

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

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

Subject: Work-party at Pigneys Wood area of the canal.

Date: Sunday 27th Sept 2015

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

THE PLAN:

- To continue the clearance the NNW bank upstream of the footbridge.
- To clear fallen branches and small trees from the south bank.
- To stack the useful timber then burn the brash, as the chipper cannot be used here.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was sunny and warm, with only a light easterly wind. The canal is shallow here so safety throwing lines were not required but all were aware of the proximity of the water's edge hidden in the undergrowth. Care had to be taken as the bank here is very uneven and has several stumps of trees awaiting removal.

We had only 7 volunteers today, and with two of the party having to take it easy we were down to 4 as Ed did not come until after lunch.

We set about removing brash, dead branches and a few small trees from where we had left off at our last visit. The site of one of our fires, set during our last visit, was crawling with froglets, so was left undisturbed. The other fire site was clear of wildlife so was re-lit to burn the detritus. Progress was slow as we were so light on volunteers but we made steady inroads into the clearance of the bank and progressed approximately 30 yards upstream.

David and Mary had to sit out much of the work but their well positioned chairs proved invaluable as the sunny weather brought out a large number of families and walkers. With the petition in hand Mary collected 33 signatures and they dispensed information about the canal to the visitors – some of whom were not local.

Lunch was called at approx. 12.15.

Work resumed, but it soon became clear that we could not burn all the brash at this visit so it was stacked until we return in 2 weeks time. The undergrowth was very thick and had to be cut down with a brush cutter before we could progress any further upstream but not much more brash was removed. One small tree was not cut down as it had a nesting wood pigeon in it.

Work ceased at approx. 15.30.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.