

## NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

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

Subject: Work-party at the Swafield area of the canal.

Date: Sunday 10th May 2015

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

### THE PLAN:

- To continue the removal of brash and small trees from the north-east bank.
- To retrieve the usable timber.
- To burn the brash and general detritus.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The morning was sunny and warm. With the majority of volunteers on site we discussed the planned work and the need to be very watchful for any active bird nests which, if found, were to be left undisturbed. As it turned out there were no nests in the brash and small trees. 11 volunteers attended.

The small bank-side willows were the result of an EA contractor burying willow removed from the canal bed some years ago. It should have been removed rather than being buried by silt only to grow rapidly into the bank.

The useable timber was cut into short lengths and stacked ready to be removed and the remaining brash was burnt on the bank.

At approximately 12.30 lunch was called. Ann and Mickey Starling had prepared a delicious chilli served with crusty garlic bread. We always look forward to working on this remote stretch of canal!

David Revill relayed some of the latest Canal Trust news to the volunteers which included the forthcoming meeting with the EA's Dr Beardall. We had just received a copy of the EA's legal opinion of the Acts of Parliament governing the canal among other topics. Carole Bullinger has decided to resign as secretary to the Trust and David asked if anyone knew someone interested in the job as we need to have a secretary as soon as possible.

With David's messages over we returned to the task of hauling the small trees out of the canal. Small as they were they were heavy with sap and difficult to pull onto the bank. After much heaving and straining all of them were retrieved, leaving only a few growing trees over the water which would have to be left.

We decided to call it a day at approx. 15.30, very weary but satisfied that a large area had been cleared.

Work ceased at approx 16.00.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader