

Date 27th May 2018

Objective

To put on a show as background for the Radio Norfolk interview but also to progress a few tasks at Ebridge Lock

The Plan

Reduce height of bund next to spillway
Preliminary survey of work in lock
Clear access to bottom end of lock to south of road
Clean bricks on stockpile
Place wire across top of lock to discourage boating next to sand bags
Repair landing steps at Spa Common

Work Achievement

Work commenced at 1230hrs at Spa Common. The day was dry and warm. There were eight work party volunteers. The steps on the west bank at Spa Common were reinstated and tools and equipment loaded up for the scheduled work at Ebridge.

LA and JC brought back a lock gate arm recovered from the lock at Ebridge having moved the work pontoon from Royston to inside the lock at Ebridge. The pontoon will provide a working platform for repairs to the lock walls.

At Ebridge work was commenced on reducing the height of the bund between the canal and the top of the spillway as requested by the Chair and the Boating Officer. DR and CB were interviewed by Radio Norfolk whilst this activity was in progress. Good progress was made on the bund and the material excavated used on the banks adjacent to the spillway. Further work could be done; possibly with mechanical assistance.

MB put up an information table and dealt with the queries of the general public during the afternoon. Good PR exercise.

Measurements were taken in the lock. The top of the pontoon was just over 4m down, the water level just under 4.5m. The depth varied – about 1.5m of water and a hard bottom near to the top gates – little more than 0.5m of water at the other end of the lock. Most damage to West lock wall. Method for repair to be agreed – work to commence after Open Weekend.

The access to the south of the road was assessed – clearing required. There were a few bits of Himalayan Balsam in this area which can be removed when this area is cleared. MB produced photographs of the cleared area in 2015 – steps etc in evidence. Work as ‘demo’ at Open Weekend.

No work on bricks – demo for Open Weekend if enough volunteers

There had been some debate as to how robust the ‘sand’ bags are that have replaced the top gates of the lock. Accordingly, a light steel rope (2 x 6mm) was placed between the walls above the lock, as much as to discourage boating too close to the lock as oppose to providing full protection from large craft.

Tools were returned to the depot and work ceased at 1700hrs

Chris Heath (work party leader)