

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

ISSUE 53

Phase II Stage 31- Lining and mooring 4100 to 4221

As expected, little progress has been made with the lining at Drayton Beauchamp other than pouring surplus ready-mix concrete from the footbridge works for capping the pipe trench where the formwork and reinforcement were already in place. Any attempt at excavation or other work would be counter productive until the ground dries out.

Phase II, Stage 38 Footbridge 4.

The straight reinforced concrete walls on each side of the narrows have now been completed and it remains to backfill behind the walls, with areas of weak mix concrete and concrete pads on top for the main supports and bottom of the steps of the footbridge. Then all will be ready to erect the footbridge, hopefully in April.

BW is supplying us with details of the stop plank grooves etc. required at the east end of the narrows after which the 45 degree end walls will be cast.

There will also be 45 degree ends to the west end of the walls but the offside wall will be inset a narrow boat's width and extended for 50 metres as a short term visitor mooring.

The opportunity has also been taken to cut down the scrub, mainly old elder trees, before the nesting season commences in order to clear the future route of the diverted footpath from the gate on the BW boundary to the bottom of the offside steps.

Phase II, State 39 Footbridge 4A

One reinforced concrete wall is complete and the base for the other completed, only leaving one more wall to be cast followed by backfilling under the areas for the footbridge supports and steps with weak concrete and concrete bearing pads. It is hoped to complete these works so that the footbridge can be erected in April at the same time as footbridge 4.

Footbridge erection in April/May

This is just an initial warning that the erection of the two footbridges in April/May is an operation that has to be carried out with great care and will be restricted to a specified team working on the two sites. In my past professional life I have been responsible for erecting timber, steel and pre-cast concrete footbridges, usually multi-span, and know the operation has to be very carefully controlled until the overall structure is stable. A method statement and risk assessments are already in preparation and those involved will be very carefully briefed beforehand.

The former Herts County Council tip at bridge 4A

The opportunity is being taken to clear the scrub before the nesting season so that the area can be raised by tipping, as agreed with Herts County Council. However, a problem has arisen in that badgers have just excavated a sett in the tip above the middle of this area and we have been asked by the Herts & Middlesex Badger Group to keep 20 metres distance away as they think that young badger cubs are likely in the near future. A tree at each end of the exclusion zone has been marked with a white stripe and no work will take place in this length until June at the earliest.

Web Site

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

<http://www.wendovercanal.plus.com>

2006 Tring/Wendover Festival 28th/29th May

Booking forms for boaters have already been sent out and work party members wishing to moor on the towpath between Little Tring Bridge and the winding hole must let me know and endorse their booking forms accordingly. Space is limited and it will be necessary to limit mooring to regular attendees at work parties. You will be advised on your booking acknowledgement whether or not you will have one of these reserved moorings.

I have already earmarked moorings for the following boats so please let me know if you are not coming so that someone lower down the priority list can be given a reservation.

Roger Leishman	53ft MARY BETH	Denis Cater	40ft SHALDON
Brian Ing	58ft KAY CEE 2	Pete Bowers	40ft KOFFEE & CREAM
Rodney Evans	58ft SCYTHIA	Ron Pittaway	45ft TONIC
Ray Orth	45ft MADRIGAL	Nigel Williams	50ft CARLANNE
Bert Matraves	45ft CHUMLEY B	Brian Lansley	51ft MALAIKA

E-mail

I have received several requests for this newsletter to be sent to readers by e-mail, this does save the Trust postage costs. I am quite happy to do this.

If you give me a request for e-mail transmission I will do so but please let me know if the attachment arrives or not. If it does not arrive I will then make a second attempt but if this fails will send the newsletter by post.

Wendover Trust Mugs

If you did not have the chance to buy mugs at the Festival, Brian Ing, Ray Orth or myself have them for sale. They are bone china, £6 each, two for £11.50 or four for £22. If you did not see them, they commemorate the opening of Phase I with a view through Little Tring Bridge on both sides and 'Wendover Arm Trust 2005' underneath.

VW Transporter

Having housed the Trust's VW Transporter in our garage for the last seven years, Margaret and I have had to ask the Trust to find another home for it. We are very fortunate in that Roger Lewis is allowing the Trust to Park it in the open at Hastoe Hill. Many thanks to you, Roger. It is lucky that Hastoe Hill is close to the route Ray Orth takes from Chesham to Little Tring so he will be able to pick it up on his way to work parties.

Insurance

As some of us are not as young as we were (!), I took up the matter of age against insurance with the IWA who insure us and confirmed that there is the well known lower age limit of sixteen but there is no upper age limit, but it is **incumbent on anyone regardless of age, to inform the Trust in writing if they suffer from any medical condition that could in any way affect their ability to carry out their work as a Trust Work Party Volunteer.**

User Manuals will be updated to include this requirement so that, when you sign that you have read your manual, or amendments to it, you will acknowledge your responsibility in this matter. Any incident arising from an undeclared medical condition will not be covered by the Trust's insurance.

General Notes.

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

David Barratt is our qualified First-Aider and, even if he is not on site, lives nearby and can be contacted on 07973 411176 if he is at home.

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; another is kept in the VW transporter for use on site. Also available in the transporter are ear defenders and goggles that must be worn when using strimmers, angle grinders, concrete breakers and the like.

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 coffee/tea, packed lunch and afternoon tea/coffee. We take our own food and drinks. However, do not feel bound by these times, as half a day is better than no help at all.

