

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 24th June & Sunday 25th June
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

-To continue bricking the back sloping face of the spillway.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: Day 1: The forecast was for a dry but cooler weekend. 7 volunteers turned out and as they are now familiar with the H & S requirements on this site they soon got to work to resume the laying of bricks on the back slope of the spillway. With the temperature forecast to be a more pleasant 20°C we did not need to erect the tilts for shade. We managed to get the mixer started with Dick and Frank in charge of mixing the mortar. Chris Heath and I took on the bricklaying and followed on from where we had left off on the previous weekend. Despite the cooler weather, a drinks break was called mid-morning as all were feeling in need of refreshment. During a lull in the need for more mortar the 'mixers' and 'labourers' were despatched to Purdy's Marsh to pull out more of the Himalayan Balsam and reported that there is a very large area which needs to be cleared before it seeds. Chris and I carried on with bricklaying on the spillway.

At approx. 12.15 we called lunch.

We resumed laying several more courses of bricks and by the end of the day were getting closer to the southern end of the spillway. The joints were filled and the excess mortar swept off. The spillway was cleared and swept. All the tools, buckets and the mixer were washed down in readiness for the Sunday work-party to continue.

Work ceased at approx. 16.15

Day2: The weather was forecast to be cooler than Saturday. 5 volunteers turned out today but Chris Heath was not going to be attending until after lunch. Fortunately Steve Locke stepped in to help with the bricklaying. He and I managed to finish the 'flat' area of the brick face near the southern end of the spillway before lunch, but the next and more difficult final few courses had to be laid to lip upwards to stop the spillway water from cutting into the earth bank.

Lunch was called at approx. 12.15.

Work resumed on the 'up-profiling' of the remaining brickwork. This having been completed we decided to terminate each end of the slope with a three brick high wall. This should protect the banks if the spillway had to cope with a major flood flow event. We did not have time to complete the southern end wall but did manage to lay the first course. The northern end wall cannot be started until we form the concrete up-lip at the end of the concrete pad, however the all-in material should be on site for the next work-party.

The back-slope of the spillway has now been completely bricked over.

The remaining joints were filled and swept and the base of the brickwork was mortared in. The site was tidied and the concrete slab was swept to leave it in a safe condition.

One more work-party should see the spillway completed save for a few minor details.

Chris Black,
Work party leader.