

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-parties on the Bacton Wood pound/reach spillway
Date: Saturday 22nd & Sunday 23rd April 2017.
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

Complete the upstream end on the spillway. Clear the piled facing of the spillway and the reeds/plant growth on as much of the bed of the canal adjacent to and downstream of the spillway. Sort out wooden boards to support the brick sloping back wall and install.

- (DAY 1) Setting out upstream concrete lip and mowing the dry bed of the canal.
- (DAY 2) Sorting out boards and installation of the same plus more mowing.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: (DAY 1) The day began with light drizzle/showers, which soon cleared, however it was cooler than the last few work-parties. 9 volunteers turned out. There was no ballast to continue with the concreting so Jonathan and I set out the spillway upstream end lip ready to be completed at a later date. The remainder of the work-party were tasked to cut back the weed growth in front of the spillway and along the dry canal bed.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.00

Our large mower was driven up the bank to enable the reeds/plant growth in the bed of the canal to be cut. Daniel had cut the west side bank and any remaining growth on the lower part of the bank was cut away by hand. Dennis's work on the mower to get it working again meant that it was now available to tackle the heavier weed growth in the dry bed of the canal.

The dead reeds and small trees were cut and burnt.

Work ceased at 15.30

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: (DAY 2) I was not present today as I had to attend the AGM of the EAWA. David Revill also attended the AGM as both of us are directors of the organisation. It is important that we keep close contact with the EAWA as they help us greatly with the restoration of the canal. I assume the weather was reasonable judging from Alan's photos and I am not yet in possession of the number of volunteers attending as the signing on sheet for the day will be in our lock-up.

From the photos I was able to see what work was accomplished on day 2. The boards to support the back wall of the spillway were put in place and the digger was used to scrape the back of the bank flat. This will allow the brickwork to be put in place.

Meanwhile it looks like a further stretch of the dry bed of the canal was mowed and the banks cut. It isn't completely dry in places, which makes the use of the big mower impractical on these wet areas. Nevertheless our big mower is powerful enough attack heavy weed growth.

It looks like we should be ready to start the brickwork soon and finish the remaining concrete edge.

I have no times for the lunch break and the finish time.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader