

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

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

Subject: Work-party at Ebridge Lock and Mill-pond.

Date: Sunday 16th August 2015

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

THE PLAN:

- To continue the removal of 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 continue clearance of the spillway.
- To remove the saplings from the millpond road-side bank and the east bank of the canal.
- To cut back the willows overhanging the canal and remove a fallen willow across the canal in the region of Muckle Hill Farm.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The morning was sunny and warm with the wind light, but from northerly direction. Ten volunteers turned out, sufficient to split the party into four groups. Work on the spillway, removal of the cut weed, bonfire duty and cutting down the saplings growing in the bank. As some of the work involved close proximity to the canal, millpond and lock, the safety briefing included a specific reference to the provision of a safety throwing line positioned close to the lock work area.

As at the previous visit, the floating cut reed and pond-weed was removed from the vicinity of the lock and pulled onto the bank to allow any wildlife to return to the water.

The dry dock area fire, which had been burning for two weeks, had still not burnt all the old stumps so the saplings being removed from the banks were added to the fire as the day progressed.

The weed cutter boat was used to gather up some of the floating reed and about mid-morning the 'sapling bashers', including me, set off up the east bank to cut down the small bank trees. There were several of these and much larger than expected, so it was a good decision to remove them now. The trees were loaded onto the pontoon then taken down the canal to the bonfire area.

We made considerable progress but eventually came to a significant leak in the bank which Laurie will deal with.

At this point, as it was approx. 12.30, we decided to take lunch.

Lunch eaten, we took the pontoon upstream to cut back the willows and remove the fallen tree blocking the canal. The remaining brash was put on the fire and made safe.

Work ceased at approx. 16.00.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.