

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

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

Subject: Work-party at Bacton Wood Lock.

Date: Sunday 2nd August 2015

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

THE PLAN:

- To remove the cut weed from the entrance to the lock.
- To help with the clearance of the old dry dock area, especially the massive tree roots.
- To clear the weir of undergrowth and reeds.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The morning was sunny and warm and the wind was light and from a south-easterly direction which was perfect for having a fire on site.

An impressive band of sixteen volunteers turned out, which was welcome as the tasks required considerable man (and woman) power.

As the work involved close proximity to the canal, millpond and lock, the safety briefing included a specific reference to the provision of two safety throwing lines positioned close to the work areas. Heavy machinery was to be employed in the dry dock area so a careful watch was required to ensure that nobody entered the hazardous area near the digger.

The floating cut reed and Canadian pond-weed was removed from the vicinity of the pontoons and pulled onto the bank. The weed was pulled into the lock mouth for later to be removal by machine then the few volunteers dealing with the floating cut weed eventually joined the remainder of the work-party in the dry dock area. Alan and Darren tackled the weir, which took up most of their day.

The dry dock area had been used for the temporary disposal of the tree stumps removed from the east bank. Some had rotted and were broken up using the digger bucket. Others were not dead and very heavy, and being mostly willow sported a lot of new growth which was removed and burnt. Most of the stumps were moved to the east end of the dry dock and stacked around the fire.

The west end of the dry dock had already been cleared and two fires were lit to burn the detritus.

A very tranquil lunch was taken at 12.30 whilst sitting alongside the mill-pond.

Work continued after lunch but a few roots remain to be dealt with at our next work-party.

Work ceased at approx. 16.00.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.