

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CANAL REPORT

### Canal Safety Inspection May 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

There are no safety issues to report.

The daffodils have given way to bluebells and the birds are busy all the way along the canal.

**Vegetation and trees:** Vegetation is growing quickly and most trees are in leaf. The ash is very late even compared to last year – some are flowering at tips but



there are many that are not especially at the tops and I fear we may have to brace ourselves for felling in the autumn/winter if they don't revive. Even if the trees don't come into leaf, they do take years to decay enough to be a hazard but we may wish to consider pollarding to avoid felling – that must be done before the main trunk becomes brittle. We need to monitor the situation knowing we do have a contingency to act. The WI cherry tree is flowering well.



**Benches:** The two older benches and the Stoker Seat are safe.

**Paths:** The paths were all dry but you can see where they have been muddy. In parts there is mud on top of the stone layer – we should maybe consider sweeping the debris off and expose the stones before a complete resurfacing job. .



**Boundaries, Walls and Fences:** the fallen section where the large sloe tree has knocked it over is still getting worse – we should contact the owner of the field to see if he can repair as he indicated he would. The whole wire and post fence is leaning on the wall and this will not help in the future.



**Signage:** No cycling signs are all OK. The Queens Canopy sign is still solid. The Hill Bridge signage is installed.

**Usage:** Extremely busy possibly as people avoid the field paths which are muddy.

**LCRP:** The aqueduct path is still muddy. The installations are complete but already the thistles are growing up obscuring the main one on the aqueduct. There is even more vegetation growing out of the mortar on the aqueduct but after querying it with the CRT there is still no funding to do anything about it.



The first cut of the Millennium Field, Green and back lane was carried out on 22.04.24.