

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Reed removal on Purdy's Marsh, sheet piling at sluice above Royston Bridge

Date: 18th February 2018

From: Chris Black

THE PLAN:

- To continue cutting the second third of Purdy's Marsh northwards and mowing the area.
- To assist Laurie with the installation of protective sheet piling on the bank opposite the sluice upstream of Royston Bridge.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT:

13 volunteers turned out on a dry, sunny mild morning. Two jobs had been identified, one being the ongoing clearance of the remaining reeds from Purdy's Marsh and the other being the installation of sheet piling opposite the sluice above Royston Bridge. The day started with a search for another 5 sheets of steel piling. These and five already identified were loaded on Laurie's truck and taken up to the sluice.

Four of us were to help with the piling, the remaining 9 tasked with a final drive to complete the reed clearance.

We had one new volunteer today who was sent with reed cutting team as the piling task was deemed hazardous.

The task of piling required the big JCB digger. Jonathan and Chris Heath managed to get to the far bank to assist in placing the sheet piles in the correct place. The first one could not be pressed in even with the full weight of the digger on it. The pile was taken out and moved sideways and this time it went into the bed of the back-soke. We could hear it descending through a 2ft gravel layer – the cause of the difficulty in driving it in at the first attempt. 10 sheets were successfully driven in forming a 12ft barrier to water scouring the bank opposite the sluice. The scoured area of bank behind the piling will be filled with soil at a later date.

The machinery was taken back to the bridge area and as it was midday the piling team walked down to the marsh.

Lunch was called at 12.15 sitting in warm sunshine!

The task of cutting and raking up the reeds and mowing the area had been going well and with the extra hands we reached the marked edge of the area. Alan finished mowing the area and the fire was made safe. The tools and mower were cleaned and returned.

Ivan and Tom Carr returned from their pontoon trip having taken a few more members of the public along the Ebridge pound.

Work ceased at approx 15.30

Chris Black, work-party leader