

North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust

Work Party Report

Date: Sunday 5th March 2023

Location: Bacton Wood Lock

Objective/s: Lock repairs, bank clearance, mink raft siting, clearing cut branches
DR Mowing up stream of the lock.

The Trust volunteers met and one fitted a new battery to DR Mower. Removed substituted engine stop button and associated wiring on outboard engine, and rewired back to original kill button. Repaired cowling locking catch to make it secure properly.

Steve E fabricated a new paddle rod for the missing top gate one, he and Derek B fitted all the parts, they then greased up all the ratchet mechanisms on all four paddles and made sure that they all worked up and down.



Replacement lock paddle rod being installed (two pictures)

Another group cleared all over hanging brambles, buddleias, and alder trees from Spa Common bridge upwards.



There was an opportunity for a photo shoot – 2 *photos below*:

A grant received from “Sheringham Shoal” managed by the “Norfolk Community Fund” were taken showing the new latest new equipment being used by the Trust volunteers, which will help make their work a lot easier.



Testing the new electric brush cutter



Testing the new electric mower

Alan B took the DR Mower above the lock and continued cutting in the canal as far as he could until he met the water. He also mowed the bank top where the caravan was sited



Katharine B, the Trust Wildlife Officer arrived so a few of us loaded up the outboard and went down to Ebridge and put all the gear on to Ella II, sailed up to just short of Mr B’s land and set out two mink rafts to see what mammals are in the area. Katharine will be able to view the results from the west bank.

Ella was returned and secured.

Took a small group downstream from Spa Common and bought back some of the previously cut arisings from the canal bank.

Discussion on filling the area below lock gate beam. →

We finished work at 4pm.

8 Trust volunteers helped today.



**If you are interested in helping at any work party,
please contact us using the ‘contact us’ form available on our website
<https://nwdct.org/contact-us/>**

THANK YOU TO YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS AND SUPPORT HELPING US WITH THE CANAL RESTORATION PROGRAMME.