

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1180474

Subject: Bacton Wood Lock and Purdy's Marsh

Date: Sunday 3rd February 2019

Terry W reports for the Bacton Wood Lock Group:



The main body of volunteers with the aid of the digger removed the new balance beams from the trailer and positioned them to line up with the appropriate gates. Careful measurements were taken and a card board pattern taken of the square box on the beams and then transposed and marked out on to the tops of the main



upright posts. The posts were then sawn down to make exact fit to the beam boxes. The balance beams were then lifted and with a lot of juggling and minor adjustments with the grinder fitted to the gates. The angle of the beams had to set at 3.5 degrees. These have got to be drilled and securely bolted to the centre upright beams on gates on the next work party. The gate on Laurie's side is now working perfectly using the beam, but the path side one is still not clearing the bottom of the lock chamber, so it looks like we will have to lift the gate and inspect and shim up later on. Work finished about 4pm the site was cleared and all tools locked up.

Alan B reports for the Purdy's Marsh Group:

Work started with just the WPL and two DoE returnees, but did increase with arrival after induction of the new intake together with their teacher, and also two more Trust volunteers, with a third replacing one at lunchtime.

A central site for a fire was chosen adjacent to the backslope on the southern edge of the site. A combination of hand tools, pole hedge trimmer, and brush cutters lead to a good area being cut across the site. Most of this area was also then given a cut with the brush mower, which made a reasonably close cut. Part of the area was raked after this cut, forming windrows of the cut material which was then placed on the fire.



A large area remains to be raked up; this will give a spread of work of both cutting and raking from the start of the next work party on this site, also allowing everyone with cutting tools to spread out.

A word from the Work Party co-ordinator:

My thanks to all who came and assisted at the two work parties last Sunday, much of which was a glorious winter sunny day. We also welcomed a new group of DoEers from North Walsham High School, who first undertook their induction and Health and Safety briefing. The group were issued with safety equipment (hard hat, high viz jackets, safety glasses and gloves) They were then able to watch Laurie manipulating his "large" machine lifting the lock beams from the trailer.

My Thanks to Terry and Alan for taking on the WP Leader roles. It is expected that the work places for the next WP on 17th February will be the same - I'm just waiting for the owner's go-ahead.

Ivan Cane
ACTING work party co-ordinator