

Date 3rd June 2018

Objective

Demonstrate volunteering to those attending the Open Weekend and create an access to the lower end of the lock prior to repair work.

The Plan

Clear access to bottom end of lock to south of road. Remove any balsam
Undertake survey of silt and water levels in lock

Work Achievement

Work commenced at 1200hrs at Spa Common when the required tools were collected. Work commenced at Ebridge at 1230hrs. There were a total of nine volunteers on this task, all with previous experience. (nb Work party volunteers were also involved with other aspects of the Open weekend.)

The general risk assessment covered the work. The main aspects to be considered were highlighted to all - working on sloping ground with variation in levels around the old pumping station and working in and adjacent to the canal.

The work party plan was followed and a pedestrian access route created to provide a back up for access to and from the lock at the lower level. (It is proposed that the main access for the repair of the lock walls will be by ladder from the side of the lock). Any himalayan balsam found in the immediate area was pulled.

The condition of the exit of culvert under the bridge was also recorded and an evaluation of the level of water and silt was made within the lock. AB also visited Purdy's Marsh and surveyed the extent of the balsam there in preparation for the balsam bash of 17th.

Work party volunteers were also heavily involved in setting up the marquee, tents, etc on Saturday morning for the Open Weekend and their removal on Sunday afternoon. (nb The steps to the access bridge across the lock were repaired on the Saturday by a work party volunteer)

The site of the Open Weekend was effectively cleared by 1730hrs and the tools/tents etc returned to the depot. (nb The container is getting quite full - action required). The weather was fine throughout.

Chris Heath
Work party leader