

Winter (2020)

October

Due to the predicted further rise in the Covid virus infection rate and the vulnerability of our volunteers, a further three week break was considered best option. Unfortunately the third work day of Oct was forecast to be extremely wet and the work day was switched to the Thursday, despite only two volunteers being available over 80 non-skid strips were fitted to the original boardwalk planks (now 20-years old). (Photos 1 & 2)



1 Clearing the leaves



2 Fixing the non-skid pads

A new supply of planks were also supplied by P3 and 12 of the original ones were marked for replacing (Pphoto 3). Frustratingly the following week was also forecast for heavy rain showers which did materialise along with strong winds.



3 Boards marked for replacement

November

The contractor was met with to discuss the removal of the ADB trees that had been selected as needing severe cutting work and the outstanding replacement gates. This was followed by the collapse of the supporting gate hinge post at Lana Bridge. (Photo 4)



4 Lana Gate collapse

A dry day provided an opportunity to finish repairing the old boardwalk boards. (Photos 5, 6, 7, & 8)



5 Removing nails and staples



6 Nailing down the new boards



7 Tidying the old wire netting



8 Completed

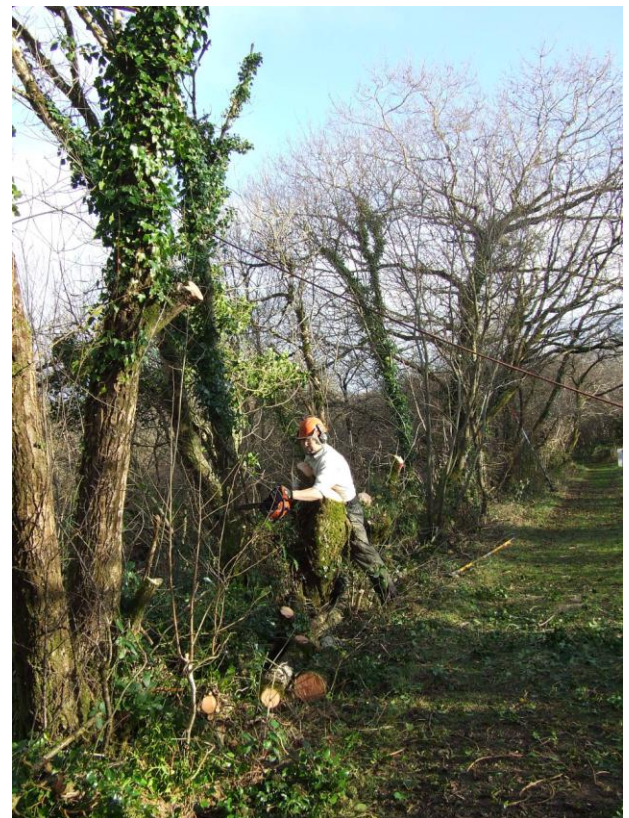
The second lock down was introduced shortly afterwards stopping all canal work without the hands, masks and space rules applying. The current lockdown was due to be relaxed in Cornwall on the 2nd. Dec and although the work meant venturing across the border, the initial tree felling had been arranged for the 15th/16th.

December

This month commenced with the outside rules still applicable. Several trees had dead overhanging branches removed and one heavily infected multi-stemmed ash, all from one main root had to be felled (Photos 9 to 15). With the Covid infection rate rising throughout the country and Christmas just a few days away, this was the last work done on the canal in 2020. What a terrible year.



9 Rope in place to ensure direction of fall



10 Cutting the hinge point



11 Preparing to pull the rope



12 Topped tree



13 Logging up the larger pieces



14 Remaining stumps of multi-stemmed root



15 Rotting centre of main trunk

Best Wishes to all our readers for a far better New Year and grateful thanks to the Committee, our website manager and the small group of volunteers.