

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work party at canal adjacent to Pigneys Wood

Date: Sunday 23rd March 2014

From: C. J. B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN: At the request of the OCC Ltd. we would continue the clearance of the north bank and bed of the canal of small trees, lying dead wood and brash. The brash would not be burned but stacked to the rear of the canal bank providing cover for the nesting birds.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather started bright and cold. We parked our vehicles in the 'barn' area courtesy of Pygney's Wood which makes for easy access to the upper stretch of canal. A short discussion regarding the work planned was held and as the canal at this point is only about 1' deep a rescue throw rope was not required however the usual precautions regarding chain saw operation was observed. The work attendance sheet was signed by all nine volunteers.

Ever mindful of the imminent bird breeding season we again took great care to examine the trees and brash for nesting activity before any work on the small trees and brash was removed. Again, only trees and brash growing in the canal bed and at the front of the bank were removed leaving the trees at the rear of the canal bank untouched.

Lunch was called at 12.30 and was eaten in warm sunshine.

As reported in the previous work-party report the NW&D Canal Trust would approach the Pygney's Wood Trust regarding the planting of trees and/or bushes on their side of the back-soke to mitigate the removal of in channel and bank side trees etc. I have put this to the Pygney's Wood Trust and will be meeting them soon to agree the planting plan. David Gosling from the Pygney's Wood Trust visited us during lunch to inspect the maintenance work being carried out on the canal. He is also treasurer of the NW&D Canal Trust so is a very useful bridge regarding the proposed mitigation work. We agreed that a formal partnership between the two Trusts would be advantageous to both voluntary groups.

Our goal was to clear the slumped canal bed and the bank to the northern edge of the copse which was achieved. The result is a clear view of the gentle curve of the man-made canal upstream.

We ceased work at approx 15.30 and left the site taking care to replace the barrier across the bank as this is not a designated footpath.

Chris Black,
Work Party Supervisor