

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at Pigneys Wood area.
Date: Sunday 21st Feb 2016.
From: C.J.B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN:

- To assist with the clearance of brash from the south-west side of the canal.
- To recover the useful timber for firewood and burn the brash.
- To cut up the timber and stack it on-site.
- To clear and burn the leaf litter and detritus.

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather was bright with a light NW wind. 18 volunteers turned out today.

The area to be cleared back is on the SW bank of the canal. It is a relatively wide area which has been identified as a place to rest and picnic during a walk, offering a fine view over the canal to Pigneys Wood nature reserve and beyond.

The mass of brambles, ivy and dead wood were hard to penetrate. A fire was lit on the bank downstream of the work-party and the detritus was burned, saving any useful firewood. As usual the large team of 18 got to work on various tasks with Alan making keeping the fire well alight.

The ground underfoot was extremely muddy making it very difficult to walk on and care was required to avoid slipping over. We did not work close to the canal (which is a couple of feet deep here) so it was not considered a safety hazard.

Lunch was taken early at approx. 12.10 as the work was tiring.

Following lunch we resumed work but as at Ebridge it soon became obvious that we would not be able to clear the intended area of the site in one visit so we concentrated on clearing the piles of cut brash and tidying up the area cleared today. The fire was probably one of the hottest we had lit which made feeding the brash on to it somewhat arduous but it did consume all - including a small tree on the bank!

We will return to complete the clearance at the next scheduled work-party.

During the work-party we affixed an information sign to the Pigneys Wood footbridge. It gives walkers a potted history of the canal and explains what is being done upstream of Pigneys Wood to restore the canal. It will be updated as restoration proceeds.

Work ceased on-site at approx. 15.30.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.