

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at Staithe Cottage, above Swafield Bridge and below Paston Way.
Date: Sunday 1st May 2016.
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

- To repair the ruts in the grass caused by machinery access at Staithe Cottage.
- To seed the banks upstream of Swafield road bridge. *
- To clear cut brash etc. from the NW bank of the canal below the Paston Way.
- To remove and safely store the barbed wire stock fence to allow machine access.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was sunny, dry and warm at last! 14 volunteers turned out, some given the task of seeding the bank on Mickey Starling's section above Swafield road-bridge, another group went to Staithe Cottage to repair the ruts in their grass caused when the cherry-picker was moved into the site to remove the trees in the canal basin and the remainder made their way down to the section below the Paston Way railway bridge.

It was nice to be able to walk on a solid bank, as for several previous work-parties the ground had been extremely muddy.

The ruts in the grass at Staithe cottage were levelled and filled and the bare patches reseeded. Two 8'x4' heavy duty boards used to give support to the cherry-picker were removed from the site.

*The volunteers who were tasked with seeding the bank above Swafield road-bridge abandoned their task as it turned out that the NE canal bank was to be pulled back a couple of feet so. This meant that the grass seed would have been wasted.

Eventually the whole work work-force concentrated on clearing and burning the brash on the NW canal bank with some removing the barbed wire fence and posts as agreed with the land owner. The temporary removal of this fence will allow easier machine access to the canal bank.

Lunch was called at approx. 12.30 after we had removed about 2/3 of the fence length.

We resumed work, gradually working our way towards the bend in the canal opposite Pigneys Wood. The remainder of the fence was removed and the barbed wire coiled up and hung on the fence inside the paddock. The posts were taken away for safe keeping.

The Trust's pontoon deck had been fitted, thanks to Cliffy, so it was ready to be put in the water. We made our way back to Spa Common and the pontoon was lifted into the water. It looks good and in memory of Sue Boulton our Membership Secretary, who so tragically died suddenly a short while ago, we are to name the pontoon 'Sue B'

Work ceased at 15.30 approx.

Chris Black, work-party leader.