

## NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work party at Briggate Lock and mill-pond.

Date: Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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

### THE PLAN:

- To cut the heavy growth of grass and weeds between the south side of the lock and the north side of the mill-pond leaving approx. more than a quarter of the area uncut, in the vicinity of the willow tree.
- To cut and clear the roadside verge along the entire length of the canal property.
- To cut and clear the area of spoil between the roadside retaining wall and the millpond.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was warm but overcast. The sunshine promised by the met office failed, however, to materialise.

6 volunteers were on site – a small turnout but all were enthusiastic to get as much done as possible. The team was briefed regarding the limits placed on the area to be cleared and for health and safety reasons hi-visibility jackets were issued to those working beside the road. Kevin was kind enough to bring his flail mower along but before a start could be made it was necessary to identify the mill-pond edge and the location of the steel post which holds back the south side bottom lock gate. The pond edge and the area around the post were trimmed as I did not want Kevin to drive into the mill-pond or damage his machine on the short metal post.

The small tractor mower made light work of cutting the heavy undergrowth and was most impressive.

A fire was started, well away from the stump grass, and much of the dry reed, grass and dead wood were burned.

An early lunch was taken beside the fire. The team was informed of the recent meeting with the EA and the issue of the draft 2015 River Basin Management Plan for consultation by the Trust, which is of great importance to the restoration of the canal. Laurie Ashton paid a short visit during lunch imparting some welcome information regarding his canal section.

We resumed work and finished cutting and clearing the road edge and roadside mill-pond edge. We realised that we would not be able to burn all the grass and reeds so left them to be burnt at our next visit. The fire was quite large so we spent the remaining half hour ensuring that it died down and with the kind loan of a bucket from a visitor to site and my rope, we drew water from the lock to douse the fire.

The site was secured on leaving.

We ceased work at approx 16.00 and left the site.

Chris Black, Work Party leader.