

Case Study

Kennet & Avon Canal, Aldermaston Towpath Reconstruction

Client:

Kier Group working in conjunction with Canal & River Trust

Contract:

NEC3 Engineering and Construction Contract

Contract Type:

Option A

Value:

£650K

Duration:

March 2023 to August 2023 (20 weeks)

Referee:

Mike Ditch, Project Manager

Contact:

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Details:

This project was identified by Sustrans in the 2019 national cycle way network (NCN) review as one of eight Activation projects (pilots) in the South of England. It was selected as the K&A is a key NCN route, but long sections towards the eastern end of the canal were in poor condition. The works were undertaken along a section of the K&A Canal approximately 2.5km long between Basingstoke Road, Aldermaston and Ufton Lane swing bridge. Access in some areas was restricted, with limited access points onto the canal towpath. Detailed planning was required to ensure all available access points were utilised to maximise productivity on the site. Careful consideration was taken to prevent any damage to the heritage structures and ensure there was no disturbance to the canal navigation / boaters. Working closely with the public to ensure minimised disruption to towpath users, keeping the paths open as far as is reasonably practicable, and maintaining good relations with neighbours and canal related businesses.

The principal scope of the works was to:

- ◆ Excavate existing towpath to formation level & dispose of material offsite
- ◆ Assess formation level and record any locations of soft spot
- ◆ Install geotextile teram or similar where required
- ◆ Lay FSC treated timber boards and pegs
- ◆ Place and compacted MOT type 1 subbase
- ◆ Place minimum 40mm DBM surfacing with 14mm aggregate compacted & rolled and a double layer of bitumen emulsion rolled in 3-6mm natural gravel
- ◆ Reinststate verges to formalise towpath
- ◆ Design and installation of temporary canal bank repairs
- ◆ Re-seed verges and addition of tactile paving and timber chicanes at all road junctions



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Photographs of work

Some example photographs of the work being undertaken (and completed) are provided for additional context.

