

Pewsey Wharf Web Report



The towpath near Pain's Bridge was severely eroded and becoming a health and safety concern.

Erosive forces from the use of riverboat mooring pins, wash from passing craft, and general footpath erosion had caused considerable damage to the towpath

A line of over 300 sustainably sourced sweet chestnut posts were hand-driven into the canal bed to form the structural component of the new canal margin.

Straw bales were used to consolidate the path which had become precarious in the very wet winter conditions



The structure was filled using soil arising from the towpath re-surfacing works being carried out towards the Wharf.

This was transported by barge and hand-graded to specification.



Around 750 individual marginal plants of local provenance were planted along the new bank edge

These would not only form a vital structural component to the revetment but would also boost bio-diversity and improve the path aesthetics.

Using the canal to transport materials also enabled operatives to closely inspect the new structure from the canal and ensure that the new soil was adequately protected from boat-wash.



The structure completed, the path was protected from further erosion and widened enough to be safe for the public to utilise as usual.

The marginal plants would flourish in the coming spring



4 months later – plants safely established and helping to form a strong structure that would become stronger as plants developed dense root systems and formed thick tussocks along the bank.

Grasses had begun to encroach on the new structure and protect the remaining bare soil.



1 year on – the following winter.

Just one summer's growth has covered all the bare soil and dense tussocks have developed along the waters edge.

Grass growing through the rolled coir and helping to create a fully naturalistic margin

This winter the path is safe from erosion and the summer will see an explosion of growth



Early 2009
Structure completed



Early 2010
Developed into a naturalistic marginal habitat protected from erosion

Early 2009
Small willow coppiced to allow access for works,
New bank installed



Early 2010
Willow re-growing and thick grasses and sedges covering structure





Early 2009

Hard rush (*Juncus Inflexus*) planted in new revetment



Early 2010

Dense tussocks forming, all soil covered and protected by thick vegetation