

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd.

Subject: Work-party at Honing Staithe Cut

Date: Sunday 23rd November 2014

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

THE PLAN:

- To mow the south side of the staithe area.
- To cut and remove ivy from the trees in the staithe area.
- To visually inspect the trees in the staithe area and around the canal walk.
- To clear the canal walk of brash and grass.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather forecast was for continuous heavy rain all day. It was not to disappoint us!

8 volunteers turned up. Tom Moore was an early arrival as he wanted to see if it would be possible to bring his digger down to clear some of the reeds from the staithe. An inspection revealed that it was too muddy so we agreed that it would be better left until the New Year. Kevin had brought his tractor flail mower which required the opening of the Weavers Way gate. The combination lock is not working properly but eventually WD40 and brute strength prevailed. It needs to be replaced. (This was reported to NCC on Monday 24th. DR)

Kevin's mower made short work of the west side of the staithe and with the edges and surrounds of the trees trimmed it looked tidy and safe, as the small dead branches in the long grass and weeds were removed in the process.

Tom Carr set about cutting the ivy on the trees. We had done this on a large tree some time back and it looks much better for it. Unfortunately Tom Barnard's scythe broke so the tall tougher reeds had to be left standing for the time being.

We were soaked but agreed to attend to the canal walk. Alan had walked around it as we had been advised that a tree had fallen across it. This was not true. A large tree however had fallen on the Weavers Way end of the staithe but as it was not a hazard and highly visible we decided to leave its removal until the next visit.

We trimmed the canal walk edges to give visitors a less muddy experience. Reaching the canal edge we came across a large tree which had fallen into the canal. It will have to be removed during a future visit. We were pleased to see that the walk through the woods is in good condition – a product of the Trust's work in previous years. It needs more bark chippings on it to maintain the good underfoot condition. We were soaked, wetter than drowned rats, so the equipment was taken back to the cars for a hot coffee and home!

Work ceased at approx 13.00.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader