

## NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-parties on the Bacton Wood pound/reach spillway  
Date: Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June & Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June  
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

### THE PLAN:

-To continue bricking the back sloping face of the spillway.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: Day 1: The day was forecast to be extremely hot and dry. 9 volunteers turned out and as they are now familiar with the H & S requirements on this site they soon got to work to resume the laying of bricks on the back slope of the spillway. With the temperature forecast to be in the high 20's Celsius I brought a lightweight tilt to erect above the work area. This proved to be invaluable as working in the direct sun would have been near impossible. As at previous sessions 'Ivan's team' set out to brick ahead of the rear team by 18 bricks so that there was room to comfortably lay bricks without getting in each other's way. The 9 brick (700mm) was set out and marked with chalk to guide the vertical run of bricks. . It was hot, gruelling work - especially on the knees. With the temperature so high I insisted on frequent 'drinks' breaks. Despite these breaks all were feeling drained by lunch time.

At approx. 12.30 we called lunch.

After lunch we resumed bricklaying and as previously the rear team's brickwork met up with Ivan's and with the final course of bricks fitting snugly into the remaining gap we completed another 1.4m of brickwork. The joints were filled and the excess mortar swept off. A portion of the base of the brickwork was cemented in with the remaining mortar and the spillway cleared and swept. All the tools, buckets and the mixer were washed down in readiness for the Sunday work-party to continue.

Work ceased at approx. 16.30

Day2: The weather was forecast to be even hotter than Saturday. With this in mind I took another larger tilt to site.

12 volunteers turned out today. Some, including myself, were feeling the effects of the previous day's heat but we quickly erected the two tilts to give shade over a wider area and got to work by first marking the 9 brick/700mm guide lines. With the guide lines in place we started the bricklaying. Dick had suffered badly from the heat on Saturday so turned up with a large ice-box! As it was much hotter than yesterday I insisted that we took even more drinks breaks and on the first break Dick opened his ice-box and produced some very cold ice lollies for everyone. He deserves a special thank-you for thinking of the work-party's predicament in the heat. I think Dennis's team, who produced the copious amount of mortar needed, should be thanked for keeping up with the bricklayers' demands.

Lunch was called at approx. 12.15 as the relentless heat was draining.

Work resumed until the late afternoon when we finished the 1.4m section. The joints were filled and swept and the base of the brickwork was mortared in. The site was tidied and the concrete slab was swept to leave it in a safe condition. The tilts removed for safe keeping. Some 900+ bricks were laid in the 2 days.

There remains approximately 2.8m of brickwork to complete the back slope of the spillway and this should be achieved in a 2 day work-party. However the northerly end of the spillway still needs to have the concrete retaining lip to be laid. There is no ballast on site to make up the concrete for this lip, the building sand not being suitable.

Chris Black,  
Work party leader.