



**Footfall and User Survey
North Walsham & Dilham Canal
Ebridge Millpond
7a.m. to 7 p.m.
31st August 2014
Summary of Results**

With Thanks to Laurie Ashton, Director, Old Canal Company, for permission to undertake the Survey

And to Roger Hopkinson, Barry Mobbs, David Revill, Roy Metcalf, Mary Black, Tim Morton, Peter Forder, Steve O'Brien, Brian Wexler and Mary Reynolds for undertaking the donkey work of recording.

Ivan Cane

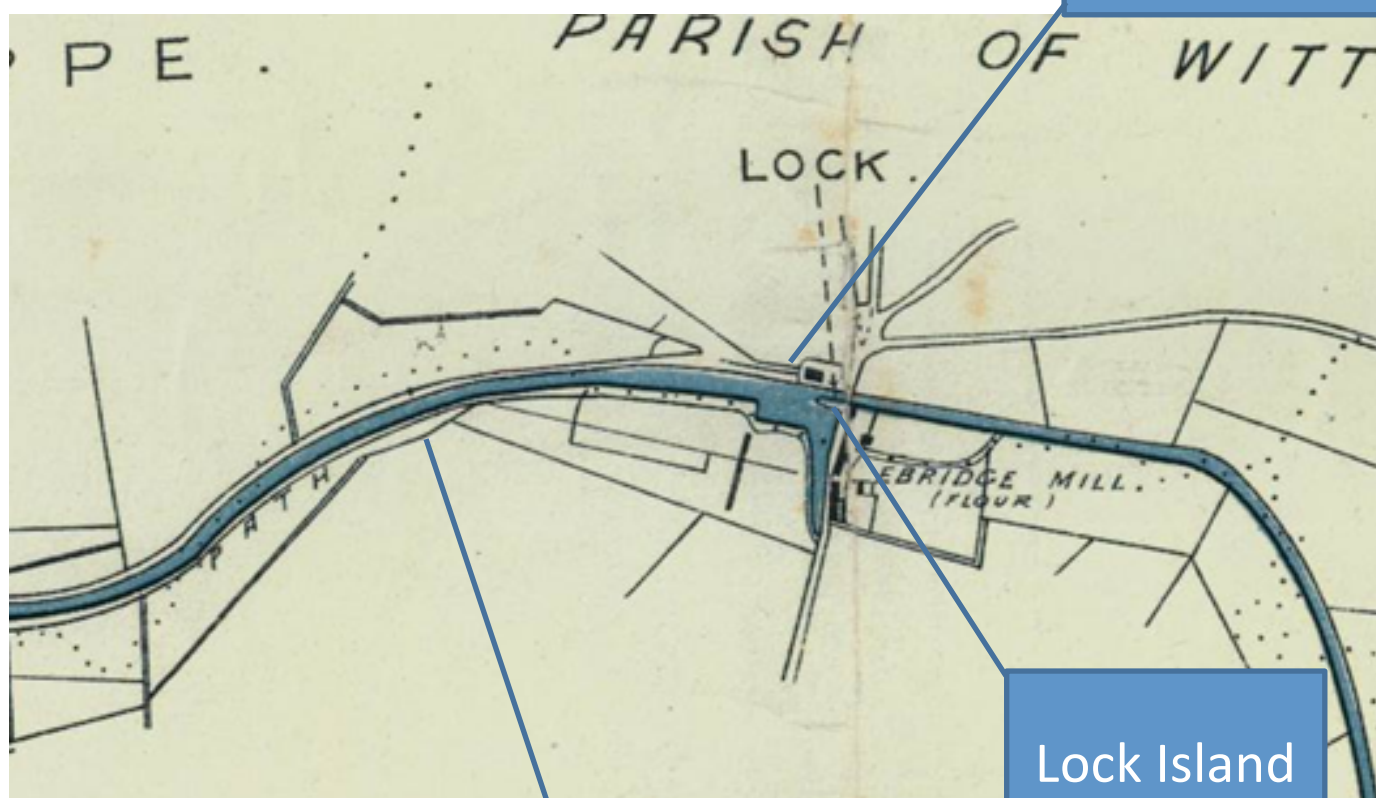
**East Anglian Waterways Association Archivist
for the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Records**

7th September 2014

The purpose of the survey was to establish how many people visited the canal over the 12 hours; an approximation of their age; what activity they undertook; how long they stayed; which area around the millpond they used and their method of travel to the millpond. In addition, when possible, a sample were interviewed in order to ascertain where they had travelled from; their reasons for coming to the Canal and what further improvements would they like to see, in order to enhance their visit. Five years ago the area was dry, reeded and overgrown with no visitors – so the survey would show the footfall increase as a result of improvements to the area by the Old Canal Company and Trust volunteers.

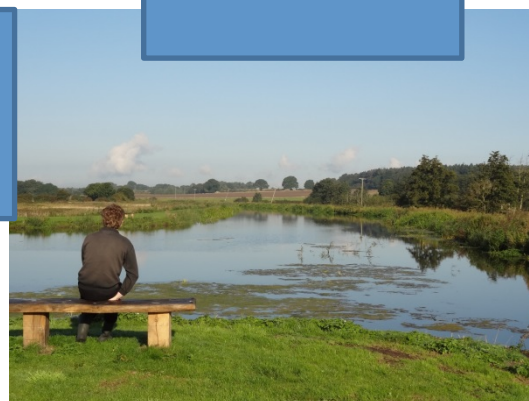
The day was pleasantly dry with patches of sun.

East Path

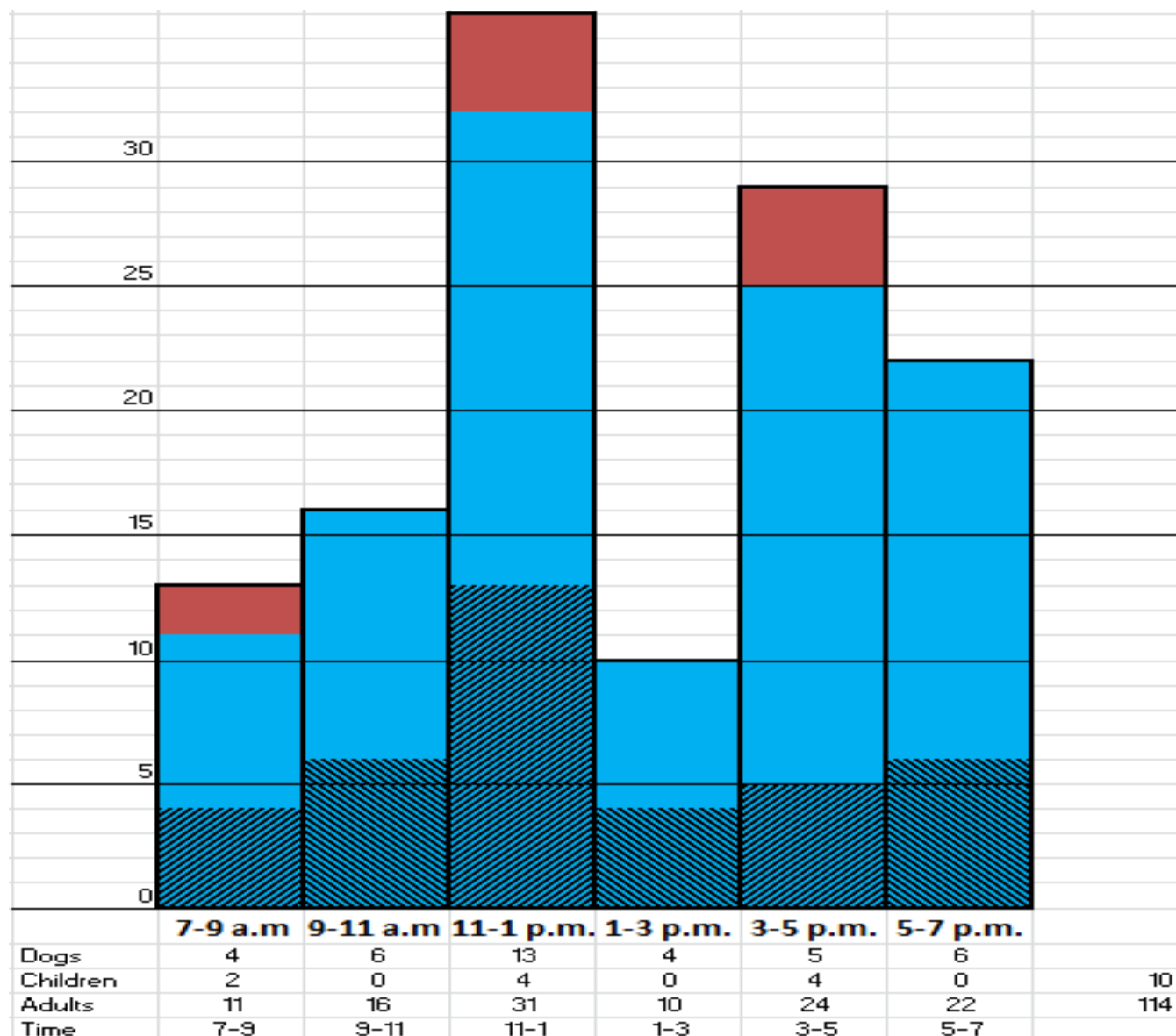


Lock Island

West Path



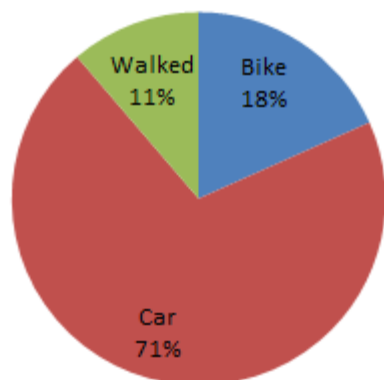
124 visitors were recorded over the 12 hours, of these only 12 were “children” (shown in red), the shaded area represents the number of dogs. The table below shows the times of arrival. The mean average time spent by each user at the Canal was 34 minutes,



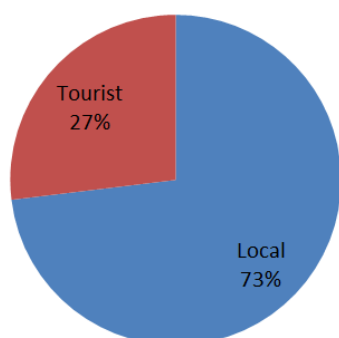
As can be seen the number of visitors was spread across the day - with a lull for Sunday Lunch. One presumes that visitors continued after 7p.m.

As would be expected, the majority arrived by car. The site is not easily reached by walkers, who at present have only the busy narrow Happisburgh Road from North Walsham, or by footpath from Bacton Woods.

Method of Arrival

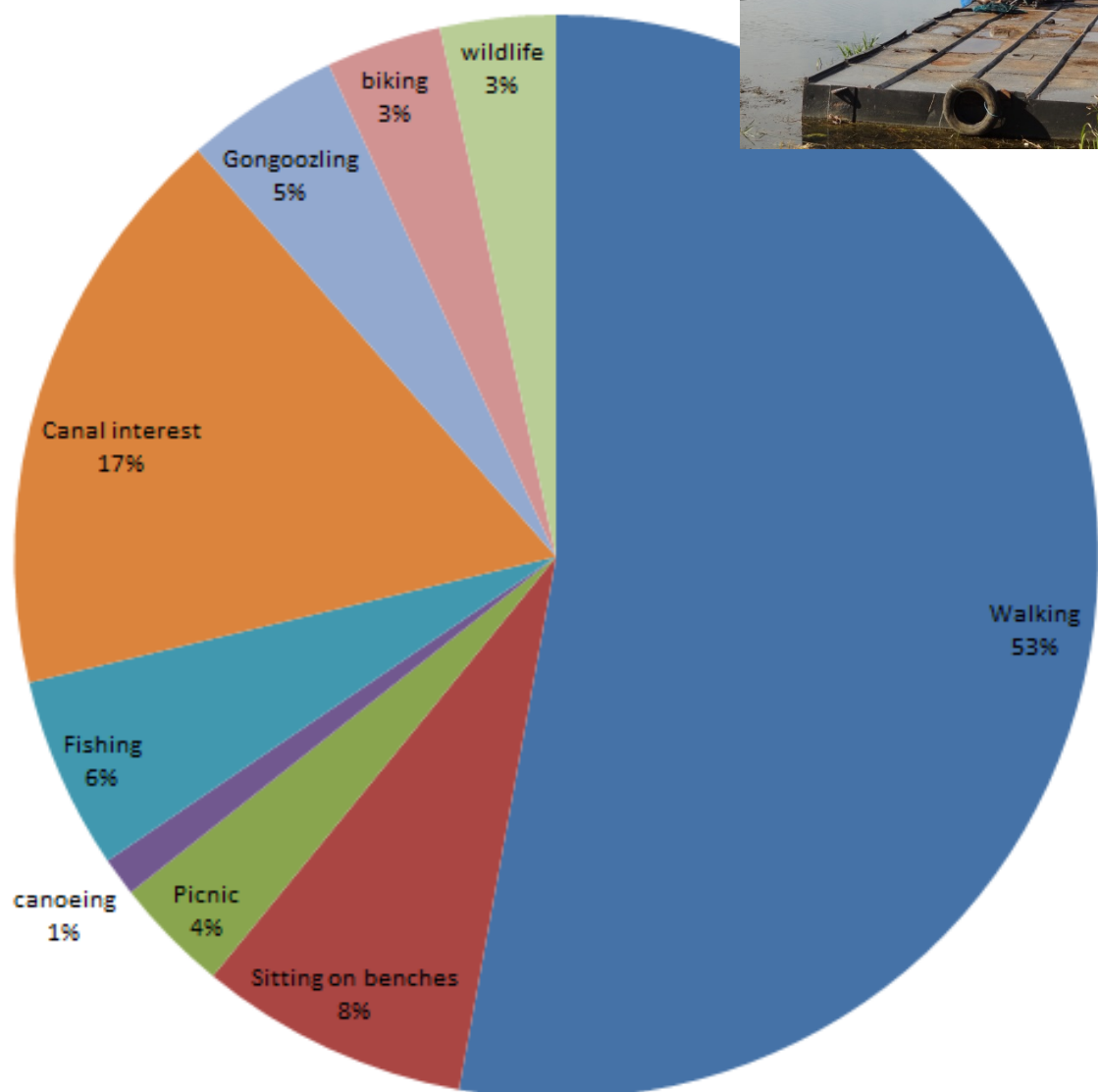


Local or Tourist Visit



The user survey, surprisingly, showed that 27% of the visitors were tourists, from as far as Sheffield and Essex, both who were staying locally, and from Lowestoft especially to visit the canal.

The reasons for visiting the Canal at Ebridge showed a fair range of activities:



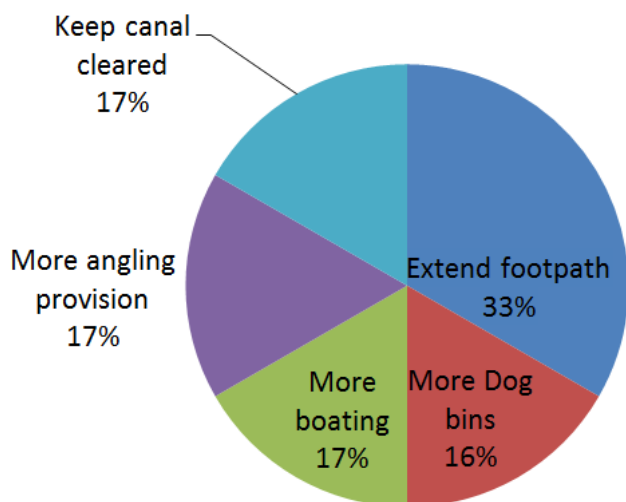
Walking (53%), was the most popular, especially with dogs. (Swimming dogs not recorded!) Next, combining Canal Interest, Gongoozling, picnicking and Sitting on Benches, 34% came just to enjoy the Canal and its environs. Fishing (5%) was surprisingly high, as this has only become a recent



activity, and most were those visitors later in the day. The one boater, a family of 3 and 2 dogs in their canoe, were the holidaymakers from Sheffield. Although only 3% stated that their primary purpose of visiting was "wildlife" several others mentioned this as their secondary reason.

When asked about ways in which the Trust could help to further enhance the area, the results reflect the activities that were being undertaken.

Improvements requested



For example 33% would like the west footpath extended to Spa Common, with an appeal of 16% for more dog litter bins (there are none at the moment). There was a call for more angling provision (17%) such as fishing platforms for the disabled, and for more boating (17%) – such as a slipway to make canoe and small boat launching easier. The other main plea was to continue to keep the canal reed free and clear.



What was not noted in the survey, as it could have skewed the results, was that the Trust were also holding a work party clearing the spillway at Ebridge, and clearing some fallen branches using their workboat further upstream. This group of fourteen, varying in age from 14 to 72, included locals, others

from the west and south of the County (and Suffolk!) plus a visitor from America. (All pictures [except page 2] taken on the day).



Ivan Cane

