

Barlow Wood Embankment and Woodend Lift Bridge

Project Profile

Client: Kier Services/CRT

Designer: Canal & Rivers Trust

Value: £620k



The project was carried out for Kier Services under their framework contract with the Canal & Rivers Trust and involved improving the condition of a number of embankments collectively referred to as 'Barlow Wood Embankments' which were in a poor condition and at risk of breach.

The embankments form part of the Peak Forest Canal between the town of Marple and the village of Strines, some 5 miles to the east of Stockport, and are known as Barlow Wood, Lower Ridge Farm or Plucksbridge, Strines and Strines Aqueduct embankments.

A key requirement of the project was to avoid closure of the canal during the work;

The main areas of work consisted of;

- Removal of mature trees and vegetation
- 100m of crest raising / puddle clay bund
- 104m of removing existing coping stones, repairing wash wall and relaying the coping stones on the new wall
- Installation of 120 lin m of 2.4m long L8 trench sheets together with coping stone relay
- 30m of embankment requiring imported top soil infill
- Installing 70m of 4.5m long Larssen LX16 Sheet Piles and 75m of 3.0m long Larssen LX16 sheet piles with coping stone installation
- Removal of old timber piles—36m
- Remove old or damaged L8 trench sheets
- Repairs to existing trench sheet wash walls
- 2 no L8 trench sheet fender repairs
- 370m of towpath reinstatement with sections of tarmac and stone surfacing
- The majority of the work including pile installation and transportation of materials was carried out using specially equipped canal workboats



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During the course of the Barlow Wood Project we were asked by Kier to undertake additional works at Woodend Lift Bridge which is located further along the canal from the Barlow Wood embankment site. This work involved re-construction of new bridge foundations and access points and was carried out under a canal closure.

This element of work included;

- 87m of 1.8m L8 trench sheets with coping stone relay
- Construction of 2 no structural concrete bridge foundation bases & associated cabinet bases
- Pollarding of overhanging tree branches
- A short section of tarmac carriageway installation / reinstatement

