

## Borehole at Coates Lock March 2025



**Borehole location**

It is more than a year, since the offside upper wing wall at Coates Lock failed, shortly after the Canal and Rivers Trust's contractor erected a fabric dam across the canal next to the wall.

The wall and bank behind it sank leaving the field at risk of further collapse.

Very little progress has since been made in resolving the issue, apart from valiant attempts by the Trust's principal design engineer to develop a solution. His work has been hampered by the lack of information about the ground next to and below the wing wall. This could only be provided by an exploratory borehole at the site. The Trust were not able to arrange for this to happen before access to the land was prevented by a new crop being sown in the field.

The PCAS committee decided to commission a borehole with sampling and laboratory testing as a contribution to the work, which using their more streamlined procedures could be organised to take place in March.

The details were agreed in advance with the Trust's principal engineer and a geotechnical contractor was appointed.



Shone Geotechnical arrived on site on 20 March at 6:30am to scan the site for underground pipes and cables. A confirmatory pit was also hand dug at the site of the borehole.

The drilling rig arrived at 7:00am and set up ready to start drilling.



The work continued for most of the day and reached a depth of 9.3m below the ground surface.



Representative samples of the soils that were encountered were taken and down-hole tests performed.



The samples are currently at a laboratory undergoing tests. When the results are received, these will be passed on to the Trust’s principal design engineer, so that he can progress a design solution.

The borehole passed through a variety of soil types, including sands, clay and gravel before terminating in the underlying solid geology which is Mercia Mudstone.

