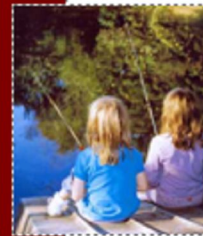


The North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust



**Help us to open
our Canal for
the Community**



This project was supported by the Broads & Rivers LEADER+ programme and the European Union.



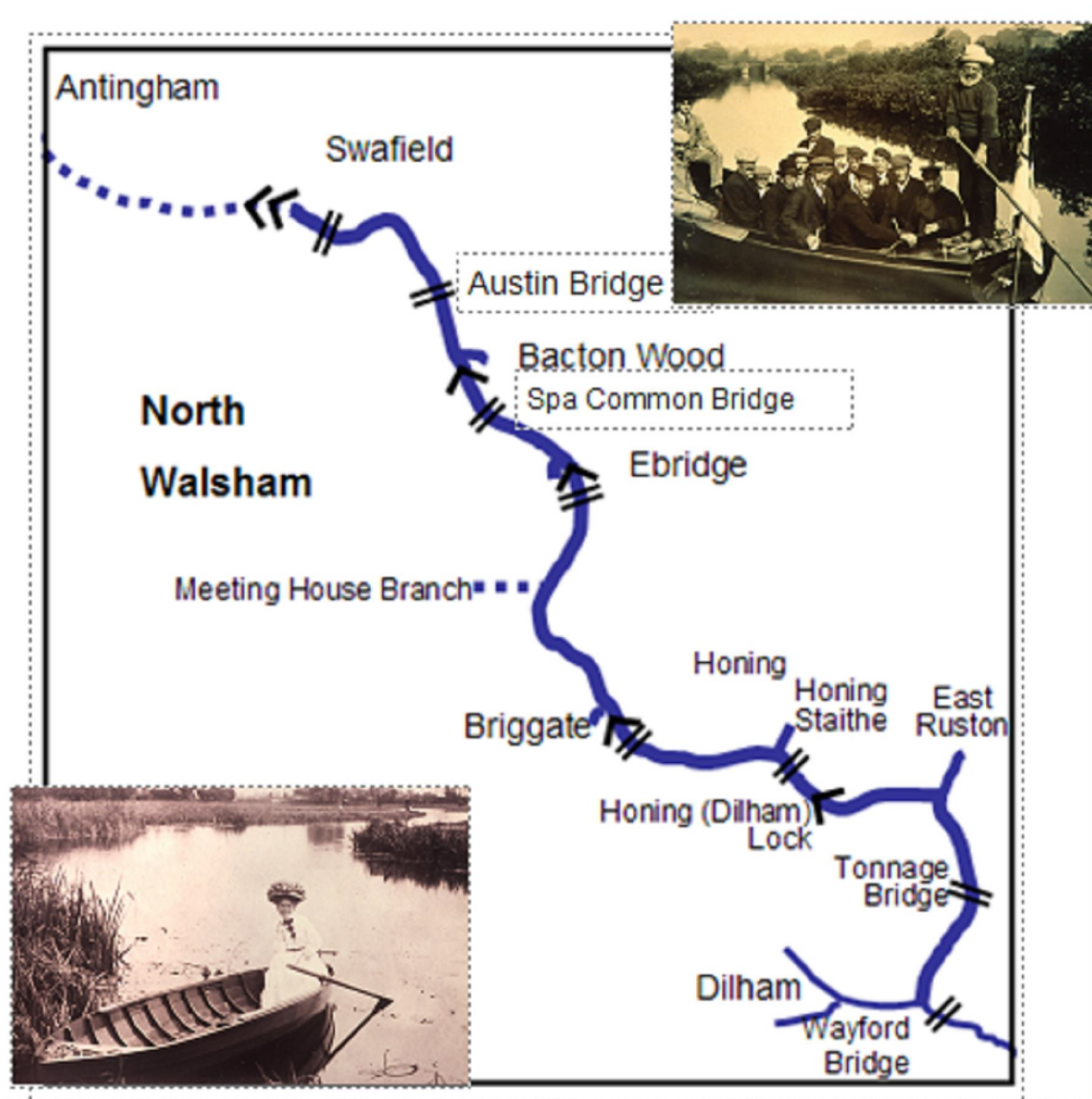
The North Walsham and Dilham Canal Trust.

The Trust was formed on 30th January 2008, with the aim to work with the Canal Proprietors and adjacent landowners, to protect, conserve and improve the route of the canal and its branches, for the benefit of the community and environment, promoting access to the navigation for all, allowing it once again to become an area enjoyed and appreciated by the community - whether walkers, nature lovers, disabled, anglers, canoeists, boaters or gongoozlers.

The objective of the Trust is to work for the Public Benefit in Partnership with the Canal Owners; adjacent Landowners; Local Authorities & Other Statutory Bodies; Area Partnerships & other Local Organisations and Commercial Business, to promote the Restoration and eco-friendly use by vessels of the Canal & its Branches, so as to give a balance between the needs of Navigation, Recreation, Heritage, Development, Landscape Conservation and Wildlife & Natural Habitats. Thereby improving access and use of the Canal Landscape for the Community & the Economy, whilst protecting the Environment & Heritage

For 2009 the Trust is looking to open more of the Ebridge to Bacton Wood to community use; to open the Honing Staithe Canal Walk; to enable angling access; to ensure canoes and light craft can continue to reach Honing Lock and to carry out general maintenance on the other canal structures.

For 2010 the Trust would like to see the opening of paths from Spa Common linking with the Pigneys Wood paths; further opening of the channel upstream of Ebridge and between Honing and Dee Bridge.



The Canal

The North Walsham and Dilham Canal was opened in 1826 as a canalisation of the River Ant, running some 9 miles from Antingham, near North Walsham through 6 locks to the Smallburgh River near Wayford Bridge.

In 1886, the new owner, Edward Press, introduced a scheme to encourage tourist traffic to the canal. This pleasure boat aspect was given a high priority in later sales documents for the canal.

In 1921, the canal was resold, complete with locks, banks, towpaths and backsocks to the local Ebridge Millers E.G. Cubitt and G. Walker, who set up the North Walsham Canal Company, who remain the owners of most of the canal today. In 1927, the canal was dewatered above Swafield, and part sold to a local farmer in 1948, and in 1981, the length from some 20 yards below Honing Lock to the junction was also sold to a local landowner. This length remains navigable to light craft.

The last motor wherry traffic sailed in 1934, but the canal remains in water up to Spa Common, passing through 3 gateless locks and under 5 bridges still giving navigable headroom. From Spa Common to Swafield, the canal bed (including Bacton Wood Lock) is dry. An engineering report carried out in 1996 indicating that the restoration of the 6¼ miles to Spa Common was perfectly feasible, an environmental assessment has similarly shown few environmental problems. The East Anglian Waterways Association has been holding work parties on the Canal since 2000

Work Parties

Work Parties are held in conjunction with the East Anglian Waterways Association, usually on the last Sunday of each month.

Unpaid volunteers (who love the countryside and want to make a difference to the unique canal we are fortunate enough to have in this part of Norfolk), meet on a regular basis to maintain the vistas surrounding the locks and associated structures along its length. By such consistent effort and donation of time, the deterioration of the locks and other historical features has been halted, and a start made to returning these industrial archeological features back to their original use.



Honing Staithe Cut

Over the last year, this former staithe and branch from the Canal at Dee Bridge, has been discovered, cleared and re-watered. In conjunction with the Canal Owners, Land Owners and Norfolk County Council, a circular footpath from Weaver's Way has been constructed to take in the area of the basin, the canal bank and woodland, opening the area once again to the community.

Ebridge, Briggate and Honing Locks

Work has been undertaken to clear the lock sides and surrounding areas, of tree roots and other damaging growth. This opening up these unique industrial archeological examples of our Norfolk heritage for the community to enjoy, and also to prevent further deterioration, with the future aim of restoring these structures to their previous use. Work is currently being undertaken to clear the area of Briggate Mill Pond.

Other Work

The weir at Ebridge has been cleared, as has been the lock at Bacton Wood (which is not accessible to the public at the moment). Below Honing Lock the turning area has been cleared to allow small boats and canoes to turn, and canoeists to be able to portage their craft.



You wish to join the NW&DC Trust

Minimum Membership fees are £2 for a Junior, £3 for an adult or £5 for a family.

Please send your donation, with details of your address, contact telephone and e-mail details, plus any information about any particular interests or skills that you would like to offer to:

North Walsham & Dilham Canal Trust,
Membership Secretary
8, Rye Close,
North Walsham. NR28 9EY

For further details please contact the secretary - Carole Bullinger:
E-mail: bullingerfit@hotmail.com
07885 501914

For Work Party information please refer to the Work Party Page on the eawa website, or contact the eawa Work Party Organiser - David Revill: 01603 738648