

Date 9th September 2018

Objective

Make the canal walk and access along Honing staithe useable for the autumn and improve view of the Dee bridge/canal from the staithe. Facilitate the planning of further work at Briggate.

The Plan

In the morning use chainsaws to remove fallen trees blocking the original line of the walk. Cut back significant regrowth on areas previously cleared and remove vegetation directly in front of Dee Bridge and in the canal bed using hand tools.

Cut an access path along the side of the Mill Pond at Briggate and along the sides of the lock using hand tools, brush cutters, etc. Locate hole adjacent to east lock wall and make safe.

Work Achievement

Some volunteers met at Spa Common to load out tools and the full work party met, as planned, at Honing. The canal walk was made accessible from the end of the cut by removing part of a fallen tree and there is now a good view along the cut. (However, there is still rather too much reed/weed in the cut itself, some of which it would be beneficial to remove along the east side as is planned).



The regrowth on areas previously cleared was cut back. It was not possible to work adjacent to Dee bridge due to a strategically positioned wasps nest. This task will be undertaken later in the year.

A move was made to Briggate before lunch. A narrow access to the west of the lock was created through the chestnut paling. A small area on the island was cleared making an ideal spot for lunch! As this was the first return for a working party to Briggate for some time a review was undertaken on the risks associated with working on this site - primarily working adjacent to the lock and in particular to the known hole adjacent to the east lock wall. Other considerations were working adjacent to the mill pond and road (which was surprisingly busy) and the 'debris' within the overgrowth (telegraph poles, steel pins, wire, concrete posts etc).

In the afternoon work was undertaken in four areas:-

Given the traffic a little trimming was undertaken to the south of the road to facilitate future parking.

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In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

An access was cut along the line of the road but on the other side of the fence and adjacent to the edge of the mill pond.

Access was made to the west side of the lock.

Access was also created to the east side of the lock and the hole located. The safety fencing put there in earlier years was resurrected and supplemented. The overgrowth within the hole was left. (nb The hole is not as large as that at Ebridge but the lock wall appears to be in a worse condition)

On completion of work the chestnut paling was replaced to make the site secure. There were several visitors to the site, who all commented positively on the Trust's return to Briggate.

There was other work by volunteers away from the main sites. JP was able to service and start the large Honda mower donated to the Trust earlier in the year. DC undertook further work on the solar power for Ella 2 before joining efforts at Briggate.

There were ten volunteers in total working on the above. The weather was generally fine and dry throughout.

C H Work party leader