

Date 29th July 2018

Objectives

- Restrict balsam seeding on Purdy's Marsh
- Make container useable
- Protect east bank of canal above Ebridge from 'dog' erosion
- Improve water flow at Ebridge spillway

The Plan

All to pull balsam from northern area of Purdy's Marsh. Lunch at Spa Common. Sort out container and do maintenance work at Ebridge in the afternoon.

Work Achievement

Balsam at Purdy's

Area close to canal bank had been subject to wind or other damage and was blown over. Very difficult to remove balsam, particularly as a lot had got bindweed wrapped around it making it almost impossible to remove. Seemed to be a lot more intense patch going south than remembered from last time. That and presence of wasp nest meant moved closer to backsoke and cleared area on that side.

AB tried approaching backsoke bank using thigh waders in channel but depth of silt plus debris made movement difficult and counter-productive to output. Removed what could from one stretch of bank where not so deep, but could not reach further bank. One grass snake seen on marsh. Roughly cleared square to canal bank from road for a distance of 56 paces, alternatively 16 paces south of point opposite south end of quay heading. TW cleared some patches at south end of marsh on way back to Spa Common.



Later at the end of afternoon had another look. Remainder of northern third lots of HB, middle third looks fairly clear, southern third a few odd patches. However, there is quite a bit close the backsoke along most of the eastern side of the marsh.

Cunning plan required for dealing with balsam in future years.

Spa Common (Container)

Work in progress – a good start on stacking the contents more sensibly and some plans to rack out more of the container to better store the hand tools. DW doing a good job! Access gang plank for trip boat repaired.

Ebridge

Bank repair - TW organised materials to protect canal bank and three lots of fencing put up to restrict access are certain points

Backsoke - Start made to clearing base of spillway and backsoke. What started as just clearing small channel ended up being more comprehensive.



A B Work party leader (and nine volunteers)