

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject Remove/refit top gates of Bacton Wood Mill Lock

Date 26th March 2018

The Plan

Remove top gates, insert hinge pins and cups. Re-fit gates and adjust hinge posts (sand/plane) to form a seal under water pressure.

Work Achievement

Arrived on site on a fine, warmish day. Ideal for the task in hand as Hy-Mac working in dry canal bed.

9 volunteers attended plus 1 new volunteer. New volunteer taken aside and briefed on work and hazards and issued with Hi-Vis jerkin, gloves and hard hat. WPL keeping eye on him for his safety.

Gates were removed as per the plan. Laurie had to leave us for domestic reasons and we were given tasks to carry out until he returned.

One task was to remove the bottom plates from the temporary hinge pins. As made from stainless steel they were hard to cut even with metal cutting discs but finally succeeded leaving a stainless steel band around bottom of hinge post. (There to stop wood from splitting) The bottom of the hinge posts then had their hinge pins fitted.

Meanwhile other volunteers chiselled out the square sockets into which the metal hinge bearings sit. Again a laborious and exacting task.

After lunch the hinge bearings were installed in their square sockets and the gates were fitted back in place.

The balance-beams were put back on the gates and the restraining straps adjusted. Both gates swung freely but despite various adjustments of the straps it was realised that the hinge posts were too fat and would need shaving down to ensure the gates could fully meet.

The west gate was sanded down and got close to closing but it became apparent that more work was required. Agreed to carry on with adjustment work at a proposed extra Easter work-party.

Work ceased at approx. 16.00

Chris Black, work-party leader