

## NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work parties at Ebridge and Bacton Wood Lock areas.

Date: Sunday 10th August 2014

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

### THE PLAN:

To split the work parties, one party to tidy up the Ebridge mill-pond area, benches, the roadside grass and clearing a narrow gap through to the weir/spillway. The other party was to clear Bacton Wood Lock No.4, which had become overgrown by small saplings and brash.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather forecast was not good as the remnants of hurricane Bertha were imminent. Ten volunteers arrived (eleven including young Ed Cubitt who arrived at lunch time). We met at Ebridge Lock and following a briefing of the day's work the Bacton Wood clearance party was chosen and made their way to the lock. Darren was in charge of this group. A safety 'throw line' was provided as they would be working near the lock.

The remaining volunteers began the tidying up exercise at Ebridge with me in charge of this work party. A safety 'throw line' was positioned to be available as we were working beside water. We had a new recruit, Colin Baxter, on our team. The weather remained fine for most of the morning and only started to deteriorate around lunch time. We had finished the strimming and Alan had cleared the channel to the weir/spillway just before it started to rain. We decided to make our way up to Bacton Wood for lunch.

We arrived in a thunderstorm and extremely heavy rain so lunch was taken in Laurie's large workshop, the rain coming down so hard that it was coming in under the door! The storm was intense with some ferocious thunder and lightning. It abated and we went back to the lock area to complete the clearance. Unlike us the Bacton Wood work party had been drenched during the morning and looked like drowned rats.

The sun re-appeared but further thunderstorms passed through but did not halt the work. Both sites were now ready for the impending visit by Stuart Agnew MEP. The work party was ceased at approx 15.30.

Chris Black, Work Party leader.