

NORTH WALSHAM & DILHAM CANAL TRUST

In co-operation with the East Anglian Waterways Association Ltd

Subject: Work-party at the Paston pound length of the canal.
Date: Sunday 10th Jan 2016
From: C.J.B. Black, NW&DCT and EAWA

THE PLAN:

- To clear the small trees from the winding area/wharf beside the picture framer's cottage.
- 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 fine and sunny, the wind being light and in a reasonable direction for a fire. 16 volunteers turned out including a new recruit, Darren Wait – especially welcome as he is younger than most of the veteran crew!

The recent heavy rain meant that the water here was flowing quickly and was deeper than at our last visit so two safety throwing lines were located on site. The area slopes steeply down to the canal bed and the soil/silt was slippery, especially adjacent to the canal.

Alan started a fire to burn the brash and those volunteers without a hardhat were issued a hat provided by the Trust. The volunteers were well acquainted with the work except for our new recruit. A few words were all that were needed to get them dealing with the trees etc. and the 'new' Darren was soon working safely alongside the old hands.

The majority of the small trees were taken down by lunchtime with just a couple of 'problematic' trees left to be removed after lunch.

Lunch was taken at approx. 12.30.

After lunch we discussed a new picture of the area which had been given to Ivan. It was a curious picture with a problematic date of 1906 – until I spotted that the electricity pole had three fuses on it looking very 1950's.

Another excellent find was the brick wharf edge, visible beside the cottage but intact and buried, forming the diamond shape as indicated on the 1906 map. As the wall is buried by silt removed from the canal over decades, it is hoped that it has been well preserved - a good sign being that the capping of blue engineering bricks remain in place and are solidly bedded on the wall. This is the canal boundary here.

Ivan did a bit more investigation of the 'cut' located alongside the workshop/gallery building but it needs to be investigated further. The remaining trees were removed, one larger one to the far bank using the grab. The area was raked clear in readiness for our next visit in two weeks time. It is planned to remove a tree overhanging the canal adjacent to the bridge.

Work ceased at approx. 15.00.

Chris Black, Work Party Leader.