

WBCT Swindon Branch Meeting July 2024 – Work Party Activities

Since the June branch meeting, the work parties have continued on Wednesdays and Sundays with good attendance and we have also had a corporate event with a team from British Gas joining us for a day.

The preparation work for the Rushey Platt bank repairs has continued with measuring and marking potential areas for a trial planned for August. A number of design and planning activities have also been taking place to get everything ready.



A team from British Gas joined us for a day which was organised by Rachael Wells (our corporate organiser) and British Gas in Swindon. There were ten team members who came from all over the country to get together and join us. Fortunately, the weather was kind to us on the day and we carried out a



number of activities, including painting the containers, clearing at the Waitrose jetty and further

'habitat management' along the canal. The team enjoyed the day which included a trip on the Dragonfly. Thanks to Brian and Rob from the boat team.

We had a new starter with Olumide joining us on the work party and also carrying out some project management activities for a few tasks that have been on our list for a while. This is a great help with the paperwork and preparation needed to get these jobs underway.

Thanks to Chloe for removing more scrap metal from the compound which has cleared some space so that we can put up shelving at some point for storage. It will be good to move a few things onto shelves and get more floorspace back!

The growing season has meant that we have switched attention back to the 'habitat



management, along the towpath, banks and hedgerow. We have had a number of mowers, strimmers, hedge trimmers back in

action to try to keep the paths clear and the nettles under control! This also includes a lot of manual work in the warm weather to help keep us all fit!

During the month, a hole appeared in the middle of the towpath where the tarmac had collapsed. This was quickly reported to the relevant authorities who have visited the site and we await their further action.



Unfortunately, we had some vandalism along the canal when a sign was removed near H&W. Fortunately, due to prompt action in reporting and dealing with this, we were able to quickly get the sign securely back in place.

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Great progress has taken place on the building of the new stretch of the canal at East Wichel and the surrounding infrastructure which includes a pathway to the canal. Exciting times for us all!

Henry Sullivan – Work Party Organiser