

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at Purdy's Marsh area.

Date: Sunday 18th September 2016.

From: Chris Black, NW&DCT.

THE PLAN:

- To clear the detritus from the west side of the east back-soke.
- To burn the brash and Himalayan Balsam

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was warm with bright intervals. 10 volunteers turned out which was good news as there was a lot of fallen timber hidden in the heavy vegetation, which needed to be moved away from the bank of the soke-dyke. The dreaded Himalayan Balsam has taken hold at the northern end of the marsh and will have to be hand pulled before it seeds next year. It will probably take a few years to remove it completely.

We set about locating the hidden timber in the vegetation beside the soke-dyke and removing the willows growing within the soke-dyke. Fortunately it was possible to pull the rooted willow from the bed of the soke using the big rope and manpower. It was quite intensive work and progress was slow.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30

We continued with the removal of the reeds and detritus for another 10 yards or so but it was plain to see that the team were getting exhausted. We discussed going further along the bank to where there is a larger dead tree but decided it wasn't worth starting to clear it.

The reason for the clearance of the bank is to allow machine access to the soke dyke to clear obstructions. It was plain that previous clearances of the soke-dyke had left the bank very uneven because the timber and brash had been deposited too close to the bank edge.

Work ceased at approx. 15.30

Chris Black, work-party leader