

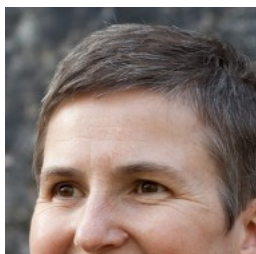


Peak Area Newsletter

June 2013

The next Peak Area meeting is on Wednesday, 5 June, starting at 8 pm, at The Winking Man Pub, Buxton Road, Upper Hulme, Staffordshire. ST13 8UH. The later start time is to allow folk to do some walking and/or climbing prior to the meeting.

The Sec speaks



By Lynn Robinson

At the last Peak Area meeting (17 April) an update was requested regarding whether there were any plans for discounted membership to The National Trust (NT) for BMC members, especially if people just wanted outdoor membership so they could use the car parks to go for a walk or climb. Sophie Milner, a NT Officer who regularly attends our meetings, has responded that, since 2012, the NT has been trialling "Love My Outdoors", in the South-West. Costing £3 per month or, for NT members, £12 annually you get a guidebook, free car parking and 'exclusive offers & discounts' (for more information see the following link

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/local-to-you/south-west/things-to-see-and-do/outdoors/love-my-outdoors/). The trial continues with 'face-to-face' sales and new marketing channels being used to gain knowledge and insight about the target group, their preferences, renewal rates, and how 'Love My Outdoors' impacts on NT full membership and member retention. Alternatives are also being considered. Sophie will provide us with a further update later in the year.

Found Item

Dave Bishop found a waterproof jacket at the Roaches on Wednesday 1 May and he's sure the owner would like it back. If you want to e-mail me (see Contact List on page 8) with a description of the jacket and have a guess where you left it, I will pass the details onto Dave so that you can be reunited (with the jacket, not Dave).

If you're reading this from a printout, the hyperlinks won't show up (in some cases we do print them). To obtain an electronic version in which the hyperlinks will work, go to the BMC website (www.thebmc.co.uk). Members can have it emailed to them by contacting the BMC office: 0161 445 6111, office@thebmc.co.uk

Deadline for the next edition is 28 August



The next BMC Peak Area Meeting is Wednesday evening on 5 June at The Winking Man Pub, Buxton Road, Upper Hulme, Staffordshire. ST13 8UH. It will start at 8 pm, so that we can go for a walk or climb beforehand.

Don Whillans Memorial Hut, The Roaches – open afternoon, 5 June.

Mike Battye, BMC Hut Warden, will be at the Hut from mid-afternoon to the start of the Peak Area meeting. Everyone is welcome to go along for a tour and if you're lucky you may even get a cup of tea and some cake!

Free BMC T-shirts

I have been given a few BMC T-shirts for distribution to volunteers who represent the BMC at meetings/crag clean-ups etc. If you would like one, please e-mail me and I will get one in the post to you – or come along to the next meeting!

The September meeting will be on Wednesday 11 September at The Globe Inn, Glossop, SK13 8HJ. Agenda items are always welcome. Also, if you fancy giving a talk/slide-show then please contact me. Or you could write an article for the Peak Area Newsletter. Or do both... Contact details for the Peak Area team are on page 8.

SHEFFIELD / 6th & 7th JULY 2013

CLIFFHANGER

CLIMB IT, BIKE IT, RUN IT, DO IT

GRAVES PARK

R1D1 Oh!

By Rob Greenwood



For those that missed the last Peak Area Meeting, you may be unaware that the BMC has recently appointed two new Regional Development Officers (RDO) - one for the East of England and one for the West. The aim of these Sport England funded roles is to provide further opportunities for individuals who have started climbing indoors and are looking to move outdoors to do so, and to offer greater support for clubs wishing to extend their membership base.

My name is Rob Greenwood and I am the RDO for England East. Over the next four years it is my aim to work alongside local climbing walls, centres, and clubs in order to arrange such opportunities. The idea behind the program is not to get every man, women, and child out onto the crag, more to provide those who are interested with a chance to give it a go - whether that be bouldering, sport climbing, or trad climbing.

If you are a member of a club that would like to be involved in the project, or a BMC member that would like to know more, then feel free to give me a call on 07885 910603, an email on robg@thebmc.co.uk, or alternatively I will be at the next area meeting - see you there!



Access Notes

By Henry Folkard



Dateline: 22 May 2013

It does not seem long since the last access report and, whilst a number of things chunter on, there is not much dramatically different to say at the moment. All that may change before the next meeting, in which case there can be a verbal update then.

Access and Conservation Trust (ACT)

[ACT](#), the BMC's conservation trust, is more valuable than visible – so here is news of some of the projects it has recently supported, or has in prospect.

In the Peak, ACT gave support to the Stanage bus before local government cuts hit the subsidy of £10,000 pa needed to support it. ACT supported Derbyshire Wildlife Trust with installation of board walks in Chee Dale – and this has had a very rapid and dramatic beneficial impact. Signs at Shooters Nab were ACT funded and those at Rowtor may well be. The major Peak project we have in prospect is with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust where a sum of £5,000 – a large grant for ACT – has been earmarked for footpath improvements.

Elsewhere ACT has funded good practice publications on bird restrictions and green guides and kick-started the Climbing Gear Reuse

and Recycling project ([Green Peak Gear.org](http://GreenPeakGear.org)). It has been a major player in coastal planning essential to safeguarding our specific interests in coastal access. Without this work there would have been no accurate record of climbing venues, and no informed local representatives to steer the implementation of the legislation locally...

Besides the Roaches, major restoration projects concern the Black Mountains, the Three Peaks, the Scafell Massif range, and the Avon Gorge whilst discussions concerning stabilisation of the Cromlech Scree are ongoing. With all these major projects the value of an ACT grant has triggered availability of matching funding from other sources, so is worth at least double its face value to sponsors. It has also been the first to commit. Sponsors can often get expressions of support from potential donors, but it is not until one of them actually puts its money where its mouth is that a vision becomes a practical possibility.

If you are aware of access issues which might be ameliorated by ACT funding do mention these at your local Area Meeting, or contact Rob Dyer or Cath Flitcroft in BMC Head Office, who provide

The BMC's Regional Access Database (RAD) has up to date information on all crags in England and Wales. Otherwise access rep contact details are on the [BMC web site](#). Access reps attend most Area Meetings if there are any points you want to raise with them, or you can phone Henry Folkard on 01298 871 849 or the BMC office on 0161 445 6111 (office@thebmc.co.uk).



administrative support for the Trustees. You can also make donations to the ACT fund (see www.thebmc.co.uk/donate-to-act for details). Contributions from individuals, commercial organisations and clubs are all welcome. Donations from the Climbers' Club for example have been hugely appreciated, to name but one.

Birds and Restrictions

For the bird breeding season things overall are quite quiet. After a good year last year for the number of ring ouzels fledging at **Stanage** very few birds have returned to nest this year. Nationally numbers suffered a reported additional 28% decline in 2012 for an already critically endangered species, so perhaps we should not be too surprised, but so far we have only two nests at North Lees. One has discreet signs but the other does not. As we go to press a third pair is prospecting for a nest site around the Popular End.

There has been some reluctance to advertise locations in the last couple of years since asking for climbers' consideration became a magnet for bird watchers and wildlife photographers who, despite their good intentions, actually caused more problems than climbers who simply got on with climbing.

Please send articles, letters, photos, notices and so forth, to peakarea@gmail.com All topics considered, the only requirement is that it is relevant to the mountaineers, walkers and climbers in the Peak Area. Summit magazine is the place for the national stuff. Any length up to 600 words; if you want to go longer, best to call us first. **We particularly welcome material from clubs.** Deadline for material is two weeks before the meeting.

The **Roaches** / Hen Cloud peregrine returned to Humdinger – about the worst site possible for climbers – and restrictions are in place. The long lease of the Roaches Estate was formally handed over to Staffordshire Wildlife Trust early in May and BMC personnel were amongst the invited guests.

There is the, now regular, peregrine in the **Dove Stone** area, but its impact on climbing is minimal.

Where we do continue to have difficulty is at **Ravensdale**. The Ravens should fledge about the end of May, but after the print deadline for this report [*Stop Press: Restrictions lifted 23 May. As always, it is wise to check access restrictions using the BMC Regional Access Database (RAD) either on the Web or using the [BMC Android app](#)*]. The issues there were explained at the last Area Meeting. Since then the BMC and Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) have met on site with Natural England (NE) whilst Cath Flitcroft has met with senior NE people. A second meeting with NE and PDNPA, which should be broadened to cover problems we are experiencing in the Peak and elsewhere over access to National Nature Reserves, and to Sites of Special Scientific interest (SSSI) too, is in prospect. The nub of the matter is that whilst NE have a favourable policy, and indeed a statutory remit, on access, the reality is that on the ground this can amount to nothing where local staff with site responsibility perceive it to be their duty to ban climbers from everything everywhere as the most important thing they can do to protect wildlife.



It is ironic that the two species which cause most problems for Access Reps', peregrine and raven, are both species which are increasing significantly, whose population declines had nothing whatever to do with adventure recreation and whose spread (certainly at species level) climbers could do nothing to prevent even if they wanted to.

There have been continued reports of someone with a loud voice and no authority trying to tell climbers they are banned from **Water cum Jolly** (WcJ). Advice is to let him shout as much as he likes, and carry on climbing. The facts are that all of WcJ is a SSSI though different parcels of land are designated for different reasons. There is no blanket ban on climbing in SSSIs anywhere, let alone WcJ, though in some SSSIs there may be some locally agreed restrictions. Remember Stanage is a SSSI, so are the Roaches and Horseshoe. The BMC certainly did not buy Horseshoe - which incidentally is classified as being in favourable condition - so climbing could be banned!

There is no public right of way through WcJ. The track along the left bank is a concessionary route in the ownership of the Cressbrook and Litton fishing club - but the track (along with fishing rights) is the extent of their ownership. Above it the land is in three different ownerships. The fishing club believe there to be a codicil to their sale of land between the Upper Circle and the stone steps above the Lammergeyer area to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust forbidding access to that land (or use of their track) for any purpose other than conservation, but a search by the BMC's solicitor revealed that the Land Registry held no record of any such

agreement. A copy of our solicitor's letter was passed to the Wildlife Trust some time ago. The right bank is under other ownership and tenanted to two different graziers.

Higher up the river a rock fall from above the lower-offs on the **Chee Dale Cornice** has been reported, presumably caused by adverse weather conditions.

Staden

To the best of our knowledge there has been no formal consultation or submission on any new proposals for the development of Cowdale Quarry (aka Staden). Rumours do however abound. It is impossible to judge what substance they may have and of course the position could change at any time if a new proposal materialises. We believe any opportunity to appeal the Inspector's decision will now be time expired, and have no news of any second Public Inquiry regarding the heritage structures on the site, which had been anticipated.

Aldery and Horseshoe

We are awaiting further comment from the geotechnician regarding rock falls at both sites. The site at Horseshoe is likely to need scaling.

At Aldery thanks to those volunteers who have removed a number of trees, mostly from around the top of the crag, which were destabilising the rock face. Work is still in progress there, so there will be some more changes.



Kinder and Bleaklow

The BMC was at the inaugural **Spirit of Kinder** lecture in New Mills, which generated a fair amount of interest. We co-hosted a stall for the Dark Peak Nature Improvement Area where the display on the removal of the Great Britain Plantation in the Burbage Valley – due to start in early September – likewise generated a lot of interest, and indeed a very warm welcome.

Terry Howard, Chair of the Kinder and High Peak Committee, set the scene after which Keith Warrender gave a fascinating and detailed talk on the events around the 1932 mass trespass. The keynote address from Kate Ashbrook of the Open Spaces Society pulled no punches in drawing attention to the many remaining and current threats to freedoms we currently enjoy – despite the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) – and reminded us all of the vigilance that is still required. It is easy enough for much of this seemingly arcane stuff to pass us by, but one of the major things the BMC does for its members is keep up a relentless political lobby on things which will impact upon us directly, like changes to the Common Agricultural Policy. Much of this work is detailed and pretty boring in one sense, so it tends not to get too widely reported, but it does go on to good effect behind the scenes.

The National Trust is working its way through the many responses to its major consultation on the **Dark Peak Moors**, and is scheduled to complete that task in late summer.

A suggestion has been made by a New Mills based climber, which has been supported by a local Councillor, that a shelter should be erected

on **Kinder** as a refuge from harsh weather. BMC policy is rather to resist intrusion of man made additions to wild open landscapes. The suggestion does not have the support of the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Committee, which was founded by Benny Rothman.

Eastern Moors

A stakeholder meeting to agree establishment of new concessionary bridleways on the Eastern Moors and **Longshaw** clashes with the next Area Meeting but our interests, and indeed those of mountain bikers and the Peak Adventure Sports Activity (PASA), will be represented by John Horscroft, a former Chair of the BMC Peak Area.

There have been a number of reports of adders on the **Eastern Moors** – nothing new there because they are normally about though seldom seen. However it is as well to remember that they are resident and, especially if you have young kids with you, to remind yourself of what to do in the rare event anyone gets bitten. Similarly if you are out and about on the moors in general do be aware of the problems ticks can cause – there is some guidance on this on the BMC web site (www.thebmc.co.uk/get-ready-to-tackle-ticks).

Peak Adventure Sports Activity (PASA)

John Horscroft and Ed Chard featured on Countryfile at the start of May which took a broad look at tensions between conservation and recreation, and was filmed on Wimble Holm Hill and in the Burbage Valley. They both had pretty constructive discussions with the presenters, though the greater part of what they said of substance actually ended up on the cutting room floor, which was a pity. But then



there are those of us who think the telly is pretty much of a pity too.

Access Wish List

A reminder that if, in your wanderings, you come across places where you think there should be better access points onto CRow land, or where a concessionary link might usefully be made between two places of interest, do tell the local BMC Access Reps' and we can ask for your request to be added to a wish list held by the Access Authority, which actually does achieve good results.

Chapelgate and Long Causeway

At the last meeting of its Audit, Resource and Performance Committee the Peak District National Park Authority resolved to commence a consultation on the imposition of a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on **Chapelgate**. This is a consultation only – no more and no less – and is distinct from any temporary TRO Derbyshire County Council, as the Highways Authority, may impose whilst repairs are being made to the Way. Some such repairs are scheduled for the lower part of the Way where detritus washes onto farm land. When, much needed, repairs are programmed on a particularly boggy stretch at the high point of the Way remains a total mystery. The reasons to which the consultation relates are, in summary, to preserve or improve the amenities of the area and conserving or enhancing the natural beauty of the area or affording the public to enjoy the amenities of the area.

The consultation is available to peruse at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/consultations and is open until 28 June. The BMC is unlikely to make any direct response. Whether we like 'off-

roading' or not there is a statutory legal right for motor-propelled vehicles to use Chapelgate. It is contrary to the ethos of jurisprudence in this country to remove such rights without overwhelming reason. We firmly believe that any solution must involve dialogue with representative user groups – a principle which applies across the range of recreational activity. The current approach, so far as we understand it, seems rather to cause some groups to feel marginalised, and to believe the consultation is a farrago with a foregone conclusion. It is difficult to see how that can be helpful.

The latest report is that the temporary TRO on **Long Causeway** will remain in force until some time in 2015. PASA has objected strongly to the nature of the repairs to the lower part of Long Causeway because these are perceived to be out of keeping with the character of the way. The extended TRO is essentially to accommodate very expensive work on the revetment.

North Lees

PDNPA's Audit Resources and Performance Committee is to take a paper on commercial options for the management of North Lees, and for the letting of the farm tenancy, on 19 July. There has, in the view of the BMC, been a very significant lack of transparency on the part of PDNPA about what they think is appropriate, and it must be probable, if recent conduct is replicated, that any proposals of consequence will be contained in a paper called a Part B paper which means the public do not get a chance to see it on the basis that it contains information which is Commercial-in-Confidence. It boggles the mind to understand how any such approach could be justified in respect of land



which is in public ownership, and where the decision will be made by a Committee which has no public accountability.

Masson Lees

As we go to press news comes through of the sale by public auction of Masson Lees on 10 June at 3 pm in the Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell. The sale offers the opportunity to acquire 42.5 acres of pasture and amenity land together with a 7.2 acre quarry. The BMC has been in touch with Derbyshire Cavers' Association and Natural England regarding a common interest in this matter. Our Area Chair Neil Foster is going to raise the matter of this sale and BMC's response to it at the next meeting of Executive Committee, on which he sits.

South East Peak

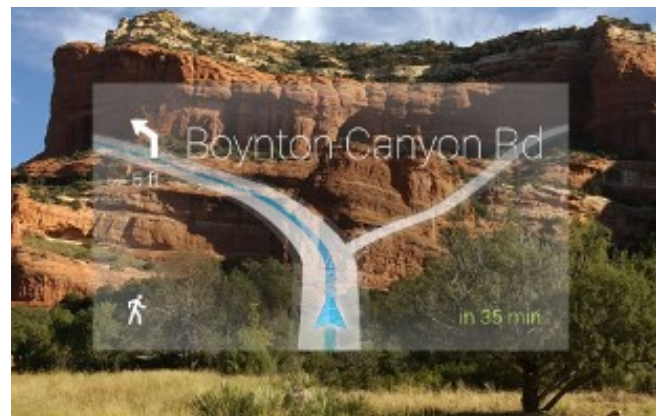
There have been very recent reports of more rock vandalism at **Shining Cliff**, next to the hostel, and of removal of a large holly tree at **Chasecliffe**. Please let us know if you are able to shed any light on either deplorable desecration.

And Finally...

Following on from George Cave's gripping talk 'Is Google Earth ruining expedition planning?' given at the BMC AGM [*I'm always amazed how few people attend. Incredible value for money. Incredibly cheap. Incredible opportunity to rub shoulders with the greats and not so greats. Incredible talks; but why does Dave Turnbull NEVER take enough food? Ed.*]; Google Street View has made it to Everest Base Camp.

Also Kilimanjaro, etc, etc. Coming soon to a crag near you?

<https://maps.google.com/help/maps/streetview/gallery/the-worlds-highest-peaks/everest-base-camp.html>. You can already buy ski goggles with GPS head up displays. Will Google Glasses make guidebooks redundant?



For those who wondered, after George's talk; the granularity of the height data in Google Maps varies; and yes there could be 'hidden' peaks yet to be discovered. But probably spires rather than massifs.

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