

East Wichel Canal – July 2022 Update

In May 2022 further investigation works were completed on the East Wichel canal. This update provides a summary of the findings and describes the next steps.

1) Section E to G

Area E to G has been the main area of focus with a significant leak in the base fixed last year. This had prevented this section from emptying completely but water has continued to drop each time the canal has been re-filled, levelling out at around half full.



A series of test pits were therefore dug both sides of the canal and monitored to see if they would fill with water. This would indicate whether water was passing through the banks of the canal, and if so where.

One of the southern pits filled to the same level as the canal within 24 hours and another two pits on the southern bank filled to the canal level within a week. It was therefore concluded that the clay lining on the southern bank towards bund E was not watertight. The two pits dug on the south bank closest to bund G remained dry.



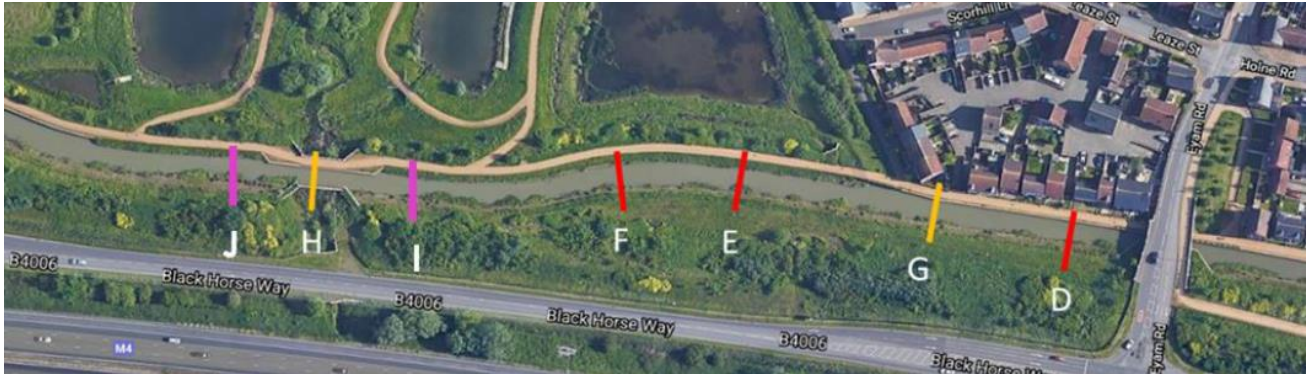
1.1) Next Steps

The canal will be drained and approximately 45m of the southern bank relined with clay. The canal will then be re-filled as far as possible and monitored.

2) Western Sections

The previous monitoring indicated that water was also being lost in the sections further west. As issues had previously been identified adjacent to the structure in Section E to G, the structure was the first area we isolated for testing further west.

New bunds I and J were installed in May and the water levels monitored.



The photos below show the water at the point the bunds were installed and then again a couple of weeks later.

The water in the eastern side (I to H) dropped very quickly and is a clear indication that there is a problem in this section. The western side also dropped, although not as quickly, and may have been impacted by leakage through the bund.

May 2022

June 2022



2.1) Next Steps

As part of the next section of works it is intended to look in more detail at the joints between the structure and banks to see if the exact location of the leak can be identified. It is then likely that re-lining works will be required in this section.

3) Timescales

The next stage of works are due to start during week commencing 4th July.