

YOUR CANAL DEPENDS ON YOU

Our Volunteers, Members and Visitors are essential. By joining and becoming a member of The North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust you are helping to restore, maintain and develop the canal and locks through your valuable contribution.

Thank you



Everything The Trust achieves is through its volunteers and over 200 memberships. There are no paid members of staff in The North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust (hereafter NWDCT, or The Trust). There are currently about 40 active volunteers, trustees and officers.

Numbers of members and volunteers are growing.

Members, visitors and volunteers participate in enjoyable and worthwhile experiences on the waterway and its environs, including 'gongoozling'.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What is a gongoozler?
2. Will I get wet or muddy?

(see p14 for answers)

WELCOME VOLUNTEERS

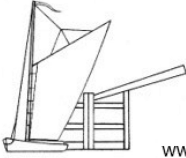
This is your guide to tell you what you need to know about volunteering with NWDCT. It will be used during your induction and as a reference for you about the work of The Trust. We hope you find it useful whilst you are volunteering with us, please let us know if we can make it even better.



Gongoozlers at Briggate Lock 19th Century

CONTENTS

1. WELCOME volunteers to membership of NWDCT
2. Handbook contents
3. Volunteer teams
4. A penny a ton/mile
5. Canal history continued
6. Restoration Timeline
7. And the future
8. Volunteering with the Boating Team
9. Volunteering with the Fishing Team
10. Volunteering with the Support Team
11. Volunteering with the Wildlife Team
12. Volunteering with the Work Parties
13. Restoration now
14. Officers and Trustees contacts
15. Happy, Healthy and Safe
16. Expectations
17. Volunteer agreement
18. Induction checklist
19. Training record
20. Notes



The North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No 1180474

Working to secure Norfolk's Canal Heritage

www.nwdct.org

www.facebook.com/groups/www.nwdct.org/



Your Canal needs you

Why not join our volunteers?



Work Party Volunteers – the Muddy Ones

The Work Parties – every other Sunday & Thursday – learn new skills – meet new people – a green gym – from grass sowing to bricklaying – from reed cutting to bank repairs – from boat painting to plant maintenance – from driving big toys to wielding shovels – and feeling good knowing that you have helped

Boat Crews – the Wet Ones

Helping to man, crew and steer the Trust's boats.

Work pontoons, work boat, maintenance craft

Trip Boats – chatting to passengers, having a laugh, telling them about the Canal.

Craft Maintenance

Training give

Wildlife, Fisheries and Rangers – the Green Ones

Help the team monitoring wildlife, fauna and flora; keeping an eye on the fish and angling; assisting canal users, whether on the bank or using the waters.

Support – the Suited Ones

Help with media, events, talks, finance, education, ICT, website, membership, grants, sales, history, archaeology, archives, displays, making cakes, meeting people.

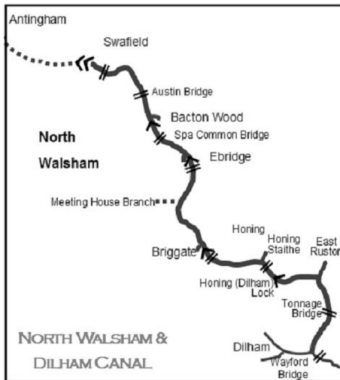


All enquiries to secretary@nwdct.org

A penny a ton/mile

Background history of The North Walsham and Dilham Canal

In the early 19th century coal was needed for power in North Walsham and its surrounds and was brought down the East coast to Norfolk on brigs from "Up North". It was then unloaded in Great Yarmouth and brought by 40 ton Broads Wherries as far as Wayford or it was dumped from the boats on the North Norfolk beaches and taken from there by cart at a cost of 5d per ton per mile.



In 1811 a meeting of 55 investors was held in the Kings Arms in North Walsham to plan a canal. In 1812 an Act was passed to build the canal to join the tidal waters at Wayford, aiming to reduce the cost to one penny per ton per mile.

Starting in 1825 it took 100 Bedfordshire 'bankers' just 15 months to dig manually and was opened in 1826. 'Bankers' were expected to dig banks and ditches at a rate of 10 tons a day!

It is Norfolk's only locked sailing canal. $8\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length, it ran from Antingham Bone Mills, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles NW of North Walsham, to Wayford Bridge where it joined the navigable River Ant and The Broads network. It used six locks along its length to enable the 20 to 24ton wherries (Northern River Wherries) to ascend the 58ft rise to Antingham.



Although built for the carriage of coal, as well as its main cargoes, coal to North Walsham was still cheaper overland from the local beaches, however, there were coal sheds along the Canal, such as at Briggate. As a result, most cargoes were to and from the mills and general goods to and from local staithe - including a 'cabbage wherry' to Gt. Yarmouth, carrying fresh farm produce. The water mill owners also had windmills, so the flour and animal feed that was produced could now be carried by the trading wherries.

Canal history continued

In the late 19th century some of the first pleasure wherries, converted from commercial craft, were based on the canal. Boating for pleasure became fashionable.



The railways opened up, road transport improved and wherry trade reduced. The canal from Swafield Locks to Antingham was closed in 1893 and officially abandoned in 1927.

The section above Bacton Wood Lock was breached in the flood of August 1912 and the following repairs were poor.

In 1921 local Ebridge millers E.G.Cubitt and G.Walker bought the canal and set up the North Walsham Canal Co. In 1923 six wherries carried 2,300 tons of corn, animal feed, fertilisers and oak billet for treating kippers at Gt Yarmouth. In 1927 the canal up to Bacton Wood was dredged from Wayford Bridge to Bacton Wood and the canal above Swafield was dewatered.

By 1931, only the motor wherry Ella was left, carrying 1,600 tons in 83 trips.

In 1934 Ella sailed from Bacton Wood Staithe, with a load of barley, for the last time.

From then the canal had laid mainly dormant until



North Walsham & Dilham Canal

20th & 21st Century Restoration Timeline

1953 Inland Waterways Association (IWA) commissioned a survey, which reported that restoration of the canal was indeed a viable project.

1957 the NW Canal Company dredged the Ebridge reach.

1981 Norwich branch of the IWA started to clear the canal from the Smallburgh River up to Tonnage Bridge.



1983 North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) investigated possibility of Trust acquiring the canal and then restoring it using voluntary labour. Did not proceed due to costs of having to restore a statutory waterway.

1992 the East Anglian Waterways Association (EAWA) initiated restoration proposals.

1993 National Rivers Authority (NRA) dredged Briggate to Honing

1996 Civil engineering lock and channel reports produced.

1996 Norwich IWA became associated with the project. Below Honing lock work parties, involving the new owner, Mr A. Paterson, and the Broads Authority (BA) voluntary Sunday group worked on the canal.

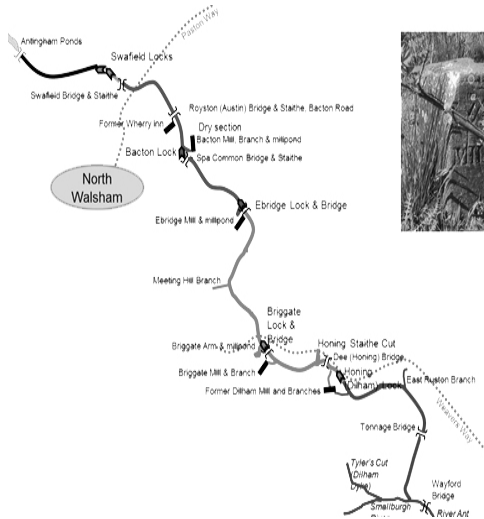
1998 Ecological report produced.

2000 Dredging around Spa Common to alleviate flooding. IWA Norwich branch disbanded. EAWA initiated voluntary working parties. Under G. Baker (2000/2001) at Briggate & Bacton; K. Baker at Honing & Ebridge (2002/2006).

2006 David Revill took the helm as work party leader. Over the ten years to 2010 in conjunction with the NWCCo & EAWA work on four locks and Honing Staithe Cut was undertaken.

2010 Old Canal Co restored the Spa Common to Ebridge stretch, rebuilt Bacton Wood Lock and de-silted the Canal to Swafeld.

And the future



Today the Old Canal Co. Ltd. (Props: Julie and Laurie Ashton) own the upper 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ miles of the North Walsham and Dilham Canal. This is from Swafield to Ebridge Canal.

The rest remains in the hands of The North Walsham Canal Co. Ltd., except for a short length at the top of the canal, owned by Mr M. Starling and the bottom, tidally influenced, section below Honing Lock

owned by Bindwell Ltd.

The North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust was formed on 30th January 2008. The aim of The Trust is to work for the public benefit in partnership with the canal owners, adjacent landowners, local authorities and other statutory bodies, local organisations and businesses, to promote the restoration and eco-friendly use by vessels of the canal and its branches, so as to give and maintain a balance between the needs of navigation, recreation, heritage, development, landscape conservation, wildlife and habitats.

In 2018 The Trust became a Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (No. 1180474).

TOMORROW? Work is ongoing on the renovation of a leased industrial unit at Spa Common creating a workshop, equipment store and event and meetings space. In considering the future, more boats, more tools and equipment are all needed, as well as increasing numbers of volunteers and officers to take on the huge number of tasks still ahead. Restoration of the canal and locks is the overriding priority.

The objective remains, of:

restoring this unique locked sailing canal over about 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ of the 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles and four of the original six locks; providing access to and use of the canal and environs for the community, whilst protecting and securing the environment and heritage.

VOLUNTEERING with the BOATING TEAM

We offer passengers an hour's return cruise aboard solar-powered *Ella II* from Ebridge Mill Lock NR28 9NG, with a commentary on the canal and its wildlife. All year round bookings can be taken for Sundays at 2pm, with additional trips other summer days. Our other trip boat - the *Sue B* can also take wheelchairs.



Maintenance of the boat is a vital part of the team's work and requires experience in a wider variety of practical skills.

Visitors are interested to hear about many aspects of the canal and its environment and have fun on the trip.

Roles in the Boating Team. These will suit people who: enjoy being on or near the water, like chatting with visitors and are willing to train in the health and safety aspects of the role.

Helms: Qualifications required:

Powerboat level 2 or Inland Waterways Helmsman Certificate
Current First Aid certificate to include water-based responses.

Assistant Crew: Keeping a constant weather eye on the passengers from a safety perspective and entertaining them with witty banter mixed with exciting and interesting history.

Boat Maintenance: Our boats need to be maintained to a high safety standard and look the part. We try to paint every year at least, need the boats to be swept through and passengers' rubbish removed etc, Periodic checks and servicing of engines, motors, batteries, safety lines and buoyancy aids are all essential parts of this role.

Boating Officer, Senior Helm will gladly discuss your interests and skills in joining the Boating Team. Helms, crew and maintenance members are always eagerly sought. Training will be provided.

More information from Boating Officer

VOLUNTEERING with the FISHING TEAM

Aiming to maintain harmony between all canal users, protecting the environment and the fish.

Restoration is improving the water quality, flow and accessibility for fish, as well as anglers. It remains vital to care for and understand the needs of the fish in order to maintain the health and variety of species and continue successful breeding.

The team has a lot of knowledge about the fish of the canal and some of Boy Roy's stories are published on our website. Investigation during the restoration of Bacton Wood Mill Lock found 500 thriving 'fry'.

It is increasingly a lovely environment to spot other wildlife too and this is shared with our wildlife team with whom we work closely. Three generations of the Webster family have established the Fishing Team.



We always welcome reports of any fish catches, fish in distress, anglers breaking rules, anything fish related. We can offer advice and support as well.

This role would suit people who: strongly believe that the welfare of the fish is paramount in angling; who know, understand and promote the canal's fishing rules and who believe in and enjoy the family fishing ethos, as well as being protective and supportive of the environment.



bream, rudd, chub, roach, perch, pike, eel, dace, tench

More information from Fisheries Officer

VOLUNTEERING with the SUPPORT TEAM

So much essential work goes on “in the background”

Perhaps your interest is photography, history, archaeology or archiving. We have some fascinating artefacts, articles and photos. These are displayed periodically, and there is also a need for research, cataloguing and conservation.



Our display boards are increasingly informative and important at events. We always seek to recruit volunteers with administrative and customer support skills to assist a variety of officers, whether finance, grants, sales, ICT, giving talks, land

issues or chatting with people. Volunteers make cakes, hold coffee mornings, run film evenings, compile newsletters, take minutes and raise funds.

There is increasing use of social media and you may have skills to enhance and broaden our footprint there.

As you can see in the photo many of our officers in the Support Team are often also active in the Work



Parties, you can support in as many teams as you wish.

We are developing a new Education and Training Team and similarly, an Events Team. These are both in need of volunteers interested in organisation, with creative skills and a flair for planning exciting events for the whole community.

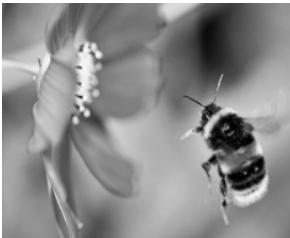
More information from Trust Administrator

VOLUNTEERING with the WILDLIFE TEAM

Most canal restoration projects bring with them the concern that restoration work may lead to the destruction of wildlife habitats and a decline in biodiversity. However, whilst some disturbance and losses are inevitable, there can also be heartening gains, and this is the case with our canal. The re-watering of sections has started to create an open water corridor which we hope can continue to be extended. Additionally mitigation work is undertaken along the sokes and on Purdy's Marsh and other areas.

Important species are now making the canal corridor their home, including Otters, Water Voles, Adders, Grass Snakes, Kingfishers, Marsh Harriers, Little Egrets and a wide variety of fish.

Some unusual and desirable plant species are recorded in Suki Pryce's 2018 Plant Survey (see the Trust's website). The site also ties in with adjacent county wildlife sites and nature reserves along its route - notably Antingham Pond and Purdy's Marsh CWSs, and Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Pigney's Wood Reserve.



plants, birds,
insects, mammals,
reptiles

What will you find?

Roles in the Wildlife Team: This will suit people who: enjoy observing, recording and reporting on flora and fauna in an outdoors environment; are reasonably fit and able to walk in sometimes rough or marshy ground, are able to maintain good relationships with people who share the land and the other members of The Trust teams. Site specific personal protective Equipment (PPE) may be necessary.

What difference can I make? In particular, the Wildlife team aims to put the canal's wildlife recording on a professional footing. Based on its findings, the team leader can then better advise The Trust on managing habitats, mitigating adverse impacts, and improving biodiversity along the canal corridor.

More information from Wildlife Officer

VOLUNTEERING with the WORK PARTIES

This role will suit people who: enjoy using practical skills and a variety of tools and equipment, enjoy working in a team, like working in the outdoors in all weathers, and like helping with the restoration work in sometimes wet and muddy conditions. Patience and stamina are useful as some projects take a long time and some are repeated cyclically. Some tasks require trades and engineering skills to an expert level. Please bring any expertise.

Lots ahead and lots of variety:

Renovating and developing the industrial unit, development and maintenance of banks, driving the tractor, flailing the grass, balsam bashing, bricklaying, grass sowing, paths building.

You can come as often as you like and for as long as you like. We usually meet at Spa Common industrial units next to the Anchor road bridge over the canal.

Regular work parties take place fortnightly, on Thursday and Sundays, and at other times as needed.



Work Party Plans come out a few days before each event and these say what's planned and what tools will be needed for that particular day. These plans stress the risk assessment and Health Safety precautions. Packed lunch, water and hot drink are pretty essential. Hi-vis and safety footwear is fairly standard - with safety specs and hard hats as appropriate. We do have some safety clothes and tools available if you haven't your

own. You will need your own boots and sometimes waders, if you have them, for the marshy wet areas.

Restoration now

We have regular work parties and other ad-hoc projects are undertaken when needed. Below are a few examples of the many tasks completed, some ongoing projects and many ahead of us that will need your help.



Locks

- Digging down and clearing locks
- Working out the level the canal should be when refilled with water
- Rebuilding, laying bricks in the lock chambers
- Restoring and maintaining lock gates
- Building and fitting new lock gates

Visitor information:

Installation of four new information boards along a 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ rd mile stretch of the canal at Ebridge Lock, Spa Common, Royston Bridge and Swafield. The Trust runs heritage and open days, film evenings etc to keep the local community informed of progress.



Environs:

Cutting reed, removing saplings and burning the 'trash' on Purdy's Marsh is a regular task for volunteers.

A quarter of the Marsh each year is managed this way.

Turf ponds are being dug on the Marsh in order to increase biodiversity for the wildlife.

Wildlife consideration also taken into account when mowing banks and paths.

More information from Work Party Officer

Who's who in the Trust?

Officer roles	Name & contact	Email contact
Archive Officer		
Boating Officer		
Chair		
Education Officer		
Events Officer		
Fishing Officer		
Grants Officer		
ICT Officer		
Land Issues Officer		
Liaison Officer		
Meetings Officer		
Membership Officer		
Merchandise Officer		
Press Officer		
Quagmire Editor		
Treasurer		
Trust Administrator		
Wildlife Officer		
Work Party Officer		
WEBSITE ADDRESS	www.nwdct.org	

In your role as:

Your main contact will be:

Answers from page 1

1. "Gongoozlers" was historically a term for people who enjoyed watching boats going through locks on the canal. It is used nowadays affectionately for people who have a hobby that extends to any aspect of canals.

2. Getting wet or muddy cannot be guaranteed; that's optional!

Happy, Healthy and Safe

Did you know, the longer you spend by water, the happier you are? Well, this is what research by the Canal & River Trust is showing. Whether it's the 'green gym' restoration activities for you, going for a run or walk on the paths, boating, fishing, spotting the wildlife or simply taking some peaceful time to yourself, life by water is relaxing, friendly and healthy.

Health and Safety

However, the canal environment presents hazards and dangers too. Health and Safety must always be in our thinking and planning if we are to enjoy our time volunteering and visiting the canal.

We are indebted to the Waterways Recovery Group (WRG) for their publication: **"Volunteers' Health & Safety Guide"**.

This is a key document in the initial induction and core training for every volunteer with the North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust:

www.nwdct.org/HandS.pdf

When signing the Volunteer Agreement you need to read and follow the Trust Health and Safety policy and the WRG recommended procedures.

There is also a very helpful video to accompany the booklet, which you may wish to watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOHVlgPEz0o

Further induction and training is likely to be provided by the relevant officer or work party leader, specific to the volunteering role that you undertake.

References

These may be required for specific eg Officer roles. These would be discussed with you at the Application stage.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

If your role will involve directly supervising children, young people or vulnerable adults without their carers present, a simple online application for a relevant DBS will be required. This rarely applies - as we anticipate carers/parents/teachers etc will be present and responsible.

This always applies with visits by school groups and similar organisations - the visiting organisation's leader is responsible and our officers and volunteers will never be alone with visiting children or vulnerable adults.

Expectations while volunteering

We recognise your valuable contribution to The Trust, particularly of your time, knowledge and skills and hope you will be very happy within your role as a volunteer. The following two pages outline our mutual expectations, but do not in any respect constitute a contract of employment.

1. What you can expect from The Trust:

- clear and accessible Health and Safety policies and procedures, risk assessments and plans designed to keep everyone safe and to facilitate great experiences in a safe environment
- an informative induction procedure, designed to give you the confidence and knowledge to begin your role briefed and prepared and an understanding of how your efforts in your role will help to achieve The Trust's objectives
- a named person for ongoing support, although we hope you will feel able to discuss matters of interest (or concern) with any trustee or officer
- personal protective equipment relevant to your role, The Trust is able to supply some specific items. The Trust does not accept liability for loss or damage to personally owned equipment
- insurance cover for all volunteers is in place
- volunteer records are held on a computer database, with restricted access and compliant with GDPR, based on the information that you provided us when you offered to volunteer; personal details are strictly confidential and are not given to third parties

- further information and photos can be found on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and sent to you quarterly via our magazine "Quagmire" and at www.nwdct.org
- the Trustees and Officers meet regularly; news, plans and key decisions are reported in 'Quagmire'
- volunteers are invited to wear The Trust's T-shirts, baseball hats and other branded items., which can be bought at a realistic price. Mugs, greetings cards, maps and other items are also available to purchase

2. What The Trust expects from you:

- to undertake an initial induction and any further training required for your particular role
- we would anticipate that you would join The Trust
- to comply with The Trust's policies and procedures, particularly in regard to H&S and wellbeing of yourself and others. This includes using the correct personal protective equipment (PPE) (Items belonging personally to volunteers to be removed from site on departure)
- to be friendly, helpful and polite to all those with whom you have contact in order to uphold the reputation and image of The Trust appropriately
- to ensure that The Trust's property including confidential information, records, equipment etc. is kept safe and used correctly
- to please let your Team Leader know if you are able or unable to attend a planned session at your earliest convenience
- to inform us of any changes to your personal data, particularly contact or medical changes
- to refer any on-site media enquiry to Chair or Press Officer

VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT

I agree to meet the expectations described in these pages to the best of my ability. I understand that this agreement is in honour only and does not in any respect constitute a contract of employment.

Signature

Volunteer name in CAPITALS

Date of Induction

Print name of Induction Officer

Induction checklist and procedure

1. New volunteer submits membership form, receives an invitation from Volunteer Induction co-ordinator to arrange induction meeting and boat trip
2. Additional specialist induction with relevant Team Leader as appropriate

Print name of volunteer

Print name of inducing officer

	Checklist item to complete	YES, NO or N/A	Notes
1	Handbook to read, agreed - any questions?		
2	Team/s _____ Role/s	_____	
3	Named officer contact		
4	Website - policies to read		
5	References required? _____	_____	
6	DBS required?		
7	Trust H&S policy and H&S Handbook read		
8	Volunteer agreement signed and dated		
9	Access map, lanyard and badge issued?		
10	Chair to be advised for letter follow up		
	Date and venue of first duty agreed		

MY NOTES

