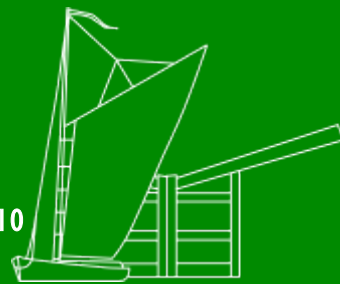


QUAGMIRE

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST CIO



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

AUGUST 2022

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The Ebridge Open Weekend August 13th & 14th, 2022



Our annual Open Weekend will, once again, be held at Ebridge Millpond and will feature the Hucklebucks (on Sunday from 3pm). Our thanks go to Graham M for his hard work pulling together this celebration of canal restoration. We hope many of you will be able to join us. ☺

August 2022

From the Chair...

Over recent months, things have been ticking along quite nicely on the work and maintenance front, in the Ebridge and Bacton Wood to Swafeld pounds.

Behind the scenes, a tremendous amount of work has been carried out, including some very important and difficult decisions taken by the Trustees, to ease the future workings of the Trust.

Good relations continue with the OCC and have been renewed with the NWCC (middle/lower pounds), whilst the first official meeting took place in July with Luke Paterson, director of Bindwell Ltd., owners of the lower, tidal, pound.

To ease a little bit of pressure from our very hard working Administrator, ICT Officer etc, etc, Julie Kelleher, I am very pleased to welcome another hard working member (on the Volunteer front), Christine Batley, who has offered her services as Press Officer. One other great relief, is that our Membership Secretary, Andrea Lamyman, is today putting together this publication.

My heartfelt thanks to ALL who help in our cause, including our Members, without whose support we could not function.

Please bring along more volunteers to help us even further: **BANG THE DRUM FOR THE CANAL TRUST!**

David Revill ☯



The Old Canal Company - Temporary Pathway Closures

It is with huge regret that the Old Canal Company (OCC) has notified the NW&DCT of a forthcoming, temporary closure of the footpaths along the Canal, between Ebridge and Swafield. This decision has been made necessary by the repeated failure of some members of the public to heed the OCC's terms of use.

In particular, the OCC stipulates that cyclists must not cycle along the footpath and that dog walkers must pick up after their dogs and prevent their dogs from swimming in the canal (as they damage the canal bank when scrambling out). The dog fouling problem continues and the damage to the canal bank by cyclists and dogs is significant and extremely costly to remedy (both in materials and man hours).

Recently, in an astonishing act of vandalism, steps have been cut into the bank, near Pigney's Wood: presumably to aid access and exit for someone's canine companion!

Sadly, it seems a few members of the public do not appreciate that the canal is private property, with banks that need protection and maintenance.

As a result, all canal paths owned by the OCC will be temporarily closed, with the exception of the path on the west bank from Ebridge millpond. Public footpaths will not be affected.

The exact date and duration of closure will be advised and I am certain members will appreciate the reluctance with which this decision has been taken.

It is hoped that this measure will provide a 'reset' in the use of the canal and canal paths by the public: a reminder that access is not a right but by kind permission of the OCC and contingent upon respecting the wishes of the owner.

Andrea Lamyman ☯



'Steps' cut into canal bank

Photo: Jeremy Cushion, Director, OCC.

Julie Kelleher and her many hats...

We are indebted to our hardworking Trustee and Officer, Julie Kelleher. I recently asked her to reflect on her current roles and commitments to the NW&DCT and her response ran to several pages of A4! Julie ably describes her roles below:

As the current Secretary/Administrator, I took on this role from our first registered charity Trust Secretary/Administrator, Nigel Lloyd, who prepared many of the administration templates that set out how we operate today, as a Trust. Very many thanks to him, for all of his hard work. As part of this role, I have recently got to grips with all the Trust insurances, with guidance from the Inland Waterways Association insurance specialist. In other matters, I have spent a little time getting names and addresses updated, and some of our 'paper' post is now being directed to our Registered Address at our Unit: NW&DCT, Unit 4, Bacton Wood, Anchor Road, Spa Common, North Walsham, NR28 9AJ.



This mailbox is checked frequently by our Work Party Team Leaders, who visit the canal regularly and forward to me, as necessary.

The email mailbox of secretary@nwdct.org, which receives online enquiries, continues to be busy with enquiries on a range of subjects. I forward these to the appropriate officer for action. For example, I am no 'fishing' expert, so these enquiries are passed to Tom Webster our Fishing Officer. Tom also has a new Assistant Fishing Officer, Keith Wilby, who Tom has known since a child. As Tom is busy with work, Keith covers for him, and visits Ebridge frequently to talk to visitors, helping with any queries. Thank you Keith, and Tom.

Boating enquiries are directed to the telephone number on our website - 07585 160772 and are managed by Graham Pressman the Trust's Boating Officer.

I rarely receive any Membership enquires, as I'm sure you all know to contact Andrea direct.

As 'Meetings Administrator' I also administer Trust meetings. Regular, monthly committee meetings are held via ZOOM, attended by Trustees, Officers and our Work Party Team Leaders. All meeting attendees have important input and any queries or issues raised are discussed, and actions are agreed and delegated as appropriate. The Meetings Administrator produces and circulates the Agenda, together with any Officer Reports, prior to the meeting and writes up the minutes from the ZOOM recordings. These are then circulated amongst the meetings team. Setting up the ZOOM meeting and issuing the invitation to



all relevant parties is also part of this role. I am also responsible for compiling the agenda for our AGMs, arranging a suitable venue and collating Officer Reports for circulation before the meeting. Anyone interested in helping, by assuming this role, would free me up to spend more time on my ICT Officer role.

As the ICT Officer I monitor email accounts where we have an Officer vacancy, thankfully not too many emails arrive into these other mailboxes. I also manage the Trust website, regularly updating it with events information and the Work Party reports. These go all the way back to 2008 in our WP archives page: it's amazing to see how much has changed since then! In addition, I manage our social media accounts. Our social media administrators have helped enormously since I've taken on additional roles. Thank you Graham, Tom and Andrea for all of your help in responding to social media enquiries.

As part of this role I also advise Trustees and Officers of online security threats and best practice and I manage the Paypal account, analysing the data relating to donations via our QR codes along the canal and feeding this information to the Committee.

I must say that I live in the Norfolk Fens, so don't get many opportunities to visit the canal these days. Whilst it might be an advantage for volunteers to live in North East Norfolk, most administration roles can be done remotely.

Whilst I would be hugely grateful to anyone willing to take on the Meetings Administrator role, there are other posts that we are keen to fill (that might appeal to you).

We are currently seeking a Work Party Co-Ordinator. Our volunteer Work Party Team Leaders arrange with the other volunteers what work will take place where and when, but the Trust could really do with a Work Party Co-ordinator who arranges this and writes up the WP plans, documenting and recording their important work as it takes place, who has volunteered and the H&S policies referred to.

In addition we are looking for volunteers to help with the following roles:

Events Co-Ordinator
Quagmire Editor
Wildlife Officer
Merchandise manager
Unit Manager

Each role has its own Trust email account, so there is no need to use your personal email account. PLEASE, if you are able to help, do get in touch. You can email us at: secretary@nwdct.org

Thank you for reading.

Julie Kelleher



Work Parties News



JC cutting the bank edge. June 22 AB

flail and cut the bank edge right up to the lock, thereby also removing the buddleias along the edge. JC then levelled off the whole length of the bank top with the Doosan, cutting it at a slight angle, toward the canal, to allow rainwater to run off. This should make this footpath a lot easier to use in wet weather. Excess soil was tracked up to the lock, where it will be used to build up the ground beneath the gate beam, to make its operation possible.

The resulting improvement can clearly be seen in Keith S's photograph below, posted on our fB page. Thank you for posting ! It is always good to know the hard work of our work parties is appreciated!

Work Party of June 26, 2022: The 8 members of this work party set about transforming the area between the road and lock at Bacton Wood. Brush cutting the undergrowth from the road bridge to the wooden crossing over the drain, revealed the edge of the canal, making it safe for Jeremy C (JC) to use the digger. Volunteers raked the arisings into piles. Meanwhile, JC brought up his tractor and



The WW 1 Pillbox revealed. June 22 AB



In addition, Alan B cut all the banks from the drain outlet up towards Royston bridge and Margaret W and Rosie J cut away all the growth around the WW1 Pillbox to keep this visible. Small amounts of Himalayan Balsam growing alongside the path and backsok were removed. After cutting back all the vegetation by a good 10 feet the old skips were revealed, pulled out and taken round to the yard.☺

Photo: Keith S.

Work Party of July 24th, 2022:

Eight volunteers arrived early at the workshop, loaded up the tractor and trailer with all necessary tools and equipment, and drove down to Ebridge. Steve L took the brush cutter and cut the grass down the steps on the other side of the Ebridge road bridge, removing some odd bits of Balsam. Whilst this was in progress, on the other side of the road, the fishermen's access points were opened up and the reed was cut down in the water to make it easier for them to cast out. All the cuttings were raked out of the water and stacked up.



Jonathan P cutting east bank
July 2022. AB

For Alan B, it took most of the hot morning to take the DR brush mower up the west bank, on return finding much more cutting had been completed.

We stopped for lunch early, as the heat was overwhelming, so sat in the shade of the workboat, Weasel. After lunch John R finished off the centre of the pathway with the DR mower. Jonathan P cut the east bank, up to the spillway with the DR mower. The DR was then taken



Alan B cut the
west bank (AB)




A welcome visit by Ed C (AB)


down and the grass was cut along the top of the bank where the "Sue B" is moored.

We were pleased to welcome volunteer Ed C, joining us to assist the NW&DC Trust once again, whilst in the area, visiting his parents.



For the latest work party news go to

<https://nwdct.org/work-party-information-page/> 

**If you can help with any or all of the tasks above, please contact
the Trust via secretary@nwdct.org** 

From David Batley, Funding Team Leader

David has kindly penned an article for a this edition of Quagmire, as the Trust looks for a new Editor, to replace Ivan Cane.



Members should know that David Revill, the Trust's Liaison Officer, chaired a meeting of four Trustees and canal owner, Luke Paterson, in the Smallborough Crown recently. The two hour meeting discussed tourist opportunities, the green corridor potential of the canal and, most importantly, the opportunities for collaboration between canal owners and the Trust.

I have learnt that the wherry nearing completion in the Pressman yard, originally commissioned to carry corn to Bacton Wood Mill, will now act as a floating work platform, to enable encroaching Alder branches to be cut and removed from the canal in the region of Tonnage Bridge.

In addition to the local liaison work undertaken at the Smallborough Crown, Roger Hopkinson and I attended the Cromer Volunteer Day, 3rd of August, at Merchants Place.

On a national level, the Trust continues to build a relationship with the Inland Waterways Association Restoration Hub who are keen to assist with all aspects of our efforts, including advice on canal-friendly funding sources. Mick Bradley is our contact.

The trust also features on the front cover of issue no.313 (June July 2022) of NAVVIES the national magazine of choice of the WERGIES who made such a good job of the spillway at Ebridge in 2017.

I do hope to meet many of you at the Open Weekend.

David Batley - Funding Team-Leader ☺

Meet Christine Batley: Press Officer

Hello all,

I have agreed to take on the role of Press Officer for the NWDCT. Something I have not done before but I will give it my best shot with a little help from my new friends.

I have worked with people throughout my career. Firstly, in the clothing industry and then moving in my early twenties to teaching my trade in a college of Further Education. I stayed in F.E. for much of my working life moving from part-time, when my three lads were young, to full-time when my boys were adults.

David and I worked together at Hertford Regional College, teaching adults with learning disabilities. David retired from teaching at 55 and I continued for a few years until we both decided to make a change in 2006 and came to run a b&b in Horning on the Broads. Our business was a success and we had a lot of fun working for ourselves for the first time and the b&b thrived and grew.

We then returned to Hertfordshire due to David's ill health.

We settled in Hertford and I worked for a charity, Mudlarks.

This wonderful organization provides a facility all year round, at an allotment and a busy café, for people with learning disabilities and mental health issues.

David and I retired to Cromer last year. David is amazingly well and we are enjoying a period of relatively good health and a slower pace, well that is the plan!

Christine Batley - Press Officer ☺



The Waterways Recovery Group

We were surprised, but delighted, to see that the most recent WRG publication (NAVVIES) carries an article about the North Walsham and Dilham Canal on its front page. Described in the headline as 'Out on a Limb' the article's strapline is 'Norfolk's only Canal, the local Trust is picking itself up and moving forward after the shock loss of its leading light, Laurie Ashton'. Those not currently in receipt of NAVVIES might be interested to note that subscription costs just £3 p.a. and may find it interesting to see the scale of the projects and the energy they deploy in canal restoration across the country.

Many of you will remember the WRG's stellar work on the spillway at Ebridge and coincidentally I was interested to listen to a piece on Radio 4 this week, as they interviewed volunteers enjoying a working holiday on one of their Canal Camps. If you didn't catch it you might wish to copy the below link into your browser to listen to the 'You and Yours programme from Monday 25th July (skip through to 25mins 26 seconds - when the piece begins).

[You and Yours - App Happy, Car Subscriptions and Hydrogen Boilers - BBC Sounds](#)

Andrea Lamyman



WRGies working on Ebridge Spillway, 2017 (Archive)

Press Date for the November 2022 edition of *Quagmire* is Monday 17th October.

Please keep those articles and photos coming in (qeditor@nwdct.org)

Published 9th August 2022. Opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Trust



Sue B (AL)



The photographs regularly posted on this page leave no doubt that there is a creativity and ability amongst our membership — and our surroundings provide much inspiration. I will shortly be announcing a photographic challenge to include 'Wildlife' and 'Landscape' and a 'special something' that encapsulates the essence of the area. So...(with trepidation & apologies), I will now make a selection of family snaps:



Swans (AL)

I KNOW!! - you guys do so well!

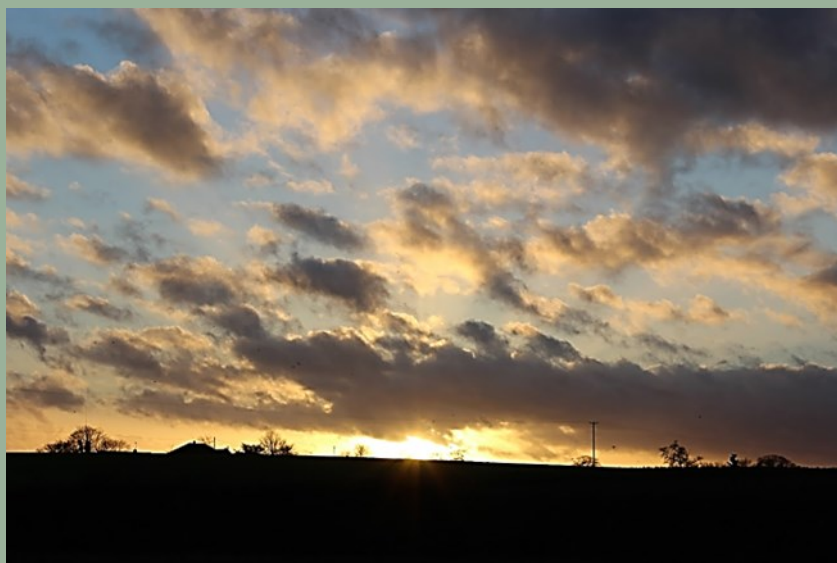
We can't wait to see your entries!



Bluebell Corner (AL)



Water Rail, Ebridge (AL)



Sunset at Ebridge (AL)

on our NW&DCT Group Facebook
 a huge amount of photographic
 and clearly the canal and its
 on. Keep snapping! We will
 c competition. Categories likely
 plus one other, perhaps that
 s the NW&DC for you...
 've included here a little

so much better!

e them!☺



Ebridge Mill (partly restored) (AL)



Frosty morning at Ebridge (AL)

Sit in a stream - Norfolk River Rally



Little Lifts is a charity that supports those undergoing treatment for breast cancer. They believe passionately in the power of small gestures, aiming to offer every person embarking on treatment a 'little lifts' box containing mood-



boosting goodies and practical products.

To raise funds, they devised a challenging 'River Rally', aiming to sit in every waterway, river and stream in Norfolk over a 4 day period, whilst also cycling, running or walking the 300 mile route. The 'Sit in a Stream' team visited Ebridge on July 2nd to sit/swim in the North Walsham and Dilham Canal, as part of this challenge and were met there by our very own Julie Kelleher. Aiming to raise £5,000, this committed group of fundraisers have raised more than £12,000, so far!🌀

Membership

A big welcome to our new members, over the last year:

David, Carla, June, Alan, Matthew & Nicola (Norwich), Andrew & Jackie, David & Wendy, Lynda, Carolyn & Paul, Graeme, Jeannie, Lyla, Mia & Theo, Stuart, Philip, Steven, Jack & Grace, Paula, Philomena, Beatrice & Grace, Stuart (North Walsham), Eleanor, Stephen, (Aylsham), Jim, Keith (Stalham), Richard (Edingthorpe) Annie (Mundesley), David (Wroxham), Lindsay, Mike, Miles & Ruari (Dereham), David (Meeting Hill), Andy & Lesley (Worstead), Valerie (East Ruston), Jon (Sheringham), David (Wroxham), Shona (Northrepps), Christine (Cromer), Louise (Stokesby), Paul (Coventry), Biddy (Harrogate), Adam & Joanna (Billericay) and Michael (Hinkley).

Welcome... One and All and **Thank You** for joining and supporting the aims of the NW&DCT.

Andrea Lamyman - Membership Secretary🌀

The Ebridge Open Weekend

August 13th & 14th 2022

Following on from the roaring success of the 2021 Open Weekend, we will once again be holding an Open Event at Ebridge Millpond over the weekend 13th & 14th August.

Open Events:

Saturday 13th August - 11.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday 14th August - 10.00am to 6.00pm

Ebridge Mill Pond, Happisburgh Road, NR28 9NG

Please join us to hear more about our goals, ambitions
and future projects!

Information and Membership stands.

Refreshments, BBQ and Bar (Cash and Card payments will be accepted)

Canal Boat Trips

Wooden Canoe Heritage Association for the UK

Live Music: **The Hucklebucks!**

from 3.00pm, Sunday 14th August

Overflow parking will be available at the old pet shop, behind the Mill - by kind permission of Mr T Briscoe.

Once again we thank The Recruiting Sergeant for their support and Norfolk Cleaning for sponsorship! Toilets available.

PLUS — VOLUNTEERS, Past, Present & Future are warmly invited to join us for a beer from 5pm on Saturday — volunteering is thirsty work!! Whether you're a regular volunteer, a long-lost friend or interested in getting involved...come along and meet other volunteers.

Archive Slot - Ebridge Culvert

Whilst his plans for locks left much to be desired, there is no doubt that NW&DC's Engineer, Millington's designs to trap and utilise all watercourses, within 1000 yards of the Canal were clever.

Many streams and drains were straightened, and all these waters ended up in the soke dykes or backsoks that line the Canal. Whenever there was too much water in one particular stretch, it would overflow the spillway for that length, then return, by various journeys, to the pound below the next lock. The restored Ebridge spillway is the best example of this, with excess waters overtopping the weir, running down to join the east soke and then on to re-join the Canal under the bridge. However, there is a distinct difference at Ebridge to the methods used at all the other locks, as the waters flow into a culvert, rather than an open dyke. The question is: Why?

We can only surmise, but one clue is that the culvert is far longer than the lock, in fact a good wherry's length. So, could there have been a local staithe above the lock serving the local farmers and community? This picture, of Ebridge staithe, by courtesy of Liz & Adrian Kiener, shows a wherry moored above the lock. Close by could be a pile of hay, ready for transporting, or lime that



had been delivered. Whatever the cargo, it would then have needed to be loaded or off-loaded onto carts and wherries. However, had there been open dyke - there would have been the need for a bridge, whereas a culvert makes the whole length useable, as a staithe and to store goods - Q.E.D. ☯

The Culvert & Staithe



The 1884 OS map, shows the staithe area as 255, with the backsok then heading NNW, and 250 being the embankment up to the Canal itself. Strangely, no OS maps show the original spillways along the Canal's route.

In November 2006, a work party undertook some trial digs along the possible site of the staithe, and some woodwork, that could have been the remains of the heading, was found. The picture shows the line of the headings found.



For various reasons the culvert collapsed alongside the lock, back in the 1990's. This became the famous "hole", over which the NCC, NWCCo, IDB and others passed responsibility around. Water spilling from the road gradually worsened

the position, despite the NCC adding extra road drains in 2006. It was not until 2020, that David Eagles, and his team were able to tackle the enormous job of repairs.

Finally, when COVID precautions permitted, Jon, Terry and Callum and their team repaired the culvert entrance.

(photo right G. Dillon, all others - Archive)



Waters Elsewhere - Thinking Big: Unlocking Runcorn

At some time, your school History lessons would have covered the opening of the Bridgewater Canal, from Worsley to Manchester in 1761. However, by 1772, the Canal had been extended westwards to Runcorn, where a flight of 11 locks joined it to the River Mersey. For over 160 years these locks were in regular use, even after the Manchester Ship Canal (MSC) replaced the Mersey Navigation.

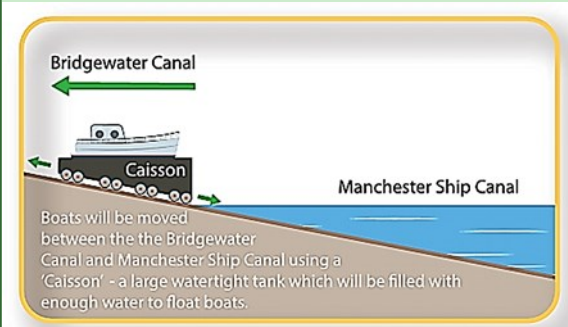
However, in 1966 the flight of locks were closed, leaving the Bridgewater Canal to Runcorn a dead end. Unlock Runcorn plan to replace these eleven locks and reopen the 600m link, making it a major tourist attraction in its own right, and putting Runcorn back on the map. The group plans the link in three phases:

Phase one will replace the first three locks with a vertical lift, dropping boats 8m. The canal will be dug out under a rail bridge, and a winding hole made - so that, until the whole link is completed, boats will be able to travel down and up the lift - making a tourist attraction.

Phase two will see two "showcase" locks rebuilt, leading into a marina for 40-50 boats (to act as a source of income). Within this complex, there are plans for a green visitor centre, a public event arena, children's play area and picnic facilities. A tunnel is needed to join with phase one.

This will be made larger with access paths either side, so that it can be a further attraction with lighting and visual effects.

Phase three will take the Canal down to the MSC, but not via locks, but by the only working canal incline plane in the country. Boats will enter a caisson, a giant tank weighing 250 tonnes, which will then roll down the plane into another tunnel, from where the final channel will join the MSC.



Is this all 'Pie in the Sky'? No. The group are hoping to gain £5m from the Runcorn Town Investment plan and see this as seeding the remainder of the monies they will need for phase one - which they are intending to have completed in 3 years' time.

For more info. go to their website at www.unlockruncorn.org. Here you will also find links to YouTube bloggers and an inspirational John Bishop promotional film. 🌀

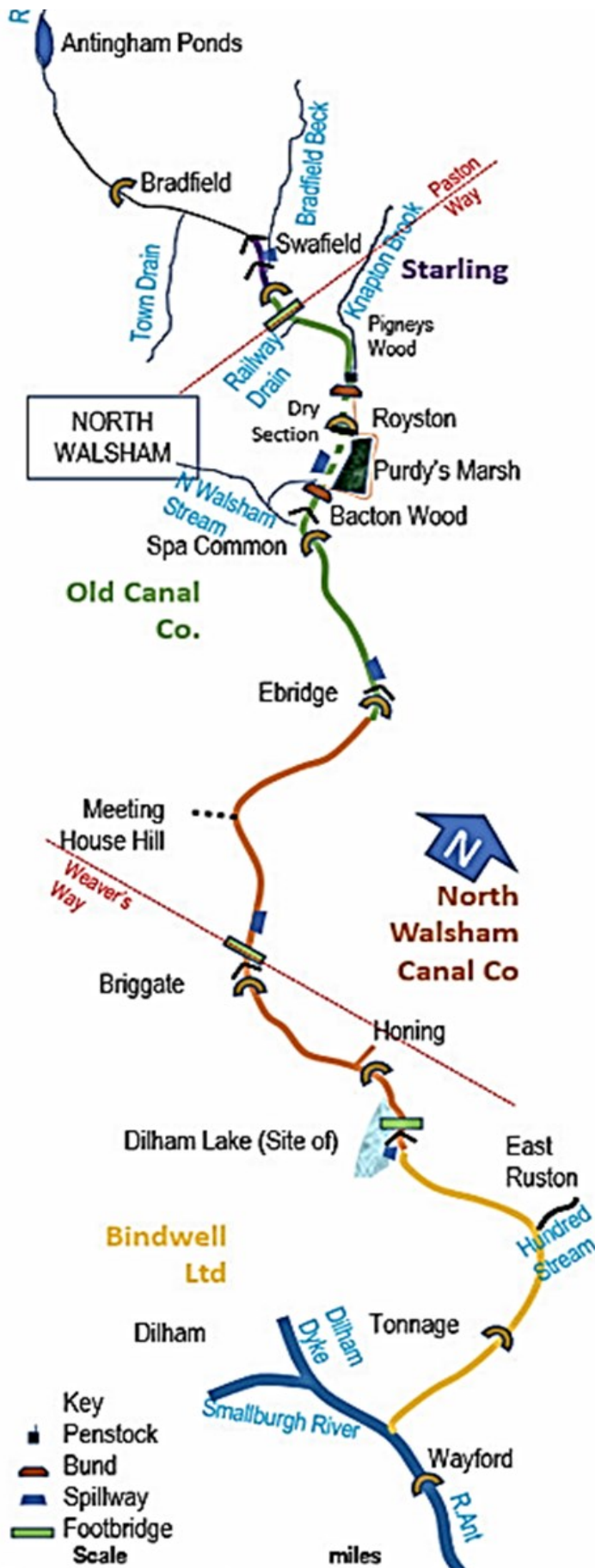


Trust A.G.M.

Tuesday 11th October 2022

Contact the North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust CIO

Working To Secure Norfolk's Canal Heritage



North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust CIO
Unit 4 Bacton Wood,
Anchor Road,
Spa Common,
North Walsham,
NR28 9AJ

Registered Charitable Incorporated
 Organisation No 1180474

Email the Trust's Officers:

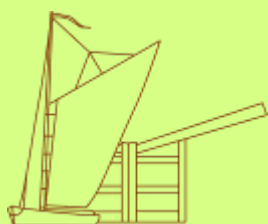
Chair - David R.	davgis@live.co.uk
Membership - Andrea,	membership@nwdct.org
General Information,	secretary@nwdct.org
Boat Trips - Graham P,	boating@nwdct.org
Fishing -Tom,	fishing@nwdct.org
Funding Team - David B	grants@nwdct.org
Work Parties	secretary@nwdct.org
Quagmire - Vacant,	editor@nwdct.org
ICT - Julie,	ICT@nwdct.org
Wildlife - Vacant,	sukipryce@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer - Barry,	treasurer@nwdct.org
Media - Christine,	press@nwdct.org
Archivist (EAWA) - Ivan	archive@nwdct.org
Education & Training -Sue	education@nwdct.org

Copies of the Trust's A3 **Access Map of the Canal** - showing access points, car parks, pubs etc on one side, and an O.S map with enlarged sections showing the locks, on the reverse, are available at £2, inc p&p.

Past copies of **Quagmire** are also available for £2, including p&p.

Please contact the editor for de-

QUAGMIRE August 2022



Ebridge Spillway, (Archive) 2017

So much has already been achieved.
With thanks to all supporters,
members and volunteers.