

## 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2015

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

### THE PLAN:

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

WORK ACHIEVEMENT: The weather forecast was for a mainly dry, sunny day with the occasional shower. We arrived in sleety, heavy rain from leaden skies with a light south westerly breeze and I wasn't sure we would get many volunteers to work in these conditions! Eleven hardy souls turned out and the decision was made to carry on the bank clearance. The canal is shallow here so safety throwing lines are not required, but all were aware of the proximity of the water's edge hidden in the undergrowth and the need to take care as the bank was muddy and uneven, much worse than at our last visit.

Laurie wanted the volunteers to clear and burn the remaining brash so two fires were lit. Timber lying in and beside the canal was to be sorted and cut up into manageable lengths. This was stacked beside the bank. The muddy conditions underfoot were most unpleasant, especially for Laurie as he had to continue the repair of one of his diggers, which was out of action due to a broken bearing.

Despite the wet start the fires were soon burning well and they made short work of the brash. At last it is possible to move the large machines all the way upstream to the old railway bridge on the Paston Way.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30 using a log pile as seats.

After lunch we carried on working our way upstream, however it soon became obvious that we wouldn't complete the bank clearance. A heavy shower almost put an end to the work-party but it was decided to take the large digger up the bank towards the Paston Way crossing to pull some fallen trees out of the canal and on to the bank. Some branches were cut back for safety reasons and will be removed at our next visit.

Work ceased at approx. 15.00

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.