

North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust **Work Party Report**
In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Date 1st July 2018

Objective

Continue with the balsam bash and the preparation work for the repair of Ebridge lock wall

The Plan

All to return to the Royston Bridge end of Purdy's Marsh to pull up balsam in the morning and in the afternoon put scaffold into lock to give access from south end of lock without the need for ladders.

If enough volunteers further work might be undertaken at Honing Staithe as well as some routine maintenance (eg reed/weed clearing and assisting boat people with remove obstructions in the canal)

Work Achievement

(Nb the initial work at Honing Staithe was completed on a special work party on 27th May 2018 so no further work there on the work party of 1st July 2018. Access along the Staithe was cleared as far as the canal as was the Canal Walk (and both in immediate use!). Further work needed to widen the Walk/access along the Staithe to ensure it does not close up and some work on the surface of the Walk using locally won timber required – soft in places)

There were ten work party volunteers at various times on the day.

In the morning five volunteers worked on clearing balsam at the north end of Purdy's Marsh. The large grass cutter was used to create better access. There is still a lot more to do. Two work party volunteers continued working on the scaffold in preparation for its use at Ebridge. One volunteer helped with repairs to an OCC excavator.

In the afternoon the steel scaffolding and some boards were transported down to Ebridge and placed in the lock chamber to allow access from the south end of the lock against the west wall. The boards nearest the south end were pulled back to restrict access to others when no work in progress. The pontoon remains the main working platform within the lock and it is still envisaged that materials will be lowered in and lifted out of the lock for the repair work.

Some reed/weed was removed from the canal and some of the drier weed/reed removed from the side of the canal. This will be an ongoing maintenance task during the reed/weed cutting season, both at the lock and at the spillway. This work to run in parallel with the lock repair.

Two additional task were undertaken. The obstruction in the canal was a small tree that had fallen over. This was removed using the Sue B. A rotary Honda grass cutter that has been donated to the Trust was collected – in need of a little TLC but when repaired will fill a niche between the two current grass cutters in terms of its size.

A B (Purdy's Marsh); D W(Spa Common/Ebridge)
Work party leaders