

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work party at canal adjacent to Pygneys Wood

Date: Sunday 9th March 2014

From: C. J. B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN: At the request of the OCC Ltd. we would continue to clear the north bank and bed of the canal of small trees and brash. It was decided that the brash would not be burned but stacked beside the back-soke providing cover for the nesting birds, when they arrive. Larger pieces of timber were stacked to provide a habitat for the relevant insects etc..

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was very warm, almost a summer day! We parked our vehicles in the 'barn' area courtesy of Pygney's Wood which is a short walk away from the canal. A short discussion regarding the work planned was held. As the canal at this point is only about 1' deep a rescue throw rope was not required but the usual precautions regarding chain saw operation were observed. The work attendance sheet was signed.

Mindful of the imminent bird breeding season we took great care to examine the trees and brash for nesting activity before removal. We removed only trees and brash growing in the canal bed and at the front of the bank leaving the trees beside the back-soke untouched.

Lunch was called at 12.40 and was eaten in warm sunshine. After lunch we strimmed some of the lower bank and moved further upstream. At this point the back soke runs away north-east to leave a large triangular piece of land. It was discussed that this area would be ideal to develop as a managed area to mitigate the canal restoration. It was also suggested that the bank on the far side of the back-soke on land belonging to Pygney's Wood could be an area to plant trees as further mitigation for the necessary removal of bank-side trees. The Pygney's Wood Trust would be approached.

We ceased work at approx 15.30 and all remarked on the man-made profile of the canal in this area. The left hand bank facing upstream looks in fine order and the right hand bank on which we were working needs only gentle re-profiling.

Chris Black,
Work Party Supervisor