

Workday at Leapings Lane

Sunday 12th February 2012

Trans Pennine Trail



Having had to postpone the workday on Sunday 5th of February, due to the snow, we were not about to be put off by a little bit of ice on the following Sunday. This turned out – especially in the morning - to be really quite a lot of ice, so it was great to see people arriving along the trail in one piece, and smiling cheerfully. As the day went on, and the work progressed, the temperature rose and the ice gradually began to thaw.

We had two objectives: to cut out the almost continuous row of saplings growing in the drainage ditch on the left hand side between Leapings Lane and Shore Hall Lane, and to prune out some of the young trees which have grown up on the opposite side of the trail, which are beginning to block out the lovely open views.



It was very good to see some more new faces on the workday (all regular trail users). It was refreshing to hear their enthusiasm for the Trans Pennine Trail and reminded us of what a wonderful facility the trail is, and of how many different ways it is used.

And it was brilliant to have the BMBC rangers, John and Scott, helping us again: their chain saw removes saplings and small trees so quickly that we are able to make rapid improvements to the trail. Between us we managed to complete half the stretch between Leapings Lane and Shore Hall Lane, leaving it not only lighter and more open in the short term, but hopefully managing it in such a way that the improvements will hold for some time. Some of the cuttings were used to make habitat piles in the shade of the trees; the rest we stacked tidily at the side of the trail to be chipped later.



We were intrigued to see so many people braving the icy surface of the trail - there were no horse riders, but joggers, walkers, and cyclists were all determined to carry on regardless of the difficulties. They weren't quite as chatty as usual but I think they were probably concentrating on staying upright!

I am hoping to set up a day during the week – rather than at the weekend - to deal with the second half of this stretch, so look out for details. I will also be meeting with Ian Jelley of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, in April, to look at biodiversity on this section of the TPT – please let me know if you'd like to be involved.

Our next scheduled workday is **Sunday 4th March**. We will be tackling a very overgrown section between Bullhouse Bridge and Hazlehead Bridge. This will be our last chance to deal with vegetation before we must stop for bird-nesting season, so please come and join us if you possibly can, and bring all your friends and relatives - and your friends' friends and relatives!

For full details of all events, and of how you can become more involved, please see our **new website** <http://tptcv.btck.co.uk/> - all feedback welcome.



Before

Kate Dobson

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After