



Workday between Bullhouse Bridge and Hazlehead Bridge.

Sunday 4th March 2012

If it seemed as though spring had arrived early for the workday on Thursday 1st March, by Sunday it felt as if we were back in the middle of winter – it snowed all day! To be strictly accurate, the day began with steady rain; it was only when we arrived on site and began working that the rain thickened and turned to snow. It was pretty cold too, and taught us the value of waterproofs which really do turn the rain – if you become wet, you quickly feel the cold; if you stay dry, working keeps you warm!



The timing of the weather was particularly unfortunate. Working alongside Steve and Kim (the BMBC rangers) with their chain saw and a chipper, we should have been able to get to grips with this very overshadowed section, but in the event our workforce was quite small. Without in any way wishing to criticise those who were not there, I'd like to thank the people who braved the weather and came along - despite our small number we got a lot done, and made an appreciable difference to the trail. (See the before/after photographs below)



Given the quantity of wood which we were removing, it required a continuous effort to keep the surface clear – even though the weather was atrocious, people were out on the trail. One man was particularly grateful for our efforts and offered round a bag of jelly babies; everybody remarked cheerfully that we had not chosen a good day for it....

Meanwhile, this was our last day in the company of the BMBC rangers until October (and perhaps beyond unless funding allows). There was that day when they forgot the kettle of course, and some exciting moments last Sunday when Steve and Kim each thought the other had brought the key for the chipper...but joking apart, the help the rangers have given us has been inestimable and their experience, willingness and cheerful good humour has made it a real pleasure to work alongside them.

There is a lot of work to be done on this section; the workday really just scratched the surface, and I am sure we'll be returning here in October. For now though, we look forward to conducting a [survey](#) of the whole section - from Penistone to Dunford Bridge - on Saturday March 17th. We shall be assessing all aspects of the trail itself, as well as canvassing the opinions of those using the trail, in order to work out a programme of workdays for the spring and summer months.

Come and join us on our next workday: **Sunday 1st April**. Lopping, Chopping, Chatting; free tea and coffee, guaranteed - April Foolery very possible!

For details of all events, and of how you can become involved, please see the website: <http://tptcv.btck.co.uk/>



Before

Kate Dobson

Workday Organiser: Penistone – Dunford Bridge
(Sustrans Volunteer Ranger 11232)

You can contact me at:

catharine.dobson@gmail.com

or on: 07704333445 / 01484 865852



After