

Workday at Leapings Lane

Trans Pennine Trail



Thursday 1st March 2012

Thursday was a perfect day to be out on the trail: warm and sunny, with a blue sky overhead. Kim and Steve, the BMBC rangers, were there - with chipping machine, mugs of tea in hand, and smiles on faces - ready to start the day. They had brought along some helpers, keen to escape the office on such a beautiful day, so although there were fewer volunteers than usual on this first midweek workday, there were plenty of willing hands.



Unfortunately the chipper, although it looked shiny and new, was in fact very blunt. After struggling with it for some time, it became clear that it would have to be taken back and re-sharpened. The chain saw had been used to help with the chipping, but now it became available to tackle saplings and young trees and we began to make rapid progress – even more rapid when Colin came back with a second chain saw.

There is so much growth on the left hand side of the trail between Leapings Lane and Shore Hall Lane that some areas resemble nothing so much as a jungle. By gradually cutting out a lot of this new growth (which also competes for light and nutrients) and allowing selected trees to flourish, we shall end up – eventually - with a route which should be both easier to maintain and pleasanter to use.

We made good progress with this, and we realised that the space we had opened up beneath the boughs of a shady tree made a very pleasant place to sit and enjoy the views over the valley opposite. Paul (right) is sitting on a tree trunk which he sawed through to provide a seat – which he hopes will not be mistaken for anything else! All being well the chipper will have been sharpened, and all the cut wood which we left along the right hand side of the trail will have been dealt with, by the time you read this.



The next workday will be on **Sunday 4th March** when we'll be tackling a very overgrown section between Bullhouse Bridge and Hazlehead Bridge, and this will be our last chance for serious work on the vegetation before we must stop for bird-nesting season.

