

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Reed removal on Purdy's Marsh.
Assist Laurie with repair of tracked red dumper.
Repair steps and bank at pontoon mooring site.

Date: 4th February 2018

From: Chris Black

THE PLAN:

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

WORK ACHIEVEMENT:

10 volunteers turned out on a dry but very cold morning with possibility of snow showers in the early afternoon. The 'dry' section of the Canal still remains half filled with water down to the temporary bund. The Canal downstream of the bund also had a considerable amount of water in it reaching as far as the temporary machinery crossover point. It is believed to be rainwater from last year's torrential downpours. Again we had lots of walkers on the bank all very positive about the re-watering test.

Our task today was to finish cutting the second third of the marsh with the nesting season getting closer. We worked northwards as we now know the equal areas of reeds thanks to Kevin and his smart-phone. These will be marked by posts.

The task of cutting and raking up the reeds remained hard work, however by lunchtime we had cut, cleared and burnt reeds well towards the northern edge of the middle area of reeds.

While we were reed bashing the Darren assisted Laurie and sorted out the landing area, which at some point will have to be made permanent quay heading.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.00 hrs. as the numbing cold called for a hot drink.

After lunch we carried on clearing the remaining cut reeds northwards but failed by about 12 yards to complete the task. Laurie found that the dumper hydraulic motor had the pipes to it reversed – probably done by the re-furbishing people. So off went the dumper to Laurie's workshop as hydraulic fuel needed to be drained off to rectify the problem.

The forecast snow showers didn't materialise and with the fire rounded up and made safe we left the site to take the tools back to base.

Future jobs were discussed with Laurie.

Work ceased at approx 15.30

Chris Black, work-party leader