

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject

Paint Ella II at Spa Common and work on east bank above Ebridge spillway

Date

22nd April 2018

The Plan

The work-party to be split into two teams, one team of two to paint the inside of Ella II's hull. The remaining volunteers to go to Ebridge.

The east bank above the spillway is to be done manually thus avoiding heavy machinery on the bank. More clay to be placed and puddled at repaired minor breach sites. Bank surface to be made as level as possible using soil and small rubble.

Work Achievement

The day was dry and warm. 10 volunteers turned out and were briefed on the tasks for today. The work-party was split into two teams, 2 to paint the inside of the hull of Ella II and the remainder to continue repairs to the sites of the minor leaks in the east bank which had been sealed with puddle clay.

While Frank and Dennis set about painting Ella, the pontoon was loaded with barrows and tools ready to take downstream to Ebridge

Our SueB pontoon workboat was employed to take clay and soil/small rubble upstream to the sites of the repaired leaks. By using the pontoon no heavy machinery is required to traverse the bank.

Several trips were made, unloading the repair material safely off the pontoon. Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30

After lunch we continued working on the east bank placing more soil/rubble in some of the tracks and into areas where water had formed voids through the bank. More clay was placed on parts of the bank then covered. *More of the voids and depressions will require filling and compacting which will be carried out at the next work-party.* More puddle clay is needed on site as it is a very effective seal for the minor leaks in the banks.

We had an information table at Ebridge run by Mary and David, with Mary spending time helping with the bank repairs. There were lots of visitors walking along the canal and so very pleasing to see several canoeists using the Canal.

At the end of the afternoon we returned to Bacton Wood *Mill Lock*. Work ceased at 16.30

Chris Black, work party leader