

THE WENDOVER ARM TRUST WORKING PARTY NEWS

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Dedication of Chiltern Bridge No.4A



At 10.30am on Saturday, 21st October, Sir John Johnson, Chairman of the Chiltern Conservation Board, unveiled the Chiltern Bridge 4A plaque on the new timber footbridge, for which the Board gave a grant to the Trust of almost £10,000.00. Roger Leishman explained that it had not been possible to complete the reinforced concrete wing walls due to bad weather as evidenced by the water in the embryo canal below the bridge.

Despite a shower just before the unveiling, we were blessed with sun and blue skies that lasted well beyond the 12½ minutes that had been allocated to us by our Chairman, Bob Wheal!

Phase II, Stage 31 – Lining and mooring 4100 to 4421

During the September and October work parties bulk excavation was well in hand up to the manhole at chainage 4290, and a further 20 metres of pipe capping was completed. It is the intention to build the next temporary bund at this manhole with a view to re-watering this section during next year.

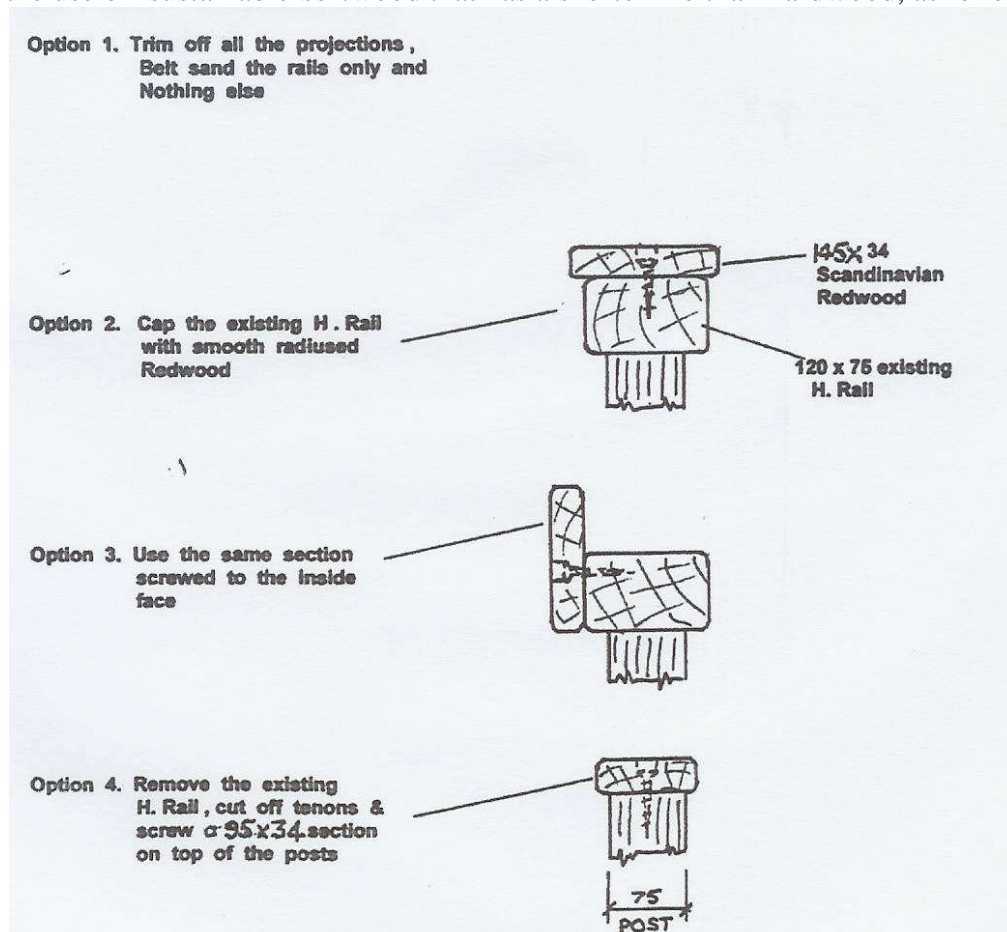
The weather has precluded laying Bentonite lining and block and spoil covering, but coir rolls, of which the Trust has a good stock in hand surplus from the Aston Clinton bypass donated to the Trust by Balfour Beatty, have been laid along the top of the block lining, where aquatic planting will take place.

Phase II, Stage 34 – Lining and mooring 3050 to 3400

No further work has taken place since the last newsletter.

Phase II, Stage 38 – Footbridge 4

The timber handrails of the footbridge have many splits and gaps with sharp edges that still require attention as well as trimming the ends of all the handrails. The problem arises from a government edict to BW that they must use ‘sustainable’ timber. The best hardwood for smooth handrails is not ‘sustainable’, hence the problem with the handrails. Which comes first, Health & Safety or ‘sustainable’ timber?! Ron Pittaway and Ken Graves have been considering various options, including the use of ‘sustainable’ softwood that has a shorter life than hardwood, as follows:



Option 1 will cost petrol and sanding belts **and** may need regular attention, options 2 & 3 up to £200, and option 4 up to £100. The figures quoted cover the cost for both footbridges. If you have a particular preference, please let me know by post or email.

The west end towpath wing wall base has now been cast, and the east end wing wall blinding laid complete with concrete base and stop plank channel. At the November work party, weather permitting, it is intended to complete both east end wing wall bases complete with stop plank channels.

Phase II, Stage 39 – Footbridge 4A

The options for dealing with the handrails are covered under Bridge 4 above.

All four wing wall bases have now been cast, and no more work will be carried out until the wing walls at the east end of Bridge 4 are completed.

Anglia Television ‘Country Days’

On Thursday 10th August we were interviewed at work by Pam Rhodes and filmed for a regular programme on Anglia TV called Country Days. It was broadcast on 12th October and Dave Wedd has a DVD recording of the programme and will be able to make you a copy if required. He can be contacted on 07816 175454. Please would you reimburse him for the cost plus postage.

Value of volunteer labour

I have just realised that a summary of the volunteer labour input to our restoration is overdue. Joyce Smith had given me the figures for 2005; many thanks Joyce for all your hard work, especially in deciphering our timesheets. These figures are invaluable when we are asking for grants for our restoration in that it shows our commitment to restoration and can be used as matching funds where these are required.

YEAR	HOURS	HOURS TO DATE	VALUE £	VALUE TO DATE
1996	1,016.50	1,016.50	8,132	8,132
1997	997.50	2,014.00	7,980	16,112
1998	2,696.00	4,710.00	43,174	59,286
1999	3,550.50	8,260.50	30,799	90,085
2000	4,239.90	8,479.90	36,865	126,950
2001	5,021.50	13,501.40	40,132	167,082
2002	5,560.00	19,061.40	44,480	211,562
2003	6,721.50	25,782.90	53,772	265,334
2004	6,647.75	32,430.65	55,366	320,700
2005	3,784.50	36,215.15	37,437	358,137

The figure for 2005 reflects several factors that will also continue into 2006. Firstly, we completed Phase I in 2004 and embarked on Phase II in very much a learning curve; secondly this meant we could not effectively use assistance from outside groups with major work parties such as we had in August 2004 to complete the lining of Phase I; finally we were not able to even complete the test lining for Phase II due to the delay caused by Nuttall’s leaking bund at Drayton Beauchamp that involved two one week work parties and materials/plant hire costs of over £3000 .

Let us hope that 2007 will put us back on course.

The Bridge Cafe

Whilst on the subject of statistics, Margaret tells me that the Lock/Bridge Café has now been running at our annual festivals for ten years and has given me the following facts:

YEAR	PROFIT
1997	£447.61
1998	£388.25
1999	£475.64
2000	£753.71
2001	£637.39
2002	£474.97
2003	£858.63
2004	£912.42
2005	£949.70
2006	£840.54
	£6,738.86

What a superb contribution to our restoration funds. Well done to all the team whose members have, and we hope still will, supported us over the years. No prizes for guessing years when we had rain!

Site Security

Despite my plea to leave padlocks and chains secure round a gate bar by whoever opens a gate I am still finding unsecured padlocks and chains! Anyone could have walked off with the padlock and chain! Please ensure that the padlock and chain are left secure round gate bars if you open any of our gates.

Woodwork Vice

Ron Pittaway has been given a 9" Record Woodworkers Bench Vice. This is in good condition and is 'free' to anyone in return for a donation to the Trust.

Web Site

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

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

E-mail

I am still receiving requests for this newsletter to be sent to readers by e-mail; this does save the Trust postage costs. If you give me a request for e-mail transmission I will do so but please let me know if the attachment does not arrive. Transmission seems to have improved recently.

Wendover Trust Mugs

Please see Ray Orth or myself if you want Trust mugs. They are bone china, £6 each, two for £11.50 or four for £22. If you have not seen them, they commemorate the opening of Phase I with a view through Little Tring Bridge on both sides with 'Wendover Arm Trust 2005' underneath.

Insurance

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 is not 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 in Pitstone 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. Individual volunteers must provide their own footwear with reinforced toecaps.

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.

