

# Workday at Bullhouse Bridge

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Well, I would be lying if I was to say that the sunshine I had so boldly forecast after our first workday, accompanied the second workday on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. It did not. The day opened to dark skies, lashing rain, and a cold blustery wind. It did occur to me that any sensible person, on waking to such weather on a Sunday morning, would simply turn over and snuggle further down under their duvet. Fortunately, our volunteers are not so sensible!

Our energies, on this second workday, were concentrated upon clearing away overhanging branches from specific areas, like the wide Victorian bridge which carries Ecklands Road over the Trans Pennine Trail - thus maximising our efforts and making the greatest impact on the trail for its users. Happily the bridge also provided us with a large dry space in which to shelter from the rain. With plenty of tea, coffee, and biscuits to go around, and surrounded by cheerful faces, getting out of bed didn't seem such a bad idea after all.



We were very fortunate to have the assistance of two BMBC Rangers, Steve and John, who kindly gave us the benefit of their knowledge and expertise. They have done so much work on the TPT over the years that their input (and their kettle!) is invaluable.

Again it was surprising how much difference we were able to make to the trail by working together. The bridge, for example, was very shrouded by trees – above right. Removing several of these and trimming the others back made the trail more open and light, and also allows the bridge to be enjoyed as an interesting structure in its own right.



By early afternoon the weather had improved greatly – not that it held up our work or seemed to dent the enthusiasm of people using the trail. We were surprised by the number of runners and cyclists; although sometimes very muddy, they continued to travel up and down the trail, calling cheery encouragement from under hats and hoods and helmets.

In my report of the first workday I said that the warm sunshine kept us working until well into the afternoon, but last Sunday we also worked the full day, and the sun certainly did not shine. Lopping, chopping and chatting clearly carries its own reward - added to the satisfaction of making such improvements to the trail, it turned out to be a very good way to spend the day!



Before...

Come and join us for our next workday:

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Lopping, Chopping, Chatting, and free tea, coffee, and biscuits guaranteed - *possibly* Sunshine.

**Kate Dobson**

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....and after.