



POCKLINGTON AND RIPON CANAL TOWPATH MAINTENANCE

➤ **Location:**
Pocklington and Ripon
Canal

➤ **Client:**
Fountains Group

SERVICES



Vegetation Management

OVERVIEW

We undertake a variety of work activities for Fountains Group on behalf of the Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) on individually awarded schemes.

The work covers a diverse range of activities including the routine maintenance of canals, ditches and drainage channels across the Northern CRT area encompassing a variety of channel widths and maintenance specifications including:

- Cutting of grass and vegetation on canals, ditches and drainage channels to ensure clear passage of water along the channel cross section.
- Removal of debris/vegetation from grates/screens/structures and chambers/outfalls to facilitate clear passage flow.
- Vegetation management.
- Litter picking and weed control.



CHALLENGE



On Pocklington Canal we have provided long-term maintenance and cleansing services. Our scope has included towpath grass cutting, litter picking, spot spray of hard standing surfaces and weed treatment along the route of Pocklington Canal. The canal is a broad canal which runs for 9.5 miles (15.3 km) through nine locks from the Canal Head near Pocklington to the River Derwent which it joins near East Cottingwith. Most of the canal lies within a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest and all method statements require approval from Natural England and the Canal and Rivers Trust.

OUR SOLUTION



Due to the dangers of working near to the canal, we implemented stringent methodologies and safe systems of work which included:

- No lone working and giving way to the public to allow them to safely pass.
- Operatives wearing life vests and a throw line.
- Machine Mowing – The majority of the areas were cut using a scag zero turn or Ferris. Machines cut the large grass areas ahead of following up strimmer crews.
- Use of electric trimmers and electric leaf blowers – to protect the watercourse from potential fuel contamination.
- PPE to include spray suits, wellington boots, Nitrile gloves and face shields.
- Hedges were cut using our reform mower with a front mounted flail backed up by a side arm flail attachment to the rear. The mower was observed at all times to ensure it remained over 2m away from the waters edge.
- A tracked banking mower assisted the reform where there was no access for the reform, the green climber mowed the areas leaving a 2m strip along the waters edge.
- All arisings were cut and left in situ. Tow paths were blown free of debris.

