

An aerial photograph showing a construction site for a canal wall rebuild. A yellow excavator is working on a dirt embankment next to a canal. The canal is bordered by a blue tarp and yellow buoys. In the background, there are residential buildings and a white building with a grey roof. The scene is surrounded by a fence and various construction materials.

Historic canal wall rebuild for the Canal and River Trust

Service/product: PortaDam | **Customer:** Canal and River Trust

Location: Norbury Wharf, Staffordshire, UK

The historic Norbury Wharf dates back to 1835, when it was known as the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction canal, later becoming the Shropshire Union canal. As such, this is now a conservation area with several listed buildings and heritage structures in the surrounding area

In early 2023, the Trust identified that a 20m section of the waterway wall at Norbury Junction was in a state of failure. The wall had sunk and was leaning into the canal on the north corner of the wharf.



PortaDam successfully holding back the water to create a safe and dry area to work in.

OnSite were called in by the Trust as part of their framework, firstly to PortaDam the area, before the deconstruction and rebuild of the wall.

On starting the work, the OnSite team discovered that the canal depth was greater than expected. This required an additional 150 tonnes of stone to be installed to the canal bed to create a firmer surface.



Workers rebuilding the new brick built wall behind the protection of PortaDam.

Due to the historic nature of the site, there were many considerations for the team during the project.

A heritage advisor was consulted to approve the type and colour match of the bricks used to rebuild the wall although the team reused the original bricks where it was possible to do so. The wall also had to be constructed in the same brick bond as the original.

The existing concrete copings were numbered as they were removed so they could be put back in their original layout.

The heritage advisor also supervised the removal of the timber sleepers.

Whilst the project was due to last 12 weeks, the team completed it in just nine weeks. As the marina had to be closed during the works, this was great news for the marina owner.



PortaDam | temporary dam system

Designed, engineered, and tested for the specific purpose of constructing a barrier to hold back water. It creates an effective temporary dam, providing a safe and dry area for maintenance, inspection and civil construction works in waterways, rivers, canals reservoirs and docks.

Read more here: www.onsite.co.uk/portadam

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Established in 1977, OnSite is part of SSI Services (UK) Ltd, a division of South Staffordshire Plc and has grown through strategic acquisition and organic expansion to become one of the UK's leading providers of specialist contracting services.

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