

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-parties at Ebridge spillway and Purdy's Marsh
Date: Sunday 13th August 2017
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

- To complete the bricklaying on the retaining wall.
- To remove the Himalayan Balsam from Purdy's Marsh

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was warm and dry with no rain forecast. 12 volunteers turned out, enough to split the work-party today between completing the brick top on the concrete retaining wall and removal of Himalayan Balsam from Purdy's Marsh.

This being the start of the WRG's 2 week visit to refurbish the spillway our work-party start was somewhat delayed as we needed to introduce ourselves as the Trust and that we would be completing the brickwork on the access track retaining wall.

The WRG had the use of Laurie's small digger and tracked dumper to remove the spoil from the face of the spillway. They made a good start by removing spoil from the area closest to the retaining wall and soon had a line set out from which they could grade the slope. This meant that our bricklaying party could work on the wall without being in a hazardous work area.

As not all of the WRG party were involved with the initial clearance Mary took two of them up the Canal to see the restored Bacton Wood lock and the refurbished Royston spillway.

Some of our work-party members had started work at Purdy's Marsh but due to the start of the WRG work-party I got rather involved in the Ebridge site. They eventually arrived at Ebridge wondering what the situation was. So after a while I and the remainder of the work-party, who were not involved with the retaining wall brickwork, went back to Purdy's Marsh for some Balsam bashing. It is somewhat late to be clearing this as it is on the cusp of seeding but as so much Balsam has spread into the marsh we set about removing as much as possible knowing that some seeds will spread. The large work projects had delayed earlier removal of the Balsam before it ran to seed.

We made a point of pulling out as many of the young plants as possible as well as the established plants, which were then piled up in the open to wither and die.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.45

After lunch we continued pulling Balsam out, reaching well into the marsh before we called a halt. The patch of Balsam is now greatly reduced, which Laurie came up to see. We returned to Ebridge to see the retaining wall completed and the WRG battling to remove the concrete and spoil from the old spillway surface. Our tools were returned to the lock-up and we left at approx 16.30.

The work-party ceased at approx 16.30

Chris Black, Work party leader.