

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Reed removal on Purdy's Marsh.

Date: 21st January 2018

From: Chris Black

THE PLAN:

- To continue cutting the second third of Purdy's Marsh.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT:

8 volunteers turned out on a dry but cold morning with rain forecast for the early afternoon. The Canal looked splendid in the early sunlight, being half filled with water and covered by ice. We had lots of walkers on the bank who took a keen interest in the semi-filled canal and the work in hand.

Our task today was to focus on the reed cutting of Purdy's Marsh as we need to finish cutting the second third of the marsh with the nesting season getting closer.

For management purposes the marsh is basically divided into three areas. The northern and central areas are set at approx. 115 metres long with the southern area approx. 85 metres long as it is considerably wider.

The task of cutting and raking up the reeds is really hard work however by lunchtime we had cut, cleared and burnt reeds up to the northern edge of the southern area of reeds.

Lunch was taken at approx. 13.00 hrs.

After lunch we decided to clear the remaining cut reeds and detritus from the 50 metres of cut area in readiness to cut the reeds northwards for another 65 metres at the next work-party – a task which will take more than two work-parties.

As forecast the afternoon rain duly arrived and with the fire rounded up and made safe we left the site to take the tools back to base.

Back at Bacton Wood lock I spoke to Laurie about future jobs. He said that one urgent job is to put some sheet-piling in the bank opposite the sluice above Royston Bridge. The flow of water into the east soke has scoured the bank away. Another fairly urgent job is to fix the bottom hinge pins to the upper gates and locate and affix the hinge pin sockets. This will require the gates to be removed.

Work ceased at approx 14.30

Chris Black, work-party leader