

Harborne Wharf Restoration – Timetable

Edited extracts from Facebook Page

October 15th 2015

Big day today, the council planning committee considered our application to clear away materials from Harborne Wharf. Our application was unanimously approved. Particular thanks to our planning officer, Alison Powell, and to Councilors Peter Douglas Osborn and Keith Linnecar who spoke enthusiastically about the restoration project. Now we have to meet the 18 planning conditions, concerned mainly with Ecology, Landscape and Conservation, all solvable, but requiring additional reports and Careys the contractor have a deadline to start on the 26th of October. Careys have very generously agreed to do the work without charge



A week later than we planned, but finally on the 29th of October, all 18 planning conditions have been discharged. On 30th of October agreement finalised with the Park Management, we also have agreement to use the canal tunnel for soil removal and for the path to be closed. Careys agree to start work Monday 2nd of November and should take 2 to 3 weeks.

Before



After



Week 1 November 2nd to 6th

Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd of November

Getting ready, preparing the tunnel, pumping out water and making the access ramp on Battery Park side



Wednesday 4th November

Equipment through the tunnel, exit ramp built and fences installed



Thursday 5th November

Despite miserable weather good progress made. Vegetation cleared in the morning and Trial Pits Dug, to determine level of puddle clay – about 1.6 meters below tow path level. Clearly defined by change of colour to black where the organic material had decomposed. Also search for electric cable shown on the old drawing – no cable found



Friday 6th November

Soil removal started Two dumper trucks, each carrying 4 cubic meters of spoil per journey, 250 journeys required per truck.



Week 2. November 9th to 13th

Monday 9th November

Record day for spoil removal, and also able to inspect the concrete wall we believe was built in 1929. Very good condition and at least 1.55 meters high. Old Photo from 1929



Tuesday 10th November

Peter requested volunteers on Saturday and Sunday, we need help to move soil for fence posts and some work on paths and scrub clearing, so bring a spade and something sharp. Try to let us know on nbhugh@gmail.com or (07970766554) if you are able to come or have any questions, start at 10.00. Another good day for spoil removal. Pictures show basin starting to appear, our Archaeologist Alex Jones taking measurements and dumper truck entering the tunnel.



Wednesday 11th November

We agreed with the Parks Department to protect the excavated area by erecting a Post and Rail safety fence until we have water. It will cost around £3500, an opportunity to ask those following the project if they would like to make a donation, own a little bit of the fence! It will cost about £20 per meter. Donations can be made with PayPal via our website, by bank transfer to HSBC (Sort code 40 23 03 Account No 91517856) or by Cheque to Lapal Canal Trust, Fence Fund, c/o Fiddle and Bone, Sherborne Wharf, Sheepcote St., Birmingham B16 8AE.

Steady progress today, photos show some of Careys' very skilled team, Sam and Robert who drive the trucks and Colin on the excavator, he could pick up an egg without breaking it.



Thursday 12th November

Some additional photos to Peter's, almost there. Paul the 4th member of the core Carey's team, Alex our Archaeologist in conversation with Charles our Conservation Structural Engineer. Thanks for donations to our Post and Rail Fence Fund



Friday 13th November

Almost at the end, one more day? Uncovered what appears to be a canal side solid brick wall, seems in good condition. We will inspect on Monday



Sat/Sunday 15th

Thanks to all the volunterrs who worked on Saturday and Sunday moving soil and clearing scrub, Unfortunately our fire made a lot of smoke and we had a visit from friendly Firemen



Week 3 November 16th to 17th

Monday 16th

Near the bridge, one more day to finish off, wharf wall exposed and in reasonable condition



Tuesday 17th November

A big thanks to Careys Directors and the Careys team in Selly Oak; Managers John and Clive, Excavator Driver Colin, and Truck Drivers Sam, Robert and Paul. Gate finally closed. Congratulations on a job well done.

