

# NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association

Subject: Work Party near to Paston Way canal crossing.

**Date : Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

From : D Revill, Trustee and EAWA

THE PLAN. To meet the owner of this part of the canal and shred brash from previous occasions.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT. The weather forecast for the day was diabolical! On the morning it rained quite heavily and there was a storm south of Norwich. However, it was a work party day and therefore the weather would be bearable! And so it turned out to be with only a couple of light showers (not even noticeable apart from seeing the splashes in the canal) until the end when the heavens did open! The five volunteers met at the Pill Box and then moved on to the site where we had been on a couple of occasions before. The sun shone for part of the time and we got started in clearing up the site in readiness for the return of LA with his shredder. Once that arrived it took about 40 minutes to make a big impression in one of the banks of brash from the previous work party. After partaking of lunch, sat on some logs at the side of the path, we finished off shredding the first piles and then concentrated on continuing to clear away an earlier fallen tree near to the canal bank. The water level in the canal was quite considerably higher on this day than it was three weeks ago. In fact, during the 5.5 hours only, that we were on site, the water level rose by some 16 inches! This is not surprising as the canal at this point had not been cleared for nearly two years. Local residents explained that the Environment Agency used to clear this part of the canal from Swafield Bridge downstream, but had not done so lately! We noticed that some logs which had been stashed well up on the bankside before, started to float downstream before they were rescued by our intrepid waterman, Alan. By the end of the day, and we left site initially at about 15.35, all of the lighter brash had been cleared and shredded, leaving some of the heavier timber piled in heaps. Several visitors came our way and congratulated us and the cause for doing a grand job and hoped that before long they would be able to take a canoe, at least, through this area. The effect of the rising water was felt when attempting to get the shredder back to the Pill Box area. In a hollow along the canal bank, the water had risen by well over a foot since we arrived and because of this and the weight of the shredder, it became stuck. Attempts to free her were only partly successful due to the state of the ground....to be retrieved later! Chris arrived home at 19.00. Thanks and well done Chris!

You may have noticed the heading of this report? The work parties are now under the control and heading of the Trust, having taken over from the EAWA. The WPO is, for the time-being, still the same, however!

My thanks to those stalwarts who came out on a weather-unpredictable day to make a great advancement. The next work party will be on Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>, meeting up at the Pill Box once more.

David E Revill  
Work Party Organiser