Geology & Soils** – The canal is on the lower Chiltern Scarp, comprising permeable chalk lying on a thin layer of Totternhoe Stone which in turn lies on impervious gault clay.

**Community Effects** – Will give a more pleasant and enjoyable experience when walking the towpath.

**Waste** – The spoil extracted has been used within the restoration, some of this has been used to build up some County Council land next to the canal so that it can be bought back into use by the adjacent farmer. Further to a recent survey carried out on spoil at the Tring Tip site, WAT will be working with authorized contractors regarding its safe removal.

**Sustainability** – A waterway which will be used for its original purpose of feeding the summit of the canal in the Chilterns. Re-use of materials has been a feature of this restoration. The wooden formwork, which was donated secondhand to us and surrounds all concrete walls and bases has been re-used many times.

**Biodiversity Net Gain** – WAT are committed to the concept of environmental improvement for the benefit of the local community.

WAT adopts a continuous programme of assessing the effect to the environment of its work involved in the canal restoration. We will introduce mitigation measures to resolve any issues regarding compliance. All work party volunteers to mitigate any environmental impact when working on site.

I understand that by accepting a voluntary position with the Wendover Arm Trust I agree that I have read and understood the Environmental Policy

Volunteer's name (Block capitals): .....

Volunteer's signature: .....

Date: .....

Policy approved by WAT Council                      June 2020

Proposed date for review:                              June 2023