

Date 19th July 2018

Objectives

Progress repair of Ebridge Lock wall

The Plan

Clean out the smaller areas of damage on lock wall and remove debris and vegetation from the chamber.

Work Achievement

There were four volunteers (Nb – D W unable to attend – CH acted as work party leader). The weather was good.

Vegetation that had been cut earlier was removed from the lock chamber. The majority of the remaining vegetation from walls and bed of lock chamber was removed and allowed to rest on the pontoon before subsequent removal from the chamber.

There were three main areas of damage to clean out along the west wall (starting from the south end designated area 1, 2 and 3). It was confirmed that the more recent facing brickwork (circa 1900?) had little or no tie in to the original canal wall brickwork other than the visible series of iron ties at the higher levels.

Within the areas of most damage it was apparent that timbers had been used within the original construction. This was significantly damaged where it could be observed and in some places rotted away completely. There was also evidence of repair work to the original brickwork using lime mortar.



Area 1 - Horizontal timber parallel to lock wall face –some timber intact but significantly eroded.



Area 1 – Rough mortar in centre of hole applied over where timber eroded but still some solid wood



Area 2 – shows single brick facing (circa 1900?) over what appears to be undamaged original canal wall face – no ties



Area 2 – damage at level of horizontal timber. The timber had no structural integrity and only existed as small pieces. Note ‘true’ mortar at rear of pocket (implies timber part of original construction). Note also void at right hand end of pocket perpendicular to wall face and of some depth – presumably a void left by the complete disintegration of a horizontal timber member



Area 3 – The timber was not really evident at all – horizontal void through to Area 2 and also towards area of top gate. Surviving iron bar that was originally through timber and passes above and below into original brickwork. Timber approx. 300mm behind current brick face (say approx..200mm behind original face of wall and therefore built within the original wall)

Given the above it was considered that a long lasting repair would involve more than simply replacing the facing bricks and a little local patching.

The work area was made tidy and the planks removed from the platforms at the south end of the lock chamber to restrict access. Work ended at 1600hrs with tools returned to Spa Common
CH Work Party leader