

Asset Management Report

Three full workshops (28/2/07, 21/5/07, and 23/7/07) and one data management workshop (25/6/07) have been held. The working group consists of members from British Waterways (BW), Hampshire County Council (Structures) (HCC), Basingstoke Canal Authority (BCA), Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society (SHCS, Surrey County Council (Structures & Countryside) (SCC)

The scale and cost of the project is still largely unknown but it is hoped that costs will be contained within the original estimate of £80,000. The project will take place in three distinct phases, although these may overlap.

- 1- Inventory: Identify record and map the asset and its components.
- 2- Condition: identify, record and map the condition of all the constituent parts
- 3- Asset management: identify work, maintenance and inspection routines; develop a costed maintenance and inspection programme.

British Waterways have provided details of their own asset management plan format, which will save the project considerable time as this is much the same as the BCA already use. The first job is to identify which of the British Waterways Asset definitions are appropriate for the Basingstoke Canal. Once this is done it should be possible for much of the inventory to be identified and recorded from existing information e.g. Ordnance Survey maps and staff knowledge. All such information will need to be ground truthed to ensure the veracity of the information.

It is agreed that the data collected from this project should be available via ArcView GIS. But Data storage and retrieval management is problematic as both owners are unable to view the others internal networks. Work is continuing to find a way of finding a resolution, but this is not being allowed to delay the project.

Some work has been previously been done to identify the condition of the asset and much of this is still valid e.g. British Waterways report 2001. A gap analysis will be conducted which will allow a more accurate project cost to be identified. The project is currently behind schedule and this is in part due to the long-term sickness of a key member of BCA staff. Work is expected to gain momentum once asset definitions have been agreed and this should be completed by the next meeting scheduled for October. The project plan timetable will be reviewed in order to set a realistic time frame for all aspects of the work.

It was originally anticipated that Surrey County Council would bear much of the burden of the cost as the vast majority of Lock structures are within Surrey. However it has become clear from BW experience and that of the BCA's more recent experience, that the greatest risk of breach are likely to arise from problems with underground culverts and the majority of these are in Hampshire. It has therefore been decided that the County Councils will each bear their own costs as a consequence of geological and topographical survey work, with a shared cost on common asset management.

It is expected that the Asset Management Plan inspection and maintenance routines will form the major part of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the owners, the BCA and any new trust.

The working party are indebted to the invaluable support from British Waterways and would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by Graham Holland, Asset Manager of British Waterways.

Rose Younger – Countryside Contracts Manager
September 2007