

Date 15th July 2018

Objectives

Balsam bashed on Purdy's Marsh; 'tidy' Bacton Wood Mill Lock (before Norfolk Day); progress on Ebridge Lock wall; Honing Staithe and canal walk accessible.

The Plan

Most volunteers to continue pulling balsam at Royston Bridge end of Purdy's Marsh for the morning and at Ebridge clean out the smaller areas of damage on lock wall and remove debris and vegetation from the chamber. Strim around BWM lock late morning and in the afternoon return to Honing Staithe to complete works there (strimming, reed removal etc)

Work Achievement

There were twelve work party volunteers. The weather was very hot and dry.

Work could not start on the repair of the Ebridge Lock wall as there was no decision by the Trust as to what form the repair work should take.



In the morning most of the volunteers worked on clearing balsam at the north end of Purdy's Marsh. Good progress was made but there is still a lot more to do. (The next work party will be the last on balsam bashing as moving plants with fully formed seed heads may do more harm than good). A couple of volunteers were stung into action and had to make a rapid exit from the marsh. It was a great effort by all especially given the weather.

A lot done – a lot to do

During the morning some unplanned work was done by volunteers on the task to get an electricity supply to the mooring point of the trip boat to facilitate battery charging.

(nb Earlier in the week a small work party had undertaken the work for the planned Norfolk Day activity (i.e. strimmed around Bacton Wood Mill lock and added a gang plank to the steps at Spa Common)



After lunch at Ebridge all went to Honing Staithe. The access along the staithe and the canal walk were opened out and debris removed from the staithe and the walk. Locally won timber was used to line the softer sections of the walk. The reeds blocking the entrance to the cut were removed. We will need to return to the area later to work on any subsequent growth but for now both walk and staithe are now accessible for those with sensible.

Desired look achieved – no resemblance to a London park

A B (Purdy's Marsh); C H (Honing Staithe)
Work party leaders