

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Weekend work-parties at Ebridge spillway
Date: Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th August 2017
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

- To continue the bricklaying of the spillway face.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT:

Saturday: I was unaware that 4 volunteers had offered to help Laurie with more bricklaying on the Saturday but all were very familiar with the site and the low hazard work involved. The weather was warm and dry being perfect for the task in hand.

The WRG had not been able to complete the bricklaying during their fortnight's stay but had laid a considerable area of brickwork from which we could carry on to complete the task.

The small work-party managed to set out and lay some bricks in readiness for the main Sunday work-party.

Sunday: The weather was again warm and sunny. 16 volunteers turned out to help with the tasks in hand. A lot of the completed brickwork laid by the WRG had been laid without mortar between the bricks for speed, so initially our main task was to get these mortar joints filled. Several of us took on areas to fill the joints, which was a painfully slow task.

Meanwhile three of the volunteers continued with the task of filling the 'holes' in the bricks with mortar. This is required as otherwise it would leave voids in the brickwork. The completed bricks were then stacked on the top wall of the spillway ready for the bricklayers. A course of bricks was laid down the spillway face 5 bricks away from the last complete course in order to keep the infill brickwork neat and level.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30

After lunch we continued with the joint filling and started the 5 brick infill. Laurie and I were concerned that there would not be sufficient bricks to complete the face so we measured the remaining area to be covered. It transpired that there were sufficient to complete the south end of the spillway but possibly not enough to brick the triangular area at the north end. However Laurie still has plenty of the red bricks, so unless we can source some of the light colour to match it might have to be a red triangular area. We discussed the south end retaining wall which is required for bank erosion protection and this will be built in red brick to match the north end wall.

The bricklaying continued for the rest of the afternoon then the site made safe and tidy. Before we left the site the east ground paddle was set marginally open to stop water running over the spillway.

Work ceased at approx. 16.00

The work-party ceased at approx 16.30

Chris Black, Work party leader.