

Notes On IMG Seat Replacement

1 The Purpose of these Notes

The intention is to review the recent successful replacement of the upper seat and put forward some ideas on how any future replacements of the three similar seats which remain on the site could be done.

2 The Recent Replacement (August 2018)

Rotting and breaking of the two vertical posts, possibly aided by vandalism, caused the vertical posts to break and the seat to collapse. A replacement was complete and in place on 15 August.

Although the job was successful in the end, it took a lot of man-hours of volunteer labour. David Willis and Tim Patrickson spent about 2 man-hours beforehand in getting out the old wood still buried in the ground and another 6 man-hours beforehand, by me, in getting the 150 x 100mm beams for replacement verticals from Ragley Sawmill, sawing them to shape and cutting the large rebate (160 x 150mm wide & 30mm deep) in one face of each beam with mallet and chisel. Then about 10 man-hours (by David Willis, Tim Patrickson, Wendy and me) went into work on site on 14 August.

Most of the labour on the site went into dismantling the heavily rusted parts so that we could detach the seat support beams from the broken verticals for fixing to the new ones. The three planks which form the seat and the back rest were detached from the old verticals and secured to the new ones.

Tim put in another 2 man-hours on 15 August in backfilling and consolidating the soil around the vertical seat posts. **So a total of 20 man-hours went into the replacement. This is far too much.**

3 Ideas For Future Replacement (When Needed) of Similar Seats

(a) The method described in 2 above **should not be used again**. It needs too much time and labour

(b) **Alternatives are:**

- (i) Buy a complete new seat and install it in the same holes (after clearing out any rotted timber) as the broken ones came out from.

I have been able to find only one supplier (*Broxap*) of similar seats on the Net. You will find it at: <https://www.broxap.com/edale-rustic-3-slat.html>

This one looks acceptable, except that the timbers do not look as massive as in our existing seats and the seating planks are sloping at what looks like an uncomfortable angle, such as might dig into seated legs. Furthermore, the verticals are only 300mm (about 1 foot) in the ground. But the big drawback is that they cost **£270 each, VAT included**.

- (ii) Get new beams, both verticals and seat supports, cut and machined by Ragley Saw Mill according to our dimensioned drawings (when I have done them).

4 What is the Next Move?

I will do the drawings when I can (allow a week or two) and submit them to such trustees as are likely to be familiar with engineering drawings.

If the designs are approved I will visit Ragley Sawmill and see what they think, and how much they might charge. I think that they will have suitable equipment namely saws and a machine for cutting the large rebate, because they produce fencing and prepare timber for general maintenance work around the Ragley Estate.

If they do not want to do the job we will have to think again.

C J Johnson