

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST.

In co-operation with East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work Party at Briggate Mill Pond

Date : Sunday 10th November 2013

From : D Revill, NW&DCT

THE PLAN. Having had a site meeting with the owner and discussed what was required to be done, to tackle the task here, on this the first Work Party of this session.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT. The weather was forecast to be fine during the day but it started off in a pretty damp mood. However, by the time that we were all assembled on site the sun had started to shine and so it stayed for the remainder of the day. Following the usual H&S and general briefing of the situation, we split into little groups and attended to our tasks. Of the nine volunteers who turned up, six finished the day on a high note. Each group was briefed on what was to be done bearing in mind the requirement for leaving certain areas as 'wild' for the benefit of the natural processes during winter. Further measurements were taken of the telegraph poles lying there waiting to be installed as braces to the lock chamber walls, as the dimensions are not as those originally used for the calculations by the IWA Engineer. I had previously discussed with the volunteers as to whether they wished to observe the Remembrance Silence at 11.00 and said that I wished all machines to be switched off at the time. 100% were positive about the silence and I duly sounded a whistle at the correct times. The pill box was cleared of the few weeds growing into the concrete roof and the total area around it, down to the waters' edge, cleared of tall vegetation growth – except in the area of the original entrance of the River Ant into the mill pond. This area to be left wild. With a wonderful machine, driven by Kevin, the appropriate area of the Chamber Island was reduced to a low stubble. Kevin skilfully drove around the special tall grass specimen, leaving it standing proud! Following a picnic luncheon taken in sunshine on the Chamber Island, the work continued with the clearing of a lot of the tall reeds growing alongside the access strip lying parallel and adjacent to the public road. Some of the weeds and reeds were taken out of the Pond by our Alan, but enough is enough and he had to stop for the day, to be continued at our next meeting here. A large quantity of the reeds growing in the canal at the mouth of the lock were removed and also some excessive growth on the bank at the entrance to the Pond. We had all departed the site before 15.10 after a most enjoyable and fulfilling day of outside exercise! Several of the local residents had come by and said how pleased they were that we were working again to restore the pond to the state in which we left it earlier in the year.

My thanks again go to all who attended or helped in any other way towards this work party.

David E Revill
NW&DCT
Work Party Organiser