

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at Swafield Staithe/Wharf winding area. (Day1)
Date: Wednesday 3rd Feb 2016.
From: C.J.B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN:

- To assist with the clearance of timber and brash from the winding area/wharf.
- To recover the useful timber for firewood and chip the brash.
- To cut up the timber and stack it on-site.
- To clear and chip the leaf litter and detritus.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was bright and the wind light. 9 volunteers turned out, a good number considering this was a weekday work-party.

It was considered necessary to write up a special Risk Assessment for this work-party because of the potential hazards on site. The work-party were appraised of the potential hazards and the precautions to be observed at all times when on site. Every member of the work-party was issued with a new safety hard hat and a hi-vis vest.

A high reach 'cherry picker' was on site to enable the arborist to work on the trees. Falling branches and wood presented a considerable hazard to anyone entering the zone beneath the trees so a strict policy was enforced that all work-party members would remain in a designated 'safe area' until told it was safe to retrieve the cut branches,.

The work consisted of cutting up brash and branches cut from the trees growing in the centre of canal bed/winding area. These were chipped on site. The larger timber was cut up into manageable sizes then stacked/heaped on the site wood pile. Movement of the timber was made much easier and safer by the use of a pair of hand log lifters purchased by the Trust.

Lunch was taken at approx. 13.00.

Work resumed after lunch but a considerable period of time was spent in moving the 'cherry picker' to a different location. The ground is soft silt and the machine very heavy so a stable platform had to be constructed for it to stand on in safety. The work continued as for the morning with more chipping and log stacking. When we reached a natural break it was decided to stop and resume work on the next day at 09.30.

The day was incident free, as all involved followed the instructions given by the work-party leader.

Work ceased on-site at approx. 15.15.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.