

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Date 20th May 2018

Objective

Prepare the island and the area to the east of the lock at Ebridge for the Open Weekend

The Plan

- 1-To cut and trim the 'island'
- 2-To cut and trim area east side of the lock
- 3- To remove puddle clay heap to the 'brick pile' area

Work Achievement

The day was dry and warm. 7 volunteers turned out and were briefed on the task for today.

The hand tools and mower were collected from the store and all made their way to Ebridge Lock. The Trust's strimmer had been overhauled by CB as it was not running properly. This was going to be a good test for it today. The team set about the grass cutting and strimming. The areas directly adjacent to the lock were cleared of weed growth so the lock edges were plainly visible and the trip boat landing area was also cleared of weed growth making ingress and egress from the trip boat unhindered.

The edges of the millpond/canal were not cut back too far leaving a good margin for water voles. The bulk of the grassed areas surrounding the lock were close cut in readiness for our forthcoming event. The heap of puddle clay near the edge of the canal was deemed a hazard and was removed to the back edge of the 'tent' area.

Whilst clearing the east side of the lock I was concerned that one of the cap stones on the lock wall, which had been broken a long while back, had slipped and dropped down creating a serious trip hazard. It was decided to put the cap stone back into place however although very heavy it was levered out and the area beneath it built up with bricks. Some serious effort was required to get it in place again but it now sits level with the other stones. The grass bank beside it was built up with soil and turf placed on it.

Mooring posts were installed for Sue B on the east bank at Bacton Wood Mill

Lunch was called at approx. 12.30. Whilst eating lunch CH and CB discussed future work projects.

After lunch we continued with the remaining clearance of the site. We had several visitors to the site all praising the work done by the OCC and Trust in opening the canal. Ella II made an appearance to pick up some passengers who were full of praise for the opening of the canal.

Work ceased at 15.30

Chris Black, work party leader