

# Friends of Brandy Bottom Colliery Pucklechurch

**Newsletter N° 36, May 2023**

Photo 1 – Daphne's well-tended flower bed outside the New Pit yard in May last year. Most of the plants continued to flourish despite the hot, dry, weather that July, as can be seen from the photo ([72](#)) taken in September 2022.

The newsletters scheduled for August and November 2022 and February 2023 never appeared for a variety of reasons. As a result, this one covers the activities at Brandy Bottom since May 2022, which was when newsletter N° 35 was issued. Hopefully, things will then return to normal with issue N° 37 in August 2023. There were thirty two work parties in the second part of 2022, bringing the total for the year to forty five. This includes the two days in September when Brandy Bottom was open as part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme (HODs) and the extra work parties needed to set up and dismantle the temporary structures such as the gazebos. There have been fourteen work parties so far in 2023, including a site inspection by Historic England in January 2023.

Work continued on the Egg-ended Boiler settings and the adjacent flues, and on the water distribution networks throughout the period. In August and early September, we concentrated on getting the site ready for the Heritage Open Days. This led to the discovery of the entrance to the chamber under the floor of the south-east side of the Cornish Engine House. In early 2023 the vegetation growing between the two lines of fences has been removed, improving the views of both heapsteads for passers-by on the cycle path. Seven people have joined the volunteer group.

## Progress: May 2022 – May 2023

We would like to welcome Ann, John, Jim, Hailey, Marek, Pete R, and Tom to the volunteer group, while Jeff has decided to call it a day. He has provided the



Photo 2 – Jeff, suitably dressed as a foreman of a bygone era, is ready to steer visitors towards the start of a tour during the 2022 HOD weekend.





solutions to numerous engineering problems over the years, and the many railings, grilles and gates around the site will be a long-lived reminder of his metal working skills. He has also been the first person many visitors see on Heritage Open Days (HODs) (photo [2](#) on previous page). The AIBT would like to thank him for his many contributions to our conservation work, and that we hope to see him at Brandy Bottom as a visitor in the future.

Excavations continued around the Egg-ended Boiler settings, uncovering a maze of brick-lined passages. Photo [3](#), on the right, was taken from the top of the Old Pit heapstead, and gives a general view of the excavations in the New Boiler area in November. Photo [20](#) gives a view of the excavations looking along the south-east wall of the Cornish Engine House that month. We have uncovered the outer end of the covered passage seen in photo 14 of Newsletter 34. Photo [14](#) shows that there is a right angle bend at the outer end of the pipe running along the floor of the passage (A copy of the earlier photo, coincidentally also 14, is shown as an insert) The bend is loose, so could have originally pointed in any direction, and just what the pipe was used for is still under discussion. Photos 15 to 18 were taken in November, showing the area to the north-east of the Egg-ended Boiler settings. Photos [15](#) and [16](#) are a view of one flue, taken in opposite directions from the middle, while [17](#) and [18](#) show a second flue that runs parallel to the first. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to get an overhead view to make the layout clearer. Instead a sketch of the positions of some of the photos is shown in photo [80](#). The firebrick seen in photo [19](#) was found when clearing spoil from the flue. This is the first example of a brick by this maker – Baker & Co of Stourbridge. At the time of writing, no information has been discovered about the company. Repair work has started on the brickwork of the Egg-ended Boiler settings, Ken initially working at the north-east end (photos [24](#) to [26](#)) and Hamish at the south-western end (photos [27](#) and [28](#)).



Photo 3 – View of the excavations in the New Boiler area, taken from the top of the Old Pit heapstead in November 2022.

We have changed our thinking about the layout of the Lancashire boilers that are thought to have been positioned near-by. We originally thought that they ran at right angle to the north-east wall of the Cornish Engine House, but now think that they ran parallel to that wall, with the exit flues connecting to the flue we have uncovered running north-east/south-west outside the settings of the Egg-ended Boiler. Tim and his sons have uncovered most of the features in this part of the site.

Derek has continued to work on the water distribution networks, helped at times by various volunteers. He has used a variety of higher-tech methods (radiosonde on the end of a string of drain rods) and low-tech (blowing smoke into one end of a conduit and see where it emerges). These tests have not always established what the connections are with 100% certainty. The drain in the winding drum pit of the Vertical Engine House goes in one direction past the Old Boiler House to an outfall on the other side of the cycle path. In the other direction it heads towards the shaft in the Old Pit heapstead alcove, though the connection was not absolutely established as the probe was stopped short of the alcove. Derek found that the field drain beside the path to the east of the site is connected to the drain carrying water from the adjacent rubbish dump. The join is located to the south of the site and is outside our leased area. The combined water flows discharge into the pond area at its southern end. In February Derek returned to the eastern end of the conduit that runs across the north-eastern wall of the Horizontal Engine House (photo [30](#)). We knew from Bob Turner's 1980s work that there is a chamber at that point, near the vehicle entrance to the New Pit

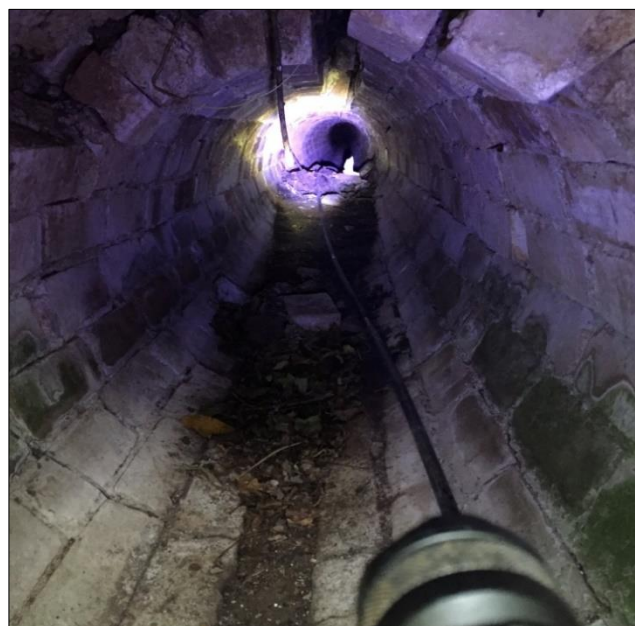


Photo 4 – View along one of the water distribution channels. (© D Hore, 2022)

enclosure. It took several work parties to uncover the brick top. Using a camera inserted into a hole in the brickwork, Derek spotted that there were two metal pipes in one wall. He traced these to a point near the firebox end of the Egg-ended Boiler settings (photo [33](#)). We are still working out what most of these water distribution channels did.

Derek and Hamish surveyed the water levels at various points around the site. The first results suggest that there are two levels, a deeper one associated with the water supply and a shallower one associated with drainage. Hamish took advantage of the lower water levels and flow rates associated with that spell of hot dry weather in the summer of 2022 to repair the brickwork of the outlet on the Lyde Green housing estate side of the pond. This area can be seen in photo [34](#). From there the water flows under the line of the old railway, and then joins an unnamed watercourse within the housing estate.

Photos were taken of the exposed walls of the Egg-ended Boiler settings as part of our record keeping. It must be pointed out that the number tents were used to help with measuring the overlap of the photos, and not to show areas of interest. Software was then used to combine the photos of each side into a composite with mixed results. The seven individual photos of the north-west wall, an example of which can be seen in photo [35](#), have been combined into the composite seen in photo [81](#). Photos [36](#) and [37](#) are examples of the photos taken of the south-east wall, but the composite of that wall will need a considerable amount of work to be done before it can be published.

We now have several examples of Dramway rail chairs, all made to slightly different patterns. The latest, seen in photo [5](#) on the right after conservation, was not complete but still had the rail fixing spike attached. It can also be seen in photo [64](#), as part of the Heritage Open Days (HODs) artefact display.



Photo 5 – The latest example of Dramway rail chairs after conservation. The rail fixing spike was still attached and has been painted white. (5 cm x 5 cm scale)

As part of the preparations for the 2022 HODs, Jeff built a set of guard rails so that visitors can look into the Vertical Engine House when standing on the top of the Old Pit heapstead (photo [6](#) right). He also painted various railings around the site, some of which were starting to become rusty. Photos [38](#) to [40](#) show some of the preparatory work. A new path and an exit from the New Boiler area had to be constructed. The originals, created for the 2021 HODs, were swallowed up by the subsequent excavations around the Egg-ended Boiler settings. Steve H and Hailey built part of the path inside the line of the new fence, starting near the stone stockpile outside the Vertical Engine House and ending beside the spoil stockpile near the Egg-ended Boiler settings (photo [41](#)). John was clearing leaves from the remains of the metal frame outside the entrance to the Old Pit alcove when he discovered the 7¾" long lump of metal seen in photo [42](#). It appears in photo [43](#) after Hamish had given it his heat treatment. It looks as if it might be part of a hammer for driving rail spikes, which had fractured at the point where the shaft was attached.



Photo 6 – Jeff made this safety barrier, placed on the top of the Old Pit heapstead overlooking the Vertical Engine House, for the HODs.

During the tidy-up in the Cornish Engine House, it was noticed that the floor in the south corner was sagging (photo [44](#)). Removal of the broken tiles revealed a hole, which is the long sought-after entry to the under croft of this end of the engine house. The hole was covered with a temporary grille for the HODs weekend, and a permanent grille was fitted in November (photo [46](#)). The clay tiles (photo [48](#)) are 12" square and about 2¾" thick. They appear to be hand-made in a mould as there are slight variations in their measurements. After the HODs weekend the water was pumped out of the chamber under the Cornish Engine House so that we could have a look at it. Some of the



resulting photos are shown in photos 49 to 51. Photo [49](#) shows the roof of chamber at the north-east end, and [50](#) the floor. Photo [51](#) shows the corroded end of a holding down bolt. The extent of the corrosion explains why on the surface the bolt at the south-eastern end of the bed is missing. We have still to find out how to reach the bottom of the existing holding down bolts at the north-eastern and south-western sides of the engine bed, and whether there is a direct connection between this chamber and the condenser pit. After that initial inspection, work in this area was suspended as there were many other areas that needed more urgent attention.

Brandy Bottom was open on 10 and 11 September as part of the National Heritage Open Days scheme. We had 134 visitors on the Saturday and 182 on the Sunday, for a total of 316. This compares to a total of 218 in 2021, when there was a pottery workshop running in the New Pit yard, and 182 in 2019. Having advertised tours at half-hourly intervals, we found that at times we were running them with a 20 minute gap. Even this was too long for some visitors who were not prepared to wait and walked away. We will need to train more guides if we are to cut down the interval between tours to 15 minutes. Anything less and the tour parties would be tripping over each other. Some of our newer volunteers listened to what the more experienced ones had to say as the latter took tour parties around. Hopefully the new volunteers will feel confident enough to take their own parties round at the next HODs in September.

We would like to thank Tracy and Mark W for running the refreshment stall again, and for their generous donation of £359 from the proceedings. Donations from the visitors brought in another £173. Daphne, Hailey and Anne ran a plant/curios stall that was combined with a South Gloucestershire Mines Research Group (SGMRG) bookstall. Among the items on sale at the last named were copies of Steve Grudgings' 2013 research report on Brandy Bottom. The 2022 HOD was the first that we have had enough volunteers to be able to run a bookshop.

New for the 2022 HOD visitors was a viewing platform set beside the outer wall of the Vertical Engine House (photo [58](#)) which made it easier to see the stone structures inside the building. There was the expanding area of ducts associated with the Egg-ended Boiler settings, and a low headroom view into one of the fan ducts and the chamber at the shaft end (photo [7](#) right). The white blocks on the floor in the foreground, were placed there to protect the remains of a metal damper. Hamish's expanded model of the site was on display in the Horizontal Engine House (photos [60](#) to [63](#)), together with both sets of display boards. The model is an 'artistic impression' of what the place might have looked like in its heyday, as it includes structures such as the New Pit headgear that are no longer in place. Some of the artefacts found during our work were on display outside the engine house. Nearby was a pit where a length of railway line had been found some two feet below the current ground surface (photo [53](#)). Judging by the cross-section (photo [54](#)), it is a length of Dramway rail that has been re-used in a siding. Displayed on the safety railings around the pit (photo [64](#)) were a complete rail chair with a wooden mock-up of a rail, and the broken chair seen in photo [5](#).



Photo 7 – The inside of the southern fan duct, with the white slabs on the floor protecting the remains of a damper in the foreground. The chamber in the background, which is common to both ducts, was artificially lit so that visitors could look around.

One visitor made the following comment to the national HODs organisers: "The volunteers running the event at the colliery were brilliant and so engaging. They all had personal time in recovering the colliery's buildings and history." Praise indeed for the efforts of the volunteers. However not everything was so hunky dory. A visiting dog expressed its opinion of one guide's stories by being sick. There might have been another reason - it was a Labrador, and who knows what dainty delectables it had dined on earlier in the day. Another volunteer never got round to his Saturday sandwiches. They returned on the Sunday on a 'waste not, want not' basis, and by lunchtime they were starting to develop some of the attributes of that legendary 1960s-70s transport sandwich.

A scaffolding tower was built inside the Cornish Engine House so that Hamish could make repairs to the capping on top of the south-east wall (photo [8](#) right). He has also installed grout pipes so that a section of the wall above the window can be stabilised. (This window can be seen in the bottom middle of the photo)

Oliver has continued to work on converting the results of his laser scans of the site into scale drawings. The results of Daphne's work on the flower beds can be seen in photo [1](#), which was taken in May last year. She has been joined in this task by Ann who has spent time recently on the nearby half mine wheels. She has planted a number of spring bulbs, including some English bluebells.

The view of the site from the cycle path has been improved by the removal of the bushes growing between the new and old fences, and by the removal of some of the old fences. This happened in early 2023 and photo [9](#) (on the right) shows the results in the Old Pit enclosure and photo [67](#) shows the New Pit enclosure. A group at work in the New Pit can be seen in photo [68](#).

South Gloucestershire Council has included the whole Brandy Bottom Scheduled Ancient Monument area in its Common Connections project. The project aims to increase the biodiversity of the area by linking the main wildlife areas through safe corridors, and the Dramway cycle path is an ideal corridor. The Council commissioned Wild Service, the Ecological Consultancy for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, to do an ecological survey of the area in June 2022, including the area inside our fences. We will have to see if the council will give us a copy of the report.

Enovert closed the adjacent Shortwood waste tip in October 2022. As a result, we are no longer eligible for grants from the Enovert Community Trust as we are now more than 10 miles from one of the company's active waste tips. The AIBT would like to thank the Enovert Community Trust and its predecessor the Ibstock Enovert Trust for their generous financial support in the past. We are now looking at other sources of funds for our conservation work.

At one work party John produced the child's hobnailed boot seen on the right (photo [10](#)). This had been stored in his father's loft in Cornwall, and John has no idea who the original owner was. Although it is not a 'Brandy Bottom' artefact and so is not part of the site's artefact collection, it has been included here as it may be of interest to some readers. Photo [70](#) is a view of the sole of the boot, while photo [71](#) is a close-up of the CC41 utility stamp on the inside. That allows the boot to be dated to between 1941 to 1952, a time when furniture, clothing and shoemakers were restricted in what they were allowed to produce.

Alan Bryant, the curator at the Kingswood Local History Museum, offered us two lengths of 'fish-bellied' rails of the type used on the Dramway, and two lengths of lightweight 'top hat' section rails (photos [55](#) and [56](#)). The latter are thought to have come from the Wick Ochre Works. The rails were originally given to the museum by an enthusiastic collector from Rodborough near Stroud. In the past



Photo 8 – Hamish working on the top of the south-east wall of the Cornish Engine House.



Photo 9 – Cleared area between the new and old fence near the western corner of the Old Pit heapstead.



Photo 10 – The child's boot described in the text opposite. (5 cm x 5 cm scale)

we have come across short sections of the 'top hat' rails when excavating around the site, but never as long as these ones. Visitors to the next Heritage Open Days will be able to see the actual shape of a 'fish-bellied' rail, rather than having to peer down a pit and imagine what the metal object at the bottom (photo [53](#)) really looked like. Photo [55](#) shows how the depth of the web of the fish-bellied varies along the length of the rail, with the narrowest part above the right hand side of the scale and the deepest part near the left hand end. The AIBT would like to thank Alan and the Kingswood Local History Museum for their kind donation.

The author would like to thank the other photographers for allowing him to use their photos, and to Ken for proof-reading the draft.

### **Visitor Access, Future Work Parties, and Joining In**

At present there is only visitor access to the site on days when there is a work party in progress. It is usually possible to give individuals or small groups a guided tour during the work parties on a 'turn-up on the day' basis, but that depends on both the number of volunteers present and the work in progress. Special arrangements can be made for parties of 10 or more people by making contact through our email address of [info@aibt.org](mailto:info@aibt.org).

The dates of the work parties in 2023 are: Wednesday 21 June; Saturday 01, Wednesday 12, Saturday 22 July; Wednesday 02, Saturday 12, Wednesday 23 August; Saturday 02, Saturday 16, Wednesday 27 September; Saturday 07, Wednesday 18, Saturday 28 October; Wednesday 08, Saturday 18, Wednesday 29 November; Saturday 09, Wednesday 20 December. The provisional dates for the Heritage Open Days are Saturday 09 and Sunday 10 September.

Please note that work parties, and their starting and finishing times, may be altered at short notice. Visitors are welcome between 10.30 am and 3 pm, but these times are not fixed as we may start later and/or finish earlier. Because of this, newcomers who would like to join a work party should first make contact via the AIBT's email address of [info@aibt.org](mailto:info@aibt.org). A responsible adult must always accompany youngsters.

We would like to thank the volunteers and near-by residents who keep an eye on the site when there are no work parties in progress.

There is a location map on a dedicated page of the website [www.aibt.org](http://www.aibt.org), together with directions on how to reach the site. This page can be found by a link on the main Brandy Bottom project page. If planning to visit by car, please note that the South Gloucestershire Council intends to stop Coxgrove Hill/Roman Road from being used as a short-cut between Pucklechurch and the Westerleigh road. The closure date and final details have still to be announced, and an alternative parking place is under consideration.

### **Information on the AIBT Website**

There are copies of all earlier newsletters on the Archive page of the AIBT's website: [www.aibt.org](http://www.aibt.org). The Brandy Bottom section has pages covering a brief history of the pit and reports on work parties, as well as many photographs of the buildings, work parties, artefacts and structures discovered, and of some of the wildlife and wildflowers.



## Photographs: May 2022 – May 2023



Photo 11 – Close-up of the brickwork at the end of the Egg-ended Boiler settings. A general view of this area can be seen in photo [12](#) below.



Photo 12 – Hamish, Ken and Peter R (l to r) discuss the significance of a find at the north-east end of the Egg-ended Boiler settings.



Photo 13 – Excavation of the flue outside the Egg-ended Boiler settings at an early stage, looking towards the north-east.



Photo 14 – The outer end of the pipe that runs through the tunnel in the eastern wall of the egg-ended boiler settings. The inset shows the inside of the tunnel and was originally published as photo 14 of Newsletter 34.



Photo 15 – A view looking south-west along the flue. The arrow marks the point where the pipe elbow seen in photo [14](#) is located.





Photo 16 – A view along the flue in the opposite direction to photo [15](#).



Photo 17 – View looking north-east along the flue nearest the New Boiler area. (1 m ranging pole. The number tents in this and photos [18](#) and [23](#) were used to gauge to overlap of the sequential photos and do not indicate points of particular interest.)



Photo 18 – View looking south-west along the same flue as photo 17. The flue seen in photo 15 can be seen on the left. (1 m ranging pole)



Photo 19 – This firebrick was found when cleaning out the extension of the flue to the north-east of the Egg-ended Boiler settings. We have not found any information on the maker at the time of writing. (15 cm scale)



Photo 20 – Mark W and Peter R at work in the New Boiler Area in November 2022.





Photo 21 – Steve H and Peter R working on the outside of the south-east wall of the Egg-ended Boiler settings. This photo was taken at an early stage of the proceedings.



Photo 22 – Pete W, Mark B and Mick take a break while working on the area to the north-east of the Egg-ended Boiler settings.



Photo 23 – Exposed brickwork at the north-east end of the Egg-ended Boiler settings in November 2022. (1 m ranging pole)



Photo 24 – John learns the art of bricklaying from Ken, as they worked on conserving the outer side of the north-east end of the Egg-ended boiler settings ...



Photo 25 – ... The partly completed rebuild of the wall in March ...



Photo 26 – ... and in April 2023. The original state of the wall can be seen in photo [23](#). The space between the new and original brickwork will be filled with concrete.





Photo 27 – Hamish repairing the brickwork at the firebox end of the Egg-ended Boiler settings ...



Photo 28 – ... and laying a capping layer of bricks.



Photo 29 – Steve H working on the brickwork on the western side of the settings.



Photo 30 – Derek, Marek, and Mark W (l to r) digging down to find the end of the water conduit. (See comments on p.2)



Photo 31 – Steve G made a rare visit to the site in April and was put to work on excavating around the chamber at the end of a drainage conduit. Here he can be seen “supervised” by Peter R and Derek.



Photo 32 – This artefact, which looks like a link from a standard three-link coupling, was found in the area seen in photo 30. It looks as if it has been deliberately cut open to detach it from the others. (15 cm scale)





Photo 33 – The blue paint marks the ends of the two pipes that run from the chamber in the New Pit enclosure.



Photo 34 – Outlet from the pond in summer after repairs. From here the water flows under the line of the old railway tracks before entering the nearby Lyde Green housing estate.  
(© D Hore, 2022)



Photo 35 – One of the individual photos that make up the composite of the north-west wall of the boiler settings seen in photo [81](#) on page 19. (The number tents in this and photos [36](#)

and [37](#) were used to gauge to overlap of the sequential photos and do not indicate points of interest. 1 m ranging pole)



Photo 36 – Part of the south-east wall of the boiler settings. This, and other photos have yet to be combined into a composite photo similar to the one seen in photo [81](#). (1 m ranging pole)



Photo 37 – Part of the south-east wall of the boiler settings. This, and the other photos have yet to be combined into a composite. (1 m ranging pole)



Photo 38 – Pete R and John have tidied up the stone stockpile outside the Vertical Engine House, corralling the stones in a pen made from old pallets.





Photo 39 – Steve H and Peter R working on the viewing platform outside the Vertical Engine House.



Photo 40 – A busy session in the New Boiler area, with work on what is thought to be the settings of the Lancashire boilers in the centre of the photo and another group in the Old Pit alcove at the back.



Photo 41 – View of the Old Pit enclosure, with the entrance to the Flue on the extreme left and the Vertical Engine House to its right. The figure in the white cap near the centre of the photo is standing at the start of the new path out of the New Boiler area while the figure in the red on the right is standing at its end.



Photo 42 – This lump of metal, found just outside the Old Pit alcove, is thought to be part of a hammer for driving rail spikes (5 cm x 5 cm scale) ...



Photo 43 – ... and after conservation by Hamish. (5 cm x 5 cm scale)



Photo 44 – The sagging floor in the south corner of the Cornish Engine House (See comments on [p. 3](#)) ...





Photo 45 – ... and after the removal of the tiles ...



Photo 46 – ... A permanent metal grille has been fitted to the hole.



Photo 47 – ...Three of the tiles that were removed from the area seen in photo [44](#).



Photo 48 – ... and a close-up of one . (5 cm x 5 cm scales)



Photo 49 – A view of the north-east end of the chamber under the engine bed area of the Cornish Engine House (see comments on p.[3](#)). (© D Hore, 2022)



Photo 50 – Bottom of the chamber under the engine bed area of the Cornish Engine House, looking towards the north-east. (© M Fletcher, 2022)



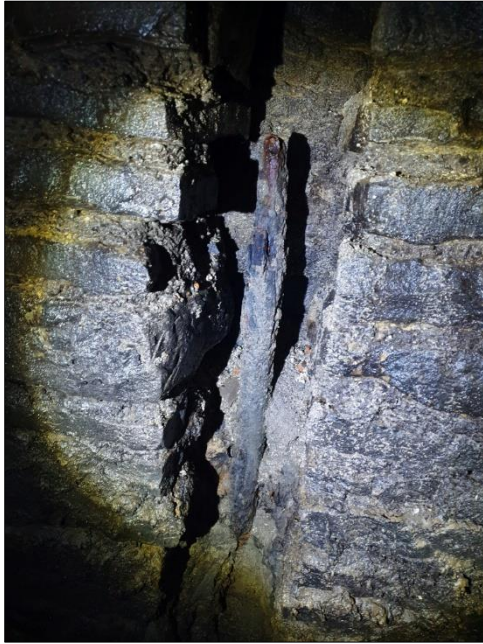


Photo 51 – The remains of an engine holding down bolt in the chamber under the engine bed area of the Cornish Engine House. (© M Fletcher, 2022)



Photo 52 – Hamish holds a working miner's lamp in his right hand as he prepares to test the atmosphere in the under croft of the Cornish Engine House before anyone entered.



Photo 53 – A length of 'fish-bellied' Dramway rail uncovered near the north-east corner of the Horizontal Engine House. The top of the rail lies some 2 feet below the present ground level. (As seen in photo [64](#), the pit has been surrounded with a safety barrier)



Photo 54 – Close-up of the left hand end of the rail seen in photo [53](#), showing its cross section. (© D Hore, 2022)



Photo 55 – Two lengths of fish-bellied rail, top and middle, with a length of top hat rail at the bottom. (30 cm scale)



Photo 56 – The two lengths of Dramway rail on the right, and two lengths of 'top hat' rail on the left. (See comments on p. [5](#), 30 cm scale)





Photo 57 – Hamish and Jeff enlarging the hole containing the railway line seen in photo [53](#).



Photo 58 – A group of visitors during the HOD weekend using the platform to look into the Vertical Engine House ...



Photo 59 – ... while another group is seen in the Cornish Engine House.



Photo 60 – Hamish's model of the site, with the New Pit heapstead in the foreground ...



Photo 61 – ... A close-up of the Cornish Engine House, with the Horizontal Engine House in the top left ...



Photo 62 – ... The Old Pit end of the model ...

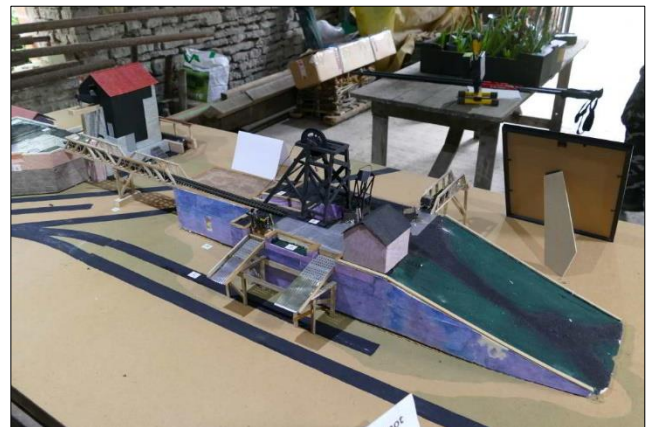


Photo 63 – ... The New Pit end of the model.





Photo 64 – The length of rail seen in photo [53](#) can be seen below the safety barrier in the middle of the photo. On the top are two examples of Dramway rail chairs. The one on the left can be seen from another angle in photo [5](#), while the one on the right is holding a wooden mock-up of a Dramway rail.

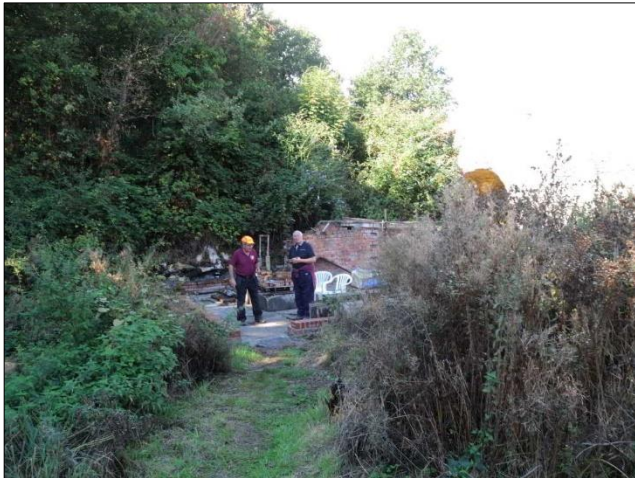


Photo 65 – Roger, chairman of the SGMRG at the time, and Derek near the Fan Ducts. Roger was dropping off some SGMRG publications for the book stall at the HODs.



Photo 66 – Pete W and Jeff removing a redundant fencing post from beside the storage container.



Photo 67 – View of the northern corner of the New Pit enclosure after removal of the old fence and associated vegetation. The Horizontal Engine House is on the right and the Old Pit heapstead in the background.



Photo 68 – Mark W, Steve H and Marek (top to bottom) removing the old fencing on the cycle path side of the New Pit enclosure.



Photo 69 – Pete W and John tidy up the inside of the Horizontal Engine House.





Photo 70 – The underside of the child’s boot seen in photo [10](#) ...



Photo 71 – ... and the CC41 stamp on the inside. (See comments on p.[5](#))

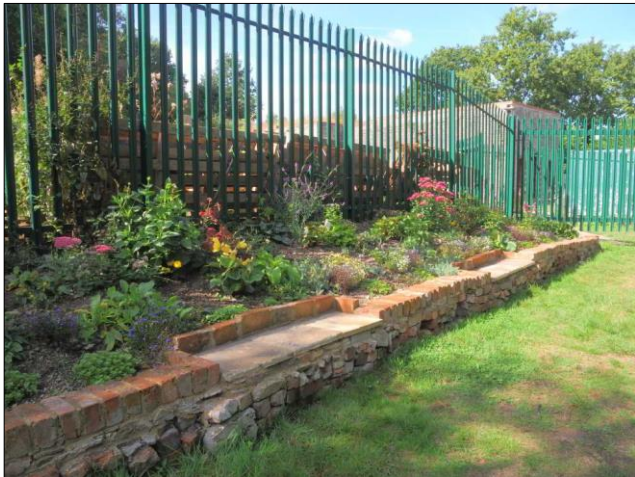


Photo 72 – A September 2022 photo of the same flower bed seen in photo [1](#), showing that many of the plants survived the hot summer’s weather with only an occasional watering ...



Photo 73 – and in April 2023.



Photo 74 – The half mine wheel on the eastern side of the cycle path in April. Some English bluebells have recently been added to the mixture of plants.



Photo 75 – Daphne tending the flower bed.





Photo 76 – A mass of Fairy Inkcap mushrooms growing on a log near the Fan Housing. The app on Mick's phone identified them as 'Trooping Crumble Caps', a name that did not appear in my guidebook. An internet search established that the two names referred to the same species, which is also known as 'Fairies' Bonnets' and 'Trooping Inkcaps'. The guidebook does not say whether the species is edible ...



Photo 77 – ... while this one is. Steve H knocked this Morell mushroom over while working in the Old Pit enclosure. Last year there was only one, and this year two. If they carry on increasing in numbers at this rate, we should be able to serve the volunteers with a mushroom breakfast at some time in the future. Steve took this one home, salivating at the prospect of sliced Morell fried in butter.



Photo 78 – Wild rose blossoms and some of the surrounding leaves have been backlit by the sun in June.



Photo 79 – In 2022 Pete W put this bird box on a tree trunk, and in April noticed it had been vandalised. What we do not know is whether the enlargement was done by a bird that was too tubby to get through the original hole, or by a hungry predator such as a squirrel or woodpecker. Nor do we know whether the box was occupied at the time.

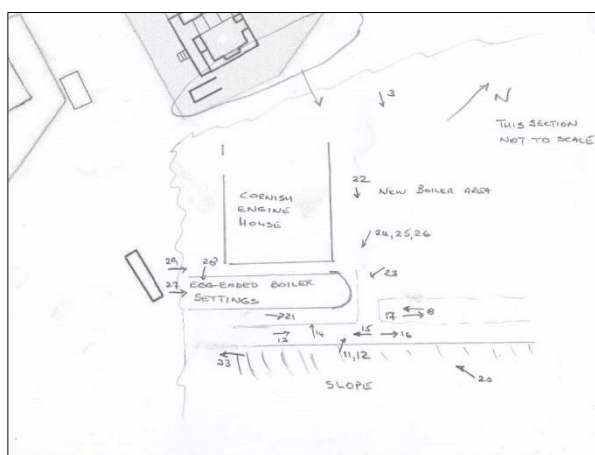


Photo 80 – Part of drawing BB-337-250523-rw, showing the location of some of the photos in this newsletter. (Not to scale)

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Website: [www.aibt.org](http://www.aibt.org)

email: [info@aitb.org](mailto:info@aitb.org)

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Photo 81 – Composite photo of the north-west wall of the Egg-ended Boiler settings. Made from 7 individual photos combined by software, this approach gives an overall view of the settings, while the individual photos can be consulted for fine detail. The number tents do not mark items of interest but were used to gauge the overlap between the individual photos. Scale is indicated by the two 1 m red/white and one 1 m black/white ranging poles, and there is over 10 m between the two extremities of the photo. The stitching software is not faultless – note the “broken” ranging pole between the number 2 and 3 tents. Photo [35](#) shows that the pole was not broken.