

## NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at Ebridge Lock.  
Date: Sunday 7th Feb 2016.  
From: C.J.B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

### THE PLAN:

- To assist with the clearance of brash from the east side of the lock.
- To recover the useful timber for firewood and burn the brash.
- To cut up the timber and stack it on-site.
- To clear and burn the leaf litter and detritus.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was bright with a strong SW wind. 16 volunteers turned out today.

This area of canal has been the subject of land issues but the OCC Ltd. has recovered the land to the canal. The area is adjacent to the lock, has the spillway within it and the collapsed culvert which takes the feed-water overspill from the spillway to rejoin the canal below the lock.

It is a large area which will be a very useful for events – indeed much safer than the lock ‘island’ on which previous events have been held. It was a car park in the past and could be used as such again. Our task was to clear the whole area of weed growth, scrub, small trees and roots. Even with 16 volunteers it was obvious that it could take more than one work-party.

With the area cleared it would be easier for the Canal Co. to work out how to proceed with future work. A small digger was brought on site and used to pull out the small stumps and roots. The mass of brambles, ivy and blackthorn proved hard to penetrate. A fire was lit upstream and the detritus was burned, saving any useful firewood. As usual the team got to work on various tasks with Alan making sure the fire was kept well alight.

The digger was put out of action temporarily when a branch pulled on a hydraulic pipe causing a leak. After several attempts it was repaired and resumed the root extraction.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30

After lunch we resumed the main task of attacking the blackthorn and ivy but realised that we were not going to complete the clearance of the area. It was decided that we would stop work and return in a fortnight’s time. Those of us who had worked on the previous work-parties on Wed and Thurs were flagging fast.

Work ceased on-site at approx. 15.30.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.