

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd.

Subject: Work-party at Honing lock.
Date: Sunday 4th January 2015
From: C.J.B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN:

- To carry out a general clearance of the area, including grass/weed strimming and cut back of brash adjacent to the paths.
- To replace broken fence posts on the west side of the lock and repair the chestnut paling fence as required.
- To re-fit the 'lost' west paddle chamber safety cover.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather started the day with extremely hazardous road conditions caused by black ice, fortunately everyone arrived safely. The sun shone continuously making for a pleasant mid-winter canal work day. 14 volunteers turned out and following a briefing about the tasks for the day and H&S, we set to work. Access to the lock chamber coping was not allowed for safety reasons as it was covered in ice. As some of us were working at the side of the lock (fitting the paddle chamber cover) two safety throwing lines were located nearby. The rotten fence posts along the side of the Public Footpath were re-enforced with new ones and the fence straightened and tidied. Some beech palings were replaced as they had rotted and left gaps in the fencing. All left in a safe condition. Two new work-party members attended and aided by regular attendees, set about cutting back the brash adjacent to the path between the back soke and the lock. This area was strimmed and cleared, the rubbish being burnt.

The path leading from the lock alongside the west side of the fence was strimmed and the cut grass and weeds removed. The tree and bush growth on the west side of the path was encroaching onto the public footpath so was cut back. It was noted that a stump grass is growing at the south end of this wooded area.

Most of our tasks were completed by the end of the morning, so lunch was called at approx. 12.30. David Revill welcomed the new volunteers, John and Norma, and informed them of the Trust's background work and passed on some general information to the group. Ivan has been chasing down copies of Millington's canal engineering drawings of swing and lift bridges; the lift bridge 1846 design will be used to construct 'original' footbridges over the canal. Post lunch we resumed the remaining clearance on the west side of the lock. The ice on the coping had melted so was safe to approach. Small saplings growing in and beside the lock wall were removed, as we do not want trees growing again in the lock area. The whole west lock-side fenced off area was strimmed and cleared. The fire was made safe before leaving the site.

Work ceased at approx 15.00.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader