

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at Ebridge area.
Date: Sunday 4th September 2016.
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

- To clear the cut weeds from the canal and millpond.
- To mow the 'island' area, to mow the area on the east side of the lock, to clear the spillway and area surrounding it and to generally tidy up the whole area.
- To carry out work on our pontoon to enable the safety chains to be fitted, and to affix a transom on the work boat.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was warm with sunny intervals, slightly tempered by a stiff breeze. 14 volunteers turned out, a much improved number on our last work-party.

Jonathan and I collected the mower, strimmer and tools from our lock-up and took them down to Ebridge. Ivan and a couple of others made their way to Bacton Wood to do the work on the pontoon and work-boat.

The remainder of the work-party split up into mowing, strimming, removing weed from the water, and working on clearing the spillway. John used his small boat to great effect by pushing the weed towards the east bank from which we could pull it on to the bank whilst some was pulled from the mouth of the lock. Much of the weed was stacked beside the collapsed culvert hole.

The state of the spillway is getting worse the surface compromised to such an extent now that the water runs through the spillway rather than over it, and it is sinking. Despite this we pulled all of the weeds out of the surface to hopefully stop it deteriorating any further.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30

The east side ground paddle gear was covered in thick ivy. It took two of us the prize it out of the mechanism but it was eventually cleared and looks much better- at least it now looks cared for! We mowed the edges of the banks and around the lock capstones. There is now a great deal of ivy growing on the brickwork of the lock walls and in the mouth of the lock. We could not safely remove this so it will have to wait until we take the pontoon down to the lock.

The area was made as tidy as possible with the edges around the lock and the banks strimmed to make the water hazard safer to approach.

Whilst we were working there we walked upstream on the east bank to check on the reported leaking bank. There is a fairly major leak well upstream of the spillway and it was thought appropriate to mark the hazard with safety tape. Two parallel lines of hazard tape were placed such that walkers were diverted away from bank edge near the leak.

Work completed we loaded the mower and tools etc. into my car and took them to the lock-up. Ivan and team were still working on fitting the transom on to the work-boat so we left them to complete the task and lock the unit.

Work ceased at approx. 15.30

Chris Black, work-party leader