

## NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

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

Subject: Work-party at Swafield.  
Date: Sunday 1st February 2015  
From: C.J.B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

### THE PLAN:

- To continue the clearance of brash in the area of the NE side of the canal.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The early morning was overcast with intermittent rain, however the sun soon appeared, making for a pleasant mid-winter canal work day.

13 volunteers turned out and following a briefing from the owner of the canal as to what he wanted us to do, the volunteers were allocated tasks. The site was visually assessed for hazards, such as protruding tree stumps and vicious thorn bushes. In particular a hazardous ditch hidden in the undergrowth, which flowed into the canal, was pointed out by the canal owner. He had marked the safe limit to cross with a white post.

A small team set about cutting back the brash adjacent to the road bridge whilst the remainder were employed in cutting up small tree branches and salvaging any usable firewood, which was stacked safely well away from the worksite. The brash and small branches were burnt, the heat being welcomed by the work-party!

The area cleared was close cut with a power trimmer to remove the brambles and dead foliage which was then burnt. At approximately 12.30 Micky Starling arrived back on site with rolls and a pan of hot soup. We called a halt to work and thoroughly enjoyed the welcome hot snack. Lunch continued for approximately half an hour when we resumed working our way towards the lock area.

Further upstream the brash becomes dense and a start was made on this more challenging section. We worked until approximately 14.30 when the weather changed for the worse. It started to rain and the sky was very dark to the north. It was decided by the volunteers to stop work as it was cold and there seemed little point in getting soaked.

All in all it was a very successful day.

Work ceased at approx 15.00.  
Chris Black, Work Party Leader