

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 8th Nov 2015

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

THE PLAN:

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

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was mild with a very light southerly 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 the bank was very muddy and uneven. 14 volunteers turned out today.

Laurie had felled the very large multi trunked tree growing in the canal/bank in the days prior to the work-party and had revived the fire that had been started two weeks ago in order to burn the brash. However other smaller multi trunked trees remained to be removed as they were growing in the canal channel/bank - our task for today. The trees were then sawn into manageable lengths for firewood and the remainder burnt- a very tiring job for all. The stumps of the trees would be removed with the large digger at a later date.

A silence was observed at 11.00 in honour of the fallen.

Lunch was called at approx. 12.30 whilst sitting on the large pile of logs.

We had the usual chat about various topics but soon resumed work. We continued with the tree clearance but were hindered by the wide ditch dug across the canal at the Swafield end of the copse. Laurie tried to cross it with the log grab to pull out a very large tree trunk but the tracks sank into the soft wet soil, so the other larger digger was brought up the bank and with chains attached to the digger arm the log was lifted and pulled over the ditch. We continued with this machine to clear all the timber from the Swafield side of the ditch. Laurie managed to drive the smaller digger out of the ditch by 'moving' the fire. A smart move as the dry ground beneath it provided better traction.

Work ceased at approx. 16.00

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.