

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 9th November 2014

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

THE PLAN:

- To continue the remaining clearance work begun on the previous work-party.
- To clear the top of the pill-box and remove the nettles etc. from around the pill-box.
- To reduce the silt, reed growth and water plant growth along the roadside edge of the mill-pond, the silt to be spread level.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather started with heavy rain however it cleared in time to start work, eventually to become warm with sunny intervals.

10 volunteers were on site – a reasonable turnout but with Tom Moore's digger on site the focus was more mechanical rather than human endeavour! 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.

The reed growth in the mill-pond has increased dramatically, with very little open water visible and available for the water birdlife. The main cause for this is the lack of water depth and the need to work on the pond more frequently. The front roadside edge of the mill-pond needs to be kept clear of reeds to keep the pond visible. Tom's digger is small enough to traverse the temporary spoil track beside the retaining wall and has a reasonably long reach, which enables him to remove the silt and reeds a few feet into the pond.

We noticed that the track width is reducing as the mill-pond retaining wall is moving away from the road because of any retaining measures having been taken, and looks close to collapse in places - a word with the NCC Highways Dept is required at the earliest opportunity. With Alan and me keeping a close eye on Tom's proximity to the fragile pond edge, the majority of the length was cleared by 11.00 at which time the work-party observed the two minute silence to honour the fallen. At the end of the silence I remarked to Tom that the silt and mud on the bank just brought home what it must have been like fighting in the trenches.

Lunch was taken at 12.30.

We finished the remaining de-silting then Tom levelled out the spoil removed from the pond. As Tom had to work from the roadside of the front rails we managed the passing traffic for safety reasons.

Several people passing by remarked on the good work being done.

We ceased work at approx 14.00 and left the site after securing the fencing.

Chris Black, Work Party leader.