

INFORMATION SHEET:

BMC CONSERVATION EVENT AT THE ROACHES 28th September 2022

Help the preserve the upland environment by joining a team of BMC volunteers at The Roaches.

Many BMC members will enjoy using the Staffordshire moors and gritstone for hill walking and climbing. In association with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the BMC North West and Peak Areas are arranging a conservation projects at The Roaches. Under the supervision of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) rangers, a group of BMC volunteers (max number 12) will repair and rebuild footpaths on the moor behind the Don Whillans hut on The Roaches. The event is being held on **Wednesday 28th September 2022**.

Why it's worthwhile

Our uplands are under pressure as never before with increased footfall and rainfall, combining to produce increased erosion. This causes unsightly scars on the landscape and damages precious upland habitats. Path maintenance, which may involve drainage projects and vegetation clearance, is therefore very important. The paths on The Roaches have heavy footfall, with steep sections and are on peat and so are prone to significant erosion.

What will the work involve?

Working as part of a small team, supervised and directed by SWT staff, the project will be to put in stone pitched (natural steps), repair existing water bars, install more water bars, and install keystones to anchor the new surface to the hill and resurface it using a combination of new aggregate and on-site one that have washed down the hill.

What will you need to bring?

You will need to bring sturdy walking boots, waterproofs, warm layers and hat, along with sufficient food and drink, suitably equipped for a full day out in the hills. You will also need a pair of heavy duty (gardening style) gloves. All other tools will be supplied by the SWT.

Where will the work take place?

We will meet at the layby below The Roaches (postcode ST13 8UB; Grid ref SK 004 622) at 9.30am: to be confirmed.

Who can take part?

Adults only (older than 18). No dogs, sorry! Interested?

Please register by contacting BMC volunteers:

Steve Charles (NW area members) at stevecharles25@gmail.com

or Austin Knott (Peak area) at austin@walkthemoorlands.co.uk.

Places will be allocated on first come first served basis, but aiming for half of the participants to come from each area.

COVID precautions:

Even allowing for the relaxation of COVID regulations, sharing of food and equipment between party members is strongly discouraged (as doing so can lead to virus transmission) so we ask you to bring hand sanitiser for your own use (those with at least 70% alcohol are currently favoured), and an individual first aid kit (a few plasters and antiseptic wipes to

allow self-application). The leader will have an emergency survival shelter. Feel free to bring your own survival shelter if this is in your rucksack anyway! In addition, please bring a face mask or face covering (a buff will do as a minimum), just in case. While we do not intend that participants wear such coverings during our walk, should an emergency occur then you will have a face covering available to use as an additional precaution (and you'll have it handy for any post-walk pub/café visits if required).

You should consider not attending this event if:

- you have any of the recognised symptoms of respiratory infections including COVID-19, which are:
 - continuous cough
 - high temperature, fever or chills
 - shortness of breath
 - loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell
 - unexplained tiredness, lack of energy
 - muscle aches or pains that are not due to exercise
 - not wanting to eat or not feeling hungry
 - headache that is unusual or longer lasting than usual
 - sore throat, stuffy or runny nose
 - diarrhoea, feeling sick or being sick
- you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 recently or have reason to suspect that you are presently suffering from COVID-19.

As part of the conditions for allowing an event such as this to take place during the pandemic it is a BMC requirement that we have the names (and a contact telephone number) for all participants in advance. These details will be held securely for 21 days after the event and will be given to NHS or local authority track and trace services should we are required to do so.

BMC approval has been sought for this event.

SJC 17.7.22