

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd.

Subject: Work-party at Pigneys Wood area of the canal.

Date: Sunday 11th October 2015

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

THE PLAN:

- To continue the clearance the NNW bank upstream of the footbridge.
- To remove the old stumps from the NNW bank.
- To stack the useful timber then burn the brash, as the chipper cannot be used here.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was sunny but with a slight autumnal chill and a light easterly wind. The canal is shallow here so safety throwing lines were not required but all were aware of the proximity of the water's edge hidden in the undergrowth. Care had to be taken as the bank here is uneven and has several stumps of trees awaiting removal.

12 volunteers turned out today – a welcome number as Laurie had his big machine on site to pull out the tree roots on the bank and we needed the man and woman power to keep ahead of him.

We started a fire near the point where we had left off at our last visit while Laurie worked his way down from the footbridge pulling out the old stumps and levelling the top of the bank as he progressed upstream. Care was taken to keep the volunteers away from the swinging digger bucket. Brash and small trees were cut down, saving any useful timber. The smoke was a problem as with the wind in the east it blew the smoke straight into the work party upstream of the fire!

Lunch was called at approx. 12.25

We resumed work but were now getting into some very heavy undergrowth at the point where the back-soke turns away from the canal bank. At least this meant that we were nearing the end of the small bank trees and brash!

Another fire was set at this point as Laurie was getting closer to the work-party and as he was using the digger bucket to place the old stumps on the first fire it was safer to keep away from it. The work today had been unrelenting and we were tiring fast so it was decided to re-visit the site at the next work-party, hopefully with the chipper now able to access the site.

Work ceased at approx. 15.45

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.

