



Chesterfield Canal Restoration

Staveley Town Deal Project

(Bi-)Monthly Newsletter - Issue 3: October-November 2023



Closing in on construction works starting

Welcome to the third (bi-)monthly newsletter focussing on the section of the Chesterfield Canal being restored with funding from the Staveley Town Deal. The newsletter will become monthly when construction works start, but until then I would have to bore you with lots of photos of paperwork!

That said, since my last update there has been physical work undertaken on the clay stockpile and a lot of other stuff going on - so much so that we're stretching to two pages.

Most of the canal will be constructed on a large embankment, historically known as the Puddlebank. It is formed of clay, but as the valley has suffered from a lot of mining subsidence, we need a lot more clay than is on site. A local landowner, Suon, has donated a massive stockpile of clay to the project, and we have done a trial to determine how best to place the material.



Trialing the re-working of the donated clay



Aviva Crowdfunder - <http://bit.ly/CCT-Aviva>

Cost inflation is naturally causing a few headaches, and some of the 'nice-to-have' elements that will finish the site off, such as landscaping, seating, interpretation and wayfinding, would potentially have to be cut back if savings cannot be found. To mitigate this, the Trust has launched a crowdfunder to raise additional funds for these elements. What's even better, all of the donations will be DOUBLED - each £1 donated becomes £2 to the Trust. Please do visit the Aviva website and donate if you can - so far we have already raised £15,000.

We're also continuously applying for other funds, and two more applications have been submitted in the last few weeks with further applications in preparation.

We have now appointed a contractor to clear the route of any vegetation that might attract nesting birds. This has to be done before the end of February, and there are a few final bits of paperwork needed that the contractor will be completing. These will go through the necessary approval stages before the end of January, so the works will be undertaken in February.

We have worked hard to minimise the amount of vegetation that needs to be cleared, including re-aligning some of the footpaths to reduce the extent of earthworks.


However, some works are unavoidable. We are also making sure that we mitigate any loss with planting of new, native species at the end of the works.



Some of the route needs to be cleared of vegetation

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Programme managed by Chesterfield Borough Council, with funding from the Towns Fund





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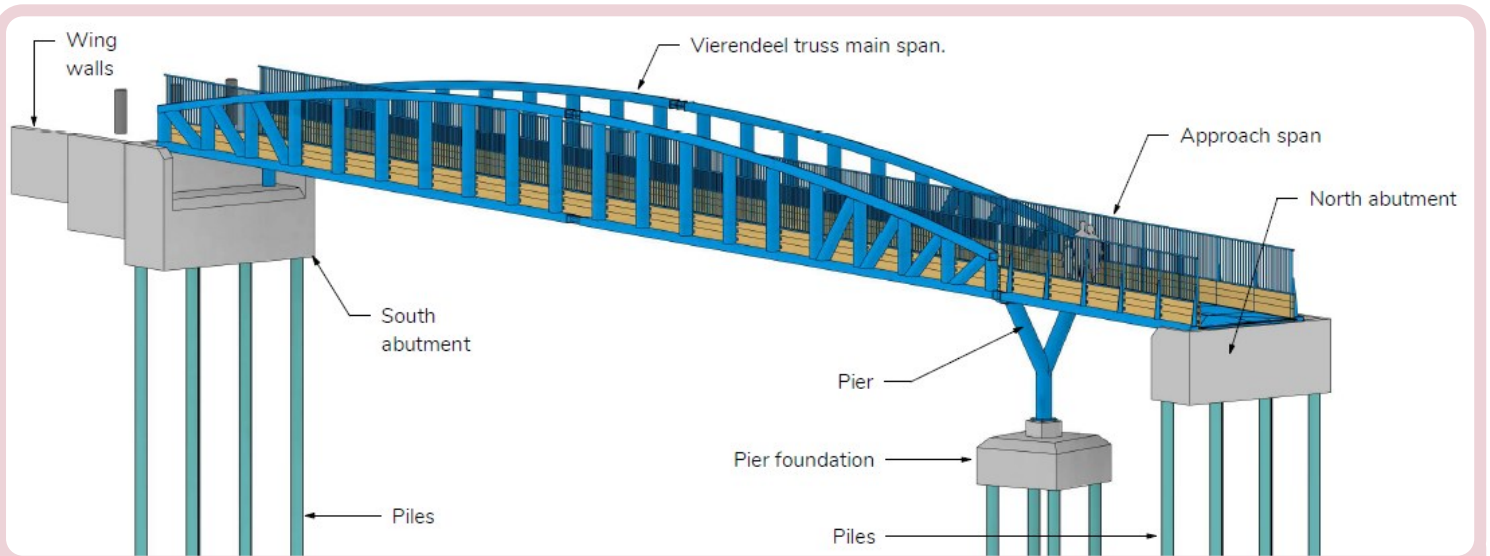
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The tendering process for the first-phase contractor has now launched, with tenders due to be returned immediately prior to Christmas - so please spare us a thought whilst you're enjoying your Christmas turkey, as we'll be reading the final submissions ready to appoint in early January. The timescales are tight, because we have to make a start on site by the end of April to meet our planning deadline, and the contractor will need time to submit various documents and plan the construction process before then.

This first phase will involve constructing the Trans-Pennine Trail Bridge, improving the access onto site from Ireland Close, creating the site compound and re-aligning the footpaths. At the end of this, the main works contractor will have a clear run at the main canal channel, earthworks and remaining structures. All tendering opportunities are advertised on our website and the relevant public sector procurement portals - main works tendering will open in early 2024.



The Trans-Pennine Trail (TPT) Bridge design is taking shape - the colour isn't decided yet but it won't be blue

Speaking of the TPT Bridge, the design work has continued apace. An Approval in Principle has been submitted to the County Council, as the intention is that they will adopt this structure. That has been signed off, and detailed design is well underway - but we haven't quite decided on the colour yet (it won't be blue though).

The bridge design is just one of many final approvals required. Information has been submitted to discharge the first batch of planning conditions, which have been approved, and more will be submitted in the coming weeks.

There is a lot of work underway, so please sign up to this newsletter and follow us on social media for more updates.

George Rogers, Project Director



See many more photographs of the ongoing work on the Chesterfield Canal Trust website



Last two months:

- ◆ Vegetation clearance contractor appointed
- ◆ First-phase contractor tender launched
- ◆ Earthworks trial undertaken
- ◆ First planning conditions discharged

Milestones

Next two months:

- ◆ More planning conditions discharged
- ◆ First-phase contractor tenders received
- ◆ Final access licences in place
- ◆ Formal designs approved



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