

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-parties at Swafield (and Pigneys Wood*
Date: Sunday 6th Mar 2016.
From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

- To cover two work-party sites, one above Swafield bridge, the other at Pigneys Wood.
- To remove the remaining brash at Swafield (and Pigneys Wood*) areas.
- To retrieve any useful timber and stack on site.
- To clear and burn all detritus.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather started out sunny at home but as we approached Norwich a massive black cloud appeared and heavy fine hail came down which covered the road and made driving difficult. It was very cold but 13 brave volunteers turned out. Laurie said that the canal banks below Swafield road-bridge were extremely muddy and in view of the inclement weather I made the decision to work on the NE canal bank on the Swafield section only. At least we would be able to finish that section as the bank was wet but grassy.

Mindful of the time of year the brash and saplings were inspected for signs of nest building. None was found.

At first glance there seemed to be little brash to cut back however the bramble bushes proved to be quite difficult to penetrate, not helped by the poor weather. Our resident fire raiser Alan managed to get a fire lit which was soon devouring the detritus. One problem caused by the wet weather was very soggy gloves which made hands very cold.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.00 as many of us were in need of a hot drink and a warm up in the car.

After lunch we continued the clearance of the bank. The brash was hauled down to the fire to be burned there as there was little chance of lighting another fire upstream. The area was raked clear and the fire was rounded up and left to safely burn itself out. We discussed the possibility of moving the work-party to the Pigneys Wood area of the canal but decided it was too muddy and it would be too late to achieve any meaningful progress.

Despite the atrocious weather the volunteers achieved the task and were thanked by Laurie for their efforts. (*Potential work at Pigneys Wood area abandoned)

Work ceased at 14.30 approx.
Chris Black, Work-party Leader