

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 25th October 2015

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

THE PLAN:

- To continue the clearance the NNW bank upstream of the footbridge.
- To remove the old stumps from the NNW bank.
- To stack the useful timber then burn the brash, as the chipper still cannot be used here.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was sunny with a very light south westerly breeze. The canal is shallow here so safety throwing lines are not required, but all were aware of the proximity of the water's edge hidden in the undergrowth and the need to take care as several stumps of trees and bushes on the bank were still to be removed.

16 volunteers turned out today – greatly appreciated as Laurie had his big machine on site to pull out the tree roots on the bank and we needed the man and woman power to remove the piles of dead brash and cut trees ahead of him.

We started a fire near on the same spot as our last visit. Fortunately with the wind being in a favourable direction we could work on the bank without being smoked like herring! At our last visit we had almost reached the small triangular wooded area so the morning's effort saw a dramatic clearance. Laurie pulled out the stumps and levelled the bank as he moved forward, with the stumps being placed on the fierce fire. Some larger trees were removed by the digger and cut up on the ground. Great care was taken to keep the large party of volunteers away from the swinging digger bucket with the trees in it. Brash and small trees were cut down, saving any useful timber for firewood.

Lunch was called at approx. 12.30. We sat on the wide area of bank near the small copse, which Laurie pointed out would be a perfect place to have a picnic area as it is south facing.

Lunch eaten, we carried on with the clearance of the dead brash left from a work-party a couple of years ago. Laurie pulled out the remaining small bank trees which were duly cut up and sorted. The latter part of the afternoon was spent investigating work further upstream, looking at the ditch network feeding into the back-soke - especially the location point of the proposed canal water feed into the back-soke via a 'sluice' type mechanism.

Work ceased at approx. 16.00

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.

